

Mediterranean District Advisory Council
25 September 2007
Viest Hotel, Vicenza Italy

DAC Minutes:

Attendees:

Members present: Rich Alix; D. B.; Col J. H.; J. H.; S. L.; C. M.; A. M.; Norie McCall; S. P.; CAPT Q.; Dr. Marie Sainz-Funaro.

DSO employees present: Sam Menniti; Dr. Barbara Ferg-Carter; S. A.; S. A.; R. C.; R. G.; J. K.; Dr. N. M.; G. R.; P. S. and K. S..

New Business:

1. AAC representative: Dr. Ferg-Carter asked the DAC members to think about a member who they would like to represent them at the AAC on 11 Oct 07.
2. When you return home please submit travel claims in a timely manner, so that our district finance department can process the money expediently.
3. **District Overview:** Mr. Menniti provided an overview of the District from schools to budgets (see slide show).
 - a. The district is down 355 students.

Major Discussion Points:

1. **Staffing** – The question was asked Is staffing based on projected number? *Yes. It's important for principals to talk to the command so that we can get an as close as possible projected enrollment.*
2. **Enrollment** – The question was asked where we are going in terms of enrollment in years ahead? *Information from CACs and other structured committees will be able to answer those questions. Amount of money that every district gets is based up on student enrollment as well as money to staff schools.*
4. **Budget Overview:** P. S. discussed budgeting for district...showed pie chart of how budget is allocated...75% of budget is US and LN personnel compensation. Discussed each allocation and budget cuts. This year has had the biggest budget cuts. Cuts in TDY, travel and supply usually is where most cuts come from. Projects the same or more budget cuts for next fiscal year. The MED district has the largest budget out of all the districts based upon our geographic locations.

Major Discussion Points:

1. Discussed the effect of the supply cut on teachers (example having to ration paper). *There was a specific supply increase last week that came down from DoDDS-E.*

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5. Facilities Overview:

-S. A. discussed new construction (MILCON) – SY 08/09 Sig & Rota (08/09); SY 10/11 Rota HS & VEMS

-S. A. discussed maintenance and repair for various schools floors (V ES/HS & Sig Kind); Electrical survey/repair and admin renovation (Lajes); Roof replacement (Incirlik); HVAC repairs; gym floor (Rota); repair fire damage (VHS).

Major Discussion Points:

1. **School ACs** - There is a problem regulating room temps in Incirlik...is there projected date for completion? *Working on problem...will balance and adjust the ACs in the next 30-40 days. There is not a definite date on when it will be fixed.*
2. **Project completion**- What are the possible completion dates for all of the projects going on at Rota? *November for AC...Gym floor after basketball season in the Spring.*

6. **Security Overview:** R. G. introduced the new Security Specialist, G. R. Discussed safety and security...addressed who services which schools (see slide). Discussed mission and funding...funded by Combating Terrorism dollars. Has had a steady decrease in operating budget. Discussed support provided to schools. Discussed inability to record in schools due to SOFA agreement. Will have to meet with base commanders and discuss the SOFA agreement to try and obtain recording agreements. School support provided by the security specialists is: Antiterrorism Force Protection & Safety.

Major Discussion Point:

1. **Recording Devices** - Does the inability to record have anything to do with the Italian Union and not the SOFA agreement? *Will follow up on it.*

7. **Menniti:** Discussed Community Strategic Plan

Goal 1 – Highest Student Achievement

Goal 2 – Performance Driven, Efficient Management Systems

Goal 3 – Motivated, High Performing Diverse Workforce

Goal 4 – Network of Partnerships Promoting Achievement

Discussed DoDEA vision and mission.

8. **School Accreditation:** R. C. discussed School accreditation...schools reviewed every 5 years. This year Naples and Lajes will be reviewed and visited. There is a yearly annual paper review for each school. Distributed a handout on Teacher involvement in School Improvement Program (SIP). Biggest fault of last SIP process was that it was not teacher driven. From Jan – Jun 15 the schools had a plan of action to decide how they would address the SIP needs. SIP plans were implemented this school year. You are going to see a dramatic change of instruction and focus at your schools.

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9. **Sam Menniti:** – discussed District Focus for SY 07/08 – educational leadership; data based decision making; standards based instruction; reading and math literacy; accountability; & assessment. Focus on Assessment: discussed Terra Nova data & customer satisfaction survey.

10. **Counseling Services:** J. K. discussed counseling services; discussed *My Road* program for college and career planning for middle and high school students. All middle and high school students will be enrolled at no cost. 100% of eligible students will be enrolled by the end of the 1st quarter.
 - 20-40% of our students in the Mediterranean District are taking AP exam and getting a 3 or higher. There is always going to be a need to make the AP course of instruction better.

Major Discussion Points:

1. **AP Courses** - disagreement with the AP results/opportunity compared to DoDDs with other stateside schools was expressed.
Sam Menniti showed a comparative of Hickory HS and Sig high school students as far as number population. Brief discussion ensued.
2. **Test Scores** - If Terra Nova scoring is good and customer surveys are positive why did the SAT scores decrease? *All of the students in DoDDS who take the SAT still score higher than the stateside.*

Lunch Break: 1215

DSO employees released to go back to work. The next half of the meeting is to discuss DAC Agenda topics.

DAC AGENDA ITEMS

Action Items

1. Challenges for Naples High School Athletes and their Families
 - Med DSO- will check on cost of plane tickets
 - Recommend to Athletic Council to explore flexibility of travel for Southern European (Aviano, Vicenza & Naples) schools.
 - Alternate the location of Championship tournaments between Northern and Southern Europe.
 - Ask the Athletic Council to create a pool of referees from Northern and Southern Europe.
 - Team was sanctioned

(Open) Dr. Ferg-Carter to submit agenda item to the Athletic Council.

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2. Lajes E/HS School Advisory Committee
 - Would like credit by examination policy to be revisited/revised for the middle school (why is it limited to only math and foreign language?)
 - i. Recommend to AAC based on transition issues of students back and forth between DoDDS and stateside schools...allow the opportunity for MS students who take high school classes to receive credit for them.

(Open) J. K. will submit agenda item to the AAC.

Possible Topics for AAC

1. **Budget for Supply-**
 - MED DSO – has the action to see what can be done to increase school level supply funding for FY 08-09.

(Open) Action Item for Beth Pond and P. S..

2. **Staffing Projected Enrollments**

- MED DSO – Coordinate with local school principals and commands for accurate student enrollment projections.

(Open) Action item for Mr. Menniti...suspense Oct 15, 2007.

3. **Can we allow “educational” time during sports trips where feasible and with the agreement of the coach (no additional out of school time).**

- AAC
- Explore partnership with YS

(Open) Action item for Mr. Menniti/Mr. B. to AAC.

4. **New School Furniture in a Timely Manner**

- Follow-up in February as an agenda item

(Open) Action item for Beth Pond.

5. **SMART Board Technology**

- Follow-up in February as an agenda item

(Open) Action item for Beth Pond and N. M.

6. **AP/DL Classes for smaller schools**

- MED DSO- relook the AP program with Asst. Superintendents; AP teachers & J. K..

(Open) Action item for J. K., Carl Albrecht & Sam Menniti.

7. **AAC Representative**

- Committee chose C. M. to represent them at the AAC.

(Closed)

Next DAC 26 Feb 08.