

**MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT
DAC Meeting Minutes
2 March 2006**

Attendees:

Dr. B	PS	NM
Carl A	MD	MK
KB	AC	BM
SM	DM	

Agenda Summary

Dr. Bates:

- Opens the meeting and welcomes the committee, emphasizes that any DAC issue he cannot resolve will be sent to the AAC, chaired by Ms. Ohman
- Members introduce themselves
 - Michelle Henning, parent rep., Rota
 - Daile St. Vincent, student rep., Vicenza
 - Missy Klopfer, principal rep., Aviano
 - Norie McCall, community rep., Vicenza
 - Pat Salerno, teacher rep., Vicenza
 - Kim Bibeau, parent rep., PTSA Pres., Naples
 - MAJ Angernette Coy, Military Rep., Ankara
 - Doug McEnery, principal rep., Aviano
 - Maria Davis, parent rep., Sigonella
 - Steve Osborne, OFT rep.
- DSO staff introduce themselves
- Dr. Bates recognizes the DoDEA ES and HS Principals of the Year and the DoDEA Teacher of the Year
- Asks administrators to encourage parents/students to not leave school early
- School is Vicenza may be cancelled on 14 June for base-wide reintegration ceremony
- Dr. Bates discusses the principal rotation program, every 5-7 years
- Dr. Bates discusses the rehired annuitants, some of whom will be terminated to create vacancies for excess teachers

BH

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- Talks about school closures and excess teachers, procedures for placing excess teachers, NTE's
 - Explains the DoDEA transfer round
 - 259 excess teachers DoDDS-E wide because of several school closures in Germany; only 20 in the Mediterranean District
 - This year teachers offered positions in DDESS and given preferential placement
 - VERA, and early retirement opportunity, creates vacancies for excess teachers

- Out of 100 VERA slots, only 68 applied
- If there are still excess teachers after the transfer round, some NTE's will be terminated to make space for permanent teachers

DM:

- DoDEA HS Principal of the Year
- Was an "army brat", attended DoDDS schools, impressed with how good the DoDDS school system is
- Most important variable is a quality teacher for every kids
- DoDDS is servicing military children: every family has a home and an income

MK:

- Being Principal of the Year has been her recommitment to her profession
- Been an opportunity to link up with stateside administrators and learn of problems/challenges they face

PS:

- Discussed her year as the DoDEA Teacher of the Year
- Will attend a ceremony at the White House in the rose garden
- Received a free workshop of her choice; attending a marine biology workshop in Key West, FL

DV:

- Attended the AAC in October
- Issues discussed were: SMS problems, there is no going back to WINSCHOOL, people need to learn to use SMS. Livorno school closure

NM:

- Attended the AAC in October
- Discussed the static teacher issue at Incirlik, is being brought up again at next AAC
- Attended a VTC yesterday, discussed number of students in European community rotating
- Attending next AAC on 7 April

Carl Albrecht:

- Discussed the DoDDS summer school/enrichment program
- Locations and application deadlines are still unknown
- Program is run by Voyager
- **Committee recommends the name of summer school be changed to summer enrichment program**

Sam Menniti:

- Begins the education update, focus on education and student achievement

JK:

- Briefs everyone on the Student 2 Student initiative
- Training opportunity run by MCEC and the military community
- 12 DoDDS-E high schools sent students to be trained
- Focus on relationships of students with other students to help deal with transitions
- Vicenza High School is currently the only HS in the Mediterranean District to have the Student 2 Student program
- MCEC is expanding its program to other branches of the service
- Discusses the Transition Counselors Institute
- Doug McEnery and Missy Klopfer talk about programs in their schools to help with transition
- Discusses the International Student Leadership

NH:

- Discusses current professional developments and programs going on in the District
- Sigonella and Naples Initiative: schools chosen because they are next to go through NCA
- Discusses the Middle School Initiative and the needs and changes of adolescents
- Suggests adding a discussion of the Middle School Initiative to schools' SAC agendas and what to expect

NM:

- Discusses technology initiatives and online professional developments
- Creating staff development courses
- Addresses reading counts problem; current program is old; Scholastic has a new program available for purchase
- **Issue:** schools are limited to the number of computers that can access the program at one time or there is a risk of corrupting data. When READ 180 was added is when the problems began
- **Recommendation:** DoDDS buy new scholastic program or investigate alternative programs that meet needs and use current resources

