

**MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT  
DAC Meeting Minutes  
7 October 2005**

**Attendees:**

Dr. Bates	P S	N M
Carl Albrecht	M D	K R
K B	A C	D S
M H	G W	B M

**Agenda Summary**

- Dr. Bates opens the meeting and welcomes the committee, emphasizes the DAC's function; it exists to tell the Superintendent what he should be doing and what the DAC's needs are
- DAC should select a chairperson to advise the Superintendent
- Visited two-thirds of schools so far
- Members introduce themselves
  - M H, parent rep., Rota
  - D S V, student rep., Vicenza
  - Kathleen Reiss, principal rep., Vicenza
  - N M, community rep., Vicenza
  - P S, teacher rep., Vicenza
  - K B, parent rep., PTSA Pres., Naples
  - MAJ Angernette Coy, Military Rep., Ankara
  - G W, teacher rep., Vicenza
  - M D, parent rep., Sigonella
- DSO staff introduce themselves

**B N:**

- Student Transportation Supervisor
- Emphasis is on new contracts at LaMaddalena, Sigonella, and Naples
- Personnel turnover at Vicenza, Livorno, Ankara and Rota
- All Fall student bus safety training completed
- All bus attendants trained on safety and security
- Primary focus is new contract solicitation in Vicenza and Livorno

**R G:**

- Safety and Security Officer
- Discussed emergency kits that were distributed to the schools, passed them around for DAC members to view
- Put in blast resistant windows at Incirlik last year, working on Ankara this year

B H:

- Personnel specialist
- Worked hard over the summer to get a teacher in every classroom, less than 3 teacher vacancies at the moment
- Biggest challenge is a constant turn over of support staff
- During a school closure, they give teachers the option of being placed within the district before going into the transfer program

N M:

- Discussed the Professional Technical Studies program
- Students will get certificates after completing the courses for their particular pathway
- New DoDEA European Technology Plan:  
A three-year initiative  
Every student will be issued some kind of technology device  
Every classroom will have interactive smart boards, projection device, wireless Internet connection,
- COW's purchased for high schools
- K B asked about DELL leases expiring; Response from N M: explains phases of DELL leases
- G W asked about software being received at schools that surpasses the computer hardware in the schools; Response from N M: software will run, but a little slower than in a usual business environment
- N M explains that during a curriculum implementation year, training is provided to teachers, summer workshops are offered, a teacher can write a course and offer it to other teachers for university credit

A B:

- Computer support liaison
- Last year DoDDS went from having a local computer person at each school, to having specialist located in Germany and contract people at the schools
- Teachers have to input work orders on a web-based support program
- Incirlik was upgraded last year, replacing existing satellites
- Carl Albrecht reminds the committee that the connectivity issue at Incirlik was brought up at the last DAC, and DAC member COL Wilmot took on the issue and things were fixed

D M:

- District ET
- Creates and maintains school and DSO websites
- Assists in creating the student email accounts, which are filtered for language and inappropriate content
- Discussed extracurricular activities offered to MED District students
- Goes over sample websites

R D:

- Supports SMS
- Program collects personal information, schedules, grades, attendance, behavior data, scores, and report cards
- This is the first year of SMS implementation, has had its challenges
- Status of SMS – takes time to be developed and modified to meet the needs of the schools
- Reliance on technology is greater now than when WINSCHOOL and SIMMS were implemented, so more people are being affected by SMS problems
- Why did DoDEA switch from WINSCHOOL to SMS?
  - WINSCHOOL needed individual servers at each school to run, servers were old and too costly to maintain and replace
  - Data was stored at the schools, so any changes had to be done at the school and were sometimes done incorrectly
  - Databased decisions need accurate and current data, now data is on one database, refreshed daily and can be pulled up at once
- Progress reports were not sent out because the report function of SMS was not working properly at the time, working now for high schools
- Elementary school grade book software doesn't work

Dr. Bates:

- Presented the State of the District slide presentation
- Schools' purpose is to serve as a mechanism of sorting and producing students based on what society needs, students learn what society expects of them, and to maintain order in society.
- Relays his commitment that Mediterranean District students will receive an education equal to or better than stateside schools
- Reviews the Districts geographical dispersion and demographics
- Livorno Unit School will be closing its high school at the end of this school year
- Reviews the different advisory counsels and committees
- Turns presentation over to the budget office staff
- Reviewed the Community Strategic Plan and its 4 goals

B P:

- 16 schools received UFR funding, 85% spent on technology

P S:

- Briefs the committee on the district budget and where it is spent

S A:

- Facilities Engineer
- \$2 million spent on recurring maintenance to sustain schools, repairs, etc.

S A:

- In charge of MILCON projects (military construction)

- Separate funding from sustainment funds
- \$105 million worth of new construction planned through 2010

B W:

- Teacher on sight at Vicenza ES during summer school
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders made a radio broadcast and sent down range
- One complication was program was missing some materials
- Counselors met with students during the summer
- Program was not based on remediation

Carl Albrecht:

- Discussed student assessment and NCA accreditation
- Reviewed the District Customer Satisfaction Survey results
- **ACTION:** Carl Albrecht will find out if one person can serve on two SACs at the same time

N M:

- Discussed Transition Counselor Institute and Crisis Intervention and the MCEC
- Talked about the ICC, Interactive Counseling Center, and how it prepares transitioning students
- Explained the SLO's roles and responsibilities
- **ACTION:** John Keating will make sure all SLO's know about the MCEC and TCI trainings
- **ACTION:** John Keating will find out who USAFE head SLO is to help new Ankara SLO get trained

J K:

- TCI is designed to sensitize counselors to the issues HS students face in transitioning to new schools or during deployments
- Talks about his training of crisis intervention teams at the schools

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

Issues:

1) Livorno High School Closure:

**Options:** Remain open for one more year, send students to international school in Florence, or pay for correspondence courses

Committee decides not to keep school open one more year, but allow students to already at Livorno High School attend international school, and have DoDDS pay for correspondence courses for one year for students that will seniors next year

Committee decided to forward issue to the AAC

2) Static Teacher Population

MAJ Coy suggests the number of teachers at remote locations, like Turkey, remain the same instead of fluctuating based on enrollment

Committee decides to send issue to the AAC

3) SMS Report Card Problem

There is no plan of what to do if SMS report card function doesn't work in November when its time for report cards to go home

Committee decides to send issue to the AAC

**Next DAC meeting scheduled for 9 March**

Respectfully submitted by B M, 7 October 2005