

Office of the Superintendent
Mediterranean District
District Advisory Council/District Improvement Leadership Team
10 September 2002

The first meeting for school year 2002-2003 for the Mediterranean District Advisory Council/District Improvement Leadership Team convened on 10 September 2002 at 0900 hours at the Support Commander's Conference Room in Aviano, Italy. The following members were in attendance:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Constituencies and Location</u>
	Superintendent, Mediterranean District
	Assistant Superintendent, Mediterranean District
	Assistant Superintendent, Mediterranean District
	Air Force Parent Representative, Incirlik, Turkey
	Air Force Command, Aviano, Italy
	Navy Command, Naples, Italy
	School Administrators, Mediterranean District
	Air Force Command, Sevilla, Spain
	SETAF Command, Vicenza, Italy
	Overseas Federation of Teachers
	Navy Command, Gaeta, Italy
	Headquarters, ODC, Ankara, Turkey

Members not in attendance: Navy Command, Rota, Italy
Army Command, Livorno, Italy
Headquarters Joint Command South, Verona, Italy
Navy Command, La Maddalena, Italy
Mediterranean District Teacher of the Year SY2001-2002
Navy Command, Sigonella, Italy
Navy Command, Naples, Italy

Others in attendance: School Improvement Liaison, Mediterranean District

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Ellinger, DoDDS Mediterranean Superintendent, greeted the group and thanked them for representing their constituencies and communicating the district policies and issues to their communities. Col. M M welcomed the committee to the Aviano community.

After introductions by each committee member the District School Improvement Liaison, facilitated an introductory icebreaker, and reviewed DAC/DILT bylaws and procedures. The bylaws were sent to the members prior to the meeting and members were asked to review them. No changes were made at the meeting.

Ms. D briefly outlined proposed norms for the Committee. She said that issues should be worked by consensus, not majority. Each member is expected to communicate DAC/DILT decisions contained in the minutes to their community. The team roster was circulated so all members could update information. A copy of the completed roster will be sent to all members with the minutes.

The DAC/DILT submission form was highlighted. R D asks that issues be submitted at least one month prior to the meeting to be in compliance with the by-laws, and that last minute issues may be discussed during the meeting's open session.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ellinger reviewed the outcomes for the day and the Community Strategic Plan goals. He provided the committee with information on the district statistics including enrollment in district schools. Then, he outlined the district focus for this school year. The four goals for the district are: DoDEA embraces "No Child Left Behind", the principal as an educational leader, data-based decision making, and reading proficiency. The guidelines for reading proficiency require all third graders to be on grade level by this school year and all students by SY2005-2006.

Dr. Ellinger announced the District Teacher of the Year. Ms. M C, a third grade teacher at Vicenza Elementary School was selected by a panel comprised of district stakeholders.

Mr. Menniti explained the new curricular initiatives for the district. He explained the programs that are supported by the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) for High Schools. This POM provided funds for high school support classes for reading and mathematics as well as additional staffing for the schools. This year social studies materials will be fully implemented in the district and new standards for gifted education will be implemented. With the addition of the Ankara school, all middle and high schools in the district now have the AVID

program. Mr. Menniti explained that a POM for special education is expected and more information will be provided when it is available. Students who are currently freshman in high schools will have to have a 2.0 grade point average in order to graduate from a DoDEA school. Elementary schools will be implementing a new electronic report card for grades 4-6. Sexual harassment training will be provided for high schools students. Home-schooled students will be provided full support by district schools. They may enroll in specific courses, programs or extra-curricular activities at schools. Students who are enrolled in Italian schools are not eligible for services from DoDDS since they are enrolled in a school. Mr. Osborne asked if there were standards for home schooling. DoDEA does not have standards for home schooling since this is a state's right issue.

