

BASAC Minutes
20 September 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Sep 20, 2012 BASAC/IAC Meeting

- 1) The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and welcomed those in attendance.
- 2) Members attending: Three teacher representatives, the student representative and three parent representatives. Also attending were the School Principal and Assistant Principal, USAG Brussels Operations Manager, as the Garrison Manager's representative, the MWR Director and additional parents.
- 3) Minutes from the May 2012 meeting were approved.
- 4) Old Business:
 - 4.a) Attendance Policy: SAC's recommendation regarding DODDS' new Attendance Policy was forwarded to the Isles District in June, and though the SAC Chair reported that the DODEA-Europe Director's Chief of Staff has seen the recommendation, SAC still awaits a response. The issue was closed.
 - 4.b) NATO/BAS Holiday Schedule: After discussing the conflicting concerns of a wide variety of stakeholders in the BAS Holiday schedule—to include the possibility of adopting an International School Schedule similar to SHAPE or AFNORTH—it was agreed that more research was needed. The SAC Chair and the Assistant Principal suggested the formation of a Committee to study the matter further. The issue is open.
- 5) Principal's Report:
 - 5.a) School year is off to a smooth start. The Welcome Party was well-attended. This seems to be related to combining it with the Elementary School Open House. The combined event went well. The MS and HS teachers seem to appreciate the extra time to prepare for their later Open House.
 - 5.b) AP test results came in. BAS students went from 88% passing rate on these very challenging exams to 97%. The Principal congratulated the teachers and students.
 - 5.c) Space Availability for PfP students. The larger problem of BAS not being staffed for these students will likely remain unresolved. Budget cuts are still

pending and the situation could re-occur next year. The school is staffed for 260 students. This does not include the PfP students. The administration and teachers made it work by splitting the 7th grade which led to last-minute changes, for several teachers to include taking-on new / additional subjects. There remains a major effort to sustain English as a 2nd language classes. These efforts reflect the value which the community placed last year on maintaining the multi-cultural experience for BAS students and the value placed on the USA's bilateral relationships by DoD.

6) Garrison Manager's Report:

6.a) The Garrison Manager could not attend so the Operations Director provided the update.

6.b) New Youth Center – The Youth Center is still under construction. The Playground is not complete or safety validated, but people are using it. The Garrison will have it locked for safety reasons. There is still no specific date for completion and opening. However furniture has been ordered and is en-route, so the Garrison is pushing for progress and the target for opening is during Fall 2012, possibly late November.

6.c) Pre-school program. This is tied to the opening of the New Youth Center because the services currently provided at the USAG CYSS must move to the New Youth Center to make room for the pre-school program. The program could possibly begin as early as February.

6.d) Despite severe cuts in funding to holiday events, the 'big 4' USAG events will remain, due to CLO, community and Embassy support. Fall Fest / Trunk-or-Treat is set for 26 Oct and Winter Fest for 18 Dec. Volunteers are in even greater need due to the cutbacks. Please contact ACS' Volunteer Program.

7) Student Representative's Report: covered upcoming events including the homecoming dance on 13 Oct.

8) New Business:

8.a.) School Wellness Policy and Nutrition.

A parent, also last year's School Wellness Coordinator, submitted an issue form raising this issue to better align on-campus programs with the District Wellness Policy and US government policy guidance.

She opened by explaining her concerns and referred to the governing policy documents ranging from the National to the DODDS District level. She informed that the school conducted very good teaching regarding nutrition and wellness, had developed an Action Plan for process improvement as required by DODDS policy, but that there were “Competitive Foods” available at the BAS Snack Shack. These are prohibited on school grounds by the USA National policy. In a wide-ranging discussion, the following key points emerged.

- BAS has made significant progress in 2011 in positions, policy and health-promotion activity.
- Students will recognize consistency between wellness teaching & school actions in that area.
- A solution which works for the school’s situation, meets the policy requirements and will gain buy-in across the community can most likely be found among responsible officials. So BASAC recommends they remain in-touch.
- The Principal will check into the facts with the responsible officials.
- The Assistant Principal has a meeting with the Wellness Committee in the week after the BASAC meeting.
- The Wellness Committee will meet again in November.
- To inform the community, the wellness video will be linked to the BASAC

Minutes:

http://www.youtube.com/user/healthiergeneration?feature=results_main

9) Open Session: a question on the Attendance Policy and its relation to the Holiday Schedule and Sports Schedule was raised by a parent. The parent wanted to know if these schedules could be better synchronized.

A Faculty Representative explained that the DODDS-E sports schedule is interdependent between schools and therefore beyond the control of the BAS Principal. However, Region-wide events like testing schedules are taken into account where possible. The school added the day to create a long weekend for families. In sum, there are simply more extracurricular opportunities for students than there is time. Families must choose from among them.

A representative from the USAG reminded that changing the schedule at BAS would require a change to services schedules at the USAG. Their research has confirmed that this would increase costs to the USAG in overtime salaries.

As per Item 4.b), above, this issue remains open, with various BASAC, BAS and USAG personnel continuing to investigate before the next BASAC meeting.

10) The Chairman announced the next meeting would be held on 15 Nov.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Secretary