

Patch Elementary School (PES)

School Advisory Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 2 October 2008
3:00 pm, PES Library

Attendance

Names have been removed for Privacy

Agenda

I. Call to Order (Welcome/Attendance/Approve Minutes) –

The minutes from the 18 Sep 08 meeting were approved. JK will be getting an electronic copy of the minutes, and copies of all other information.

II. Reports (Staff and Enrollment Numbers and Other) –

The SAC discussed the necessity of reporting school numbers at each meeting. The committee decided that BA will bring only one copy of the numbers and will discuss only if there has been significant change.

III. Old Business

“Outstanding Items” updates – SS went through the Outstanding Items list and received a status update on all items. A new Outstanding Item list will be sent out with the minutes.

LL has the new letter format and will send it to all committee members electronically.

Col P is looking at whether the Garrison has flashing buttons for the school to use at crosswalks. Also, they are exploring the purchase of new flashing signs.

SZ is visiting the Provost Marshall’s Office and will ask if someone from the office can attend the Morning Safety Subcommittee Meeting next week.

JK volunteered to request Military Police to patrol the school grounds before school and after school 3 times per week for two weeks, looking for safety hazards, especially dogs on campus. LL will send a Power Point slide to JK about “No Dogs on Campus” to put on the Commander’s Channel. A work request was submitted for No Dogs on Campus signs.

The committee discussed the honor roll requirements for PES. Currently, PES has a Principal's Honor Roll for all A's and an Honor Roll for a 3.0 (which allows a C that is offset by an A). The committee decided that PES should enforce the highest standards. The committee voted to recommend to BA that the handbook be changed to a Principal's Honor Roll of all A's and no /'s ("more participation needed). The "regular Honor Roll" should be for all A's and B's with /'s O.K.

Cafeteria Update – Federal guidelines dictate that children should have a choice of entrée at lunch. Therefore, AAFES ordered components for PES for an additional lunch line. The components, which cost \$85,000 would allow our lunchroom to have two separate lines, each offering a different entrée. Salad would still be offered. Side items for each line would be the same and students would have the choice to just take 3 sides. During non-use, the components would be pushed against the wall, or rolled to the side room. BA requested discussion on the feasibility of this addition. He still has the authority to decline the new components. There was concern that by offering choices, the students would take too long deciding, causing the line to move too slowly. MC indicated that after initial growing pains, she felt the extra line would not prove too time consuming. She said she has enough staff to fully man both lines. Teachers indicated that at other schools, kids had choices and were able to quickly decide what they wanted. There was also concern that there would not be enough room for the components since the lunchroom is already crowded. BA said that the trash cans have been moved and the trays are being stacked on a table rather than in the window, freeing up the area around the tray window. Assuming the components will fit in that area, then he felt the area would allow students to adequately flow through the lines. After much discussion, the SAC voted to recommend to BA to use the new components and establish a new line. Further discussion may be required, if school population numbers increase, requiring more tables (and diminishing the area required for the second line).

IV. New Business

SAC Mission Statement/Goals and Objectives – LL used previous end-of-year report formats and created a beginning-of-the-year report including goals and objectives derived from the 18 Sep 08 SAC meeting. Electronic copies of that document, along with new By-Laws will be sent to committee members for comment.

Gym Safety – SS received a letter from a concerned parent regarding gym safety. This parent's child was bumped during P.E. and hit his/her head on the gym wall. The child required medical attention. RL indicated that a work request was submitted 2 years ago for padding to be installed on two walls in the gymnasium. Committee members discussed the need for annual review of work requests, prioritizing the work requests, and more pressure to receive funding for high-priority items. RL will look at the list and determine the status of all items. BA said he would invite the "facility" people to the next meeting.

V. Open Forum

Web Page – DS indicated that the SAC webpage link from the PES website is not up to date. No one has the password to access the SAC e-mail account and items currently on the website are

not in the proper format (i.e. names on items must be omitted for privacy and security). A small subcommittee was formed to look at updating the webpage. LE, DS, and LL are on the subcommittee.

Automatic Doors – A concerned parent wanted to know why the school did not have automatic doors when so many other Patch Barracks facilities have them. The committee discussed force protection and a funding. DODEA is required to fund that action and there simply isn't enough money. LE will approach the parent and discuss the issue to ensure that the parent is satisfied.

Curricular Standards – LE (and several people agreed) that there is a pervasive attitude that students are falling behind their peers in the States. There seems to be no concrete evidence suggesting this attitude is true or false. However, there do seem to be problems in communication between parents, teachers, and the school. Some teachers do not seem to be communicating their goals and plans for the year, and the standards are not clear. Ideas that were generated to alleviate this problem include giving grade-level specific examples (that parents can understand) that coincide with the DODEA curriculum standards, teachers of the next year meeting with teachers of the previous years and discussing requirements, encouraging parents to use the SOAR program online, having regular SAC Town Hall Meetings, and generating a positive media blitz. The SAC also discussed the research of Terra Nova scores to determine if students scores are decreasing. The SAC decided to create another subcommittee about this issue that is a subset of the CSP Communication Committee, chaired by EP. LL, LE, MK, JK, and BA will be members of this subcommittee. The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., 6 Oct.

VI. Adjourn