Mr. Menniti reviewed the district initiatives' connections to the Community Strategic Plan which included a focus on Early Childhood Education, the implementation of reading and math support classes, the development and implementation of multimedia communication plans, an extended network of partnerships and alliances, involvement of all staff in professional development opportunities and participation in the allocation of resources at the local level.

The committee watched video welcome messages from Dr. Joseph Tafoya, the director of DoDEA and Ms. Diana Ohman, the European Director of DoDDS.

Dr. Beckwith, assistant superintendent, detailed the commendations and recommendations of the Advisory Council for Dependents Education (ACDE). The slides from this presentation will be sent to all committee members. Dr. Beckwith outlined the comparison between the federally mandated "No Child Left Behind" legislation and the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan.

Dr. Beckwith then reviewed educational advisory committee hierarchy from the local level through the DoDEA and the command chains. She then highlighted several section on the district website, <http://www.med-dso.eu.odedodea.edu/>. Next, she discussed the budget expenditures for the district.

Ms. D reviewed district Terra Nova data and other assessment information. The first goal for the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan sets the goal that 75% of students score in the top two quartiles and less than 8% score in the bottom quartile of the standardized test, *Terra Nova*, by October 2006. In the Mediterranean District, these goals have been achieved in grades 8-11. Our lowest scores are in the third and fourth grades, which account for our early childhood initiatives and these areas will be the focus of professional development. Each school should be reporting test data to all constituents. When viewing test data, each school will look at the actual number of students in each quartile. In addition to the test data, other available data includes parent surveys and exit surveys. Resources should be allocated and used efficiently toward each school's target goal.

Curriculum Area Updates

Ms. D reviewed the DoDEA curricular cycle and executive summary updates for mathematics, science and language arts were included in the packets. The regulation and requirements for curriculum audits was included in the packet. Curriculum audits are conducted at middle schools and high schools two years prior to the accreditation visit by NCA. Incirlik High School in Turkey and Vicenza High School in Italy will be visited in December 2002.

Old Business

The order of the old business items on the agenda was changed in order to complete the items that would take the least time first.

Student Teachers – Currently, the Mediterranean District has student teachers in the Naples area. The district faces several obstacles when trying to place student teachers. These include work permits and access to base facilities. Military command support is essential to overcome many of the issues. The district will continue to attempt to place student teachers since they are an excellent resource for our workforce.

Monitors - Dr. Beckwith explained that bus monitors are required for any bus that carries kindergarten students by Italian law. The district is trying to provide safety monitors on other buses using contracts since other hiring practices would require manpower spaces from the schools. The Air Force has provided monitors by using overhire positions. One scenario for the use of monitors would be to have random attendants on buses. This plan would require fewer personnel and would be in line with safety and security practices. Statements of work are being developed and the district hopes to have these statements by 1 October 2002. The work statements would apply across the district. The committee recommended that English proficiency be a requirement for the monitors.

Unfunded Requirements – The list of unfunded district requests were presented to the committee. Using the priorities established by prior DAC/DILT committees, the members of the committee prioritized the requests. Items will be funded as monies are available using the priorities stated by the committee. The priority list is attached.

New Business

Future meeting dates - 31 January and 19 May are the projected dates for future DAC/DILT meetings this year.

Input on Revising the DoDEA Grading Scale – DoDEA is considering revising the grading scale as a result of recommendations by ACDE. Each district was asked to provide input into the process. After discussions, the committee was equally

split between retaining the current scale and changing to a scale of 93-100 for an A. It was moved and seconded that the recommendation from the committee be to retain the current scale. If a change is mandated, they recommended the 93-100 option.

Selection of DAC/DILT Chairperson – J V was selected as chair and K E will continue as the new recorder.

Open Session

No issues were presented.

After lunch the committee met at the Aviano School Complex to tour the new facility which houses Aviano Elementary, Middle and High Schools.

Conclusion

Dr. Ellinger thanked the group for their participation, noting the long distances traveled by many of its members.

The next scheduled meeting of the DAC/DILT is January 31, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

R D