DM:

- Explains the difference between the internet, intranet, and the extranet

RC:

- Briefs on NCA and the process; which schools are going through NCA now
- Explains ACDE

RD:

- Gives an SMS update
- Once work through all the problems, everyone will be better off with the SMS system

- Spent \$40,000 on memory upgrades
- Any internet connection problems affect SMS, but are technically not a problem with SMS
- Currently SMS is not meeting schools needs
- 3 biggest problems: Gradebook, extracting information and reports, sensitivity to connectivity/relies on the internet
- Have a support contract with the company that DoDEA purchased software from
- Master scheduler part of SMS works well and training is currently going on

PS:

- Gives budget update; at last DAC meeting still under CRA
- DoDDS-E got budget at end of January; MED received its budget at the beginning of February
- Been busy giving out promised funding through MIPRS
- Taking another look at contracts and leased vehicles in effort to cut costs
- Have to carefully plan, since things happen during the year that aren't planned on, example: EVT
- District spends about \$2 million on utilities
- New requirements are funded by the District first, then refunded later
- Co-curricular travel \$38,000
- Curricular travel \$72,000
- EDC \$1,064,000
- Outdoor Ed \$26,700
- Supply \$400,000

SA:

- Corridor-records and tracks maintenance in the schools
- MILCON projects: MED has the largest program within DoDDS-E
- \$96 million worth of construction going on
- New facility specialist at Sigonella working with schools and construction agency
- Other projects:
 - New Rota HS
 - New Vicenza ES and MS
 - Fire suppression system at Ankara
 - Playgrounds at Aviano and Livorno
 - New roof at Incirlik and security upgrades

Carl Albrecht led the discussion of agenda items for the AAC meeting

Issues:

1) Problems with SMS

MD says there is difficulty being able to access data from the system; problem with 5 day window for grade changes and inputting grades; can't get online to take attendance all the time.

Committee decided to forward issue to the AAC

2) Reading Counts connectivity and access

MD says there is a problem with access since only three computers per school can access Reading Counts at one time. Nancy Martin confirms that Scholastic says problem can be fixed by purchasing their upgraded software.

Recommendation: Purchase the new software or investigate alternative programs that meet the needs and use current resources.

Committee decides to send issue to the AAC

3) Travel orders from DoDDS-E not being received in a timely manner

KB asks why travel orders from DoDDS-E aren't being received in a timely manner and out to traveling personnel.

Committee decides to send issue to the AAC

4) Community choosing replacement principal

Ankara SAC requests that they have a say in the replacement of the principal at Ankara school. Ankara is not like other schools. Its mostly international students and base is mostly State Department employees.

Dr. Bates will entertain the suggestion. Issue currently will not go to the AAC.

5) Reopening a school

Commander of Izmir says it's rumored that Izmir will become an accompanied tour. What is the process for reopening a school? This has to be initiated by the military community.

6) Weighted grades

Students who took 9th grade Honors classes were told that the grade was weighted. Now they have been told the class is not weighted. Seniors were "grandfathered" and allowed to keep their previous weighted grades. However, juniors are not allowed to keep the weighted grade and some of their GPA's are being affected.

Recommendation: Since policy is being waved for seniors, allowing them to keep their weighted grade, the same should be done for juniors, who also believed they were taking a class with a weighted grade.

Committee decides to send issue to AAC

7) Sport team size

Incirlik HS SAC wants to know how traveling team size is determined. If the number of players needed to field a team is the same for every school, why is the number of team members different based on school size?

Recommendation: All schools be authorized the same number of traveling players regardless of the size of the school.

Committee decides to send issue to AAC

8) 8th graders in sports

Ankara parent wants to know why his 8th grader cannot play varsity sports.

Issue has already been sent to Karen Seadore and is being addressed.

9) Driver's Education

Rota SAC requests DoDDS-E reinstate driver's education classes.

Issue has already been addressed and answer from Dr. Tafoya has been issued in a memorandum.

Respectfully submitted by BM, 2 March 2006