

End of Year Report
Patch Elementary School (PES)
School Advisory Committee (SAC)
School Year 2006-2007

1. PES SAC Board Membership:

Mike Newcomb, Chairperson, Parent Rep
Jeanne Roth, SAC IAC representative, Parent Rep
Tracy Rainey, Parent
Harry Stine, Deputy Chairperson, SAC IAC representative, Professional Staff Rep
Jan Kuenning, SAC Secretary, Professional Staff Rep
Holly Reiling, Professional Staff Rep

2. PES SAC meetings held during the reporting period:

13 September 2006, 7 November 2006, 31 January 2007, 3 April 2007 and 6 June 2007

3. PES SAC Goals and Objectives include:

Goal # 1 – Serve as an Advocate for our Children

Objective 1.a -- Promote a positive and challenging educational experience

Objective 1.b -- Promote a safe and secure environment

Goal # 2 - Provide an opportunity for parents, students, and faculty to address and resolve issues regarding education, safety or other issues within SAC's purview

Objective 2.a -- Represent and communicate the views of students, parents, and teachers to school leadership

Objective 2.b -- Improve communication between PES and its stakeholders

Objective 2.c -- Maintain situational awareness of PES student proficiency (Reading and Math)

Objective 2.d -- Leverage/request Stuttgart Mentorship program and other DSO resources, as required

Objective 2.e -- Coordinate with other Stuttgart community schools to facilitate a seamless transition

Objective 2.f -- Monitor / promote internal PES programs that prepare our 5th graders for MS transition

4. Measures of success in achieving each goal or objective listed above: Overall the PES SAC engaged in a number of issues, with some limited success in SY 2006/07 to include:

a. Provided a reliable venue for PES stakeholders to raise and address concerns in a professional forum. All issues that were forwarded to the SAC were reviewed, or forwarded to responsible agency for resolution, as required.

b. Established effective communication with the PHS and RB SACs.

c. Continued to monitor PES student reading proficiency through the various assessment tools utilized at PES. All students reading below grade level have been identified and are receiving support. Mr. Lathrop, Assistant Principal, indicated that PES students are doing very well in reading, but stated that we need to continue to monitor PES progress in math. As a result of this assessment in Jan 07, PES requested \$2,500 from SCSC to purchase an Accelerated Math program by Renaissance Learning.

e. Distributed required SAC reference documents (DoDI, PES SAC by-laws, and SAC training slides) to ensure that SAC members were informed and operating effectively at the beginning of the SY, vice waiting for DSO training that did not occur until mid-November 06.

f. Developed and staffed SAC goals with supporting objectives of focus SAC efforts in support of PES.

5. Others matters addressed and outcomes from the work of the PES SAC:

a. Summer Enrichment Program – engaged Bavaria DSO to determine status of the DoDEA Summer Enrichment program. The program was at risk due to budget constraints, but will be offered for grades K thru eight during the Jul 07 timeframe at PES for the Stuttgart community.

b. PES Lunch Room Schedule – although not a SAC issue, the “Change in Working Condition” issue was a major distraction during SY 2006/07 that will hopefully be resolved prior to next SY.

c. Textbooks and classroom resources – Due to unanticipated enrollment numbers, PES had a shortage of required textbooks at the beginning of the SY. Bavaria DSO and DoDDS-E reacted quickly, but the response was not timely due to established inventory and consolidation procedures required for closing DoDDS-E schools. This issue was reviewed and discussed at the DoDDS-E AAC and a policy/program has been established that addresses consolidation and redistribution of textbooks and related educational materials within DoDDS-E. Also the PES administration has been very proactive in coordinating with closing schools within the Bavaria District for supplies and materials for PES.

d. Students reading below grade level - PES SAC continued to monitor the status. This process has been very valuable in providing situational awareness and has provided necessary information for the administration, classroom teachers, and education specialists to make informed recommendations about required interventions and school improvement decisions.

e. Differentiated Instruction – Asked at all levels about the DoDEA and DoDDS-E policy reference “differentiated instruction. Although there is no policy, SAC was informed that it is part of the critical elements. Also this question resulted in finding several other educational resources (websites, etc.) that can be utilized within the classroom, as required.

h. Africa Command – Created awareness within DoDDS-E about the potential impact of Africa Command on the Stuttgart community Given the projected influx of Africa Command families over the next two years. DoDDS-E and DSO must monitor this situation closely and be prepared to react to staffing and infrastructure requirements within Stuttgart schools. This will require good communication between respective school administrators, Bavaria DSO, DoDDS-E, and the Stuttgart Army Garrison.

i. Information briefs: Continuous School Progress, Gifted Education Program, and the Art Program.

6. PES SAC achievements during this reporting period:

a. Established effective communications and information sharing with two of the three other SACs within the Stuttgart Community.

b. Conducted SAC election for the SY 2007/08 PES SAC Team. The PES SAC team for SY 2007/08 is in-place and has received required background references.

c. Engaged Bavaria DSO about allocation of annex classrooms for PES. Although very late in the year, PES did receive two of seven annex classrooms.

d. Actively engaged the Bavaria DSO and Stuttgart SLO reference managing “redistricting rumors” within the Stuttgart Community. Recommended that respective parties review lessons learned from the “Stuttgart Middle School” and “Kaiserslautern Redistricting” experience, as examples.

7. PES SAC concerns requiring additional review/ recommendations for SY 2007/08 PES SAC.

a. Teacher vs. student staffing ratios for SY 2007/08 – Kindergarten class size and the impact of Africa Command on enrollment numbers are a concern.

b. Allocated classroom space – based upon student enrollment numbers at PES and PHS vs. requirements, an equitable distribution of annex classroom between PES and PHS should be reviewed and determined by respective administrators and the Bavaria DSO, as required.

c. Middle School lessons learned – Work to improve effective communications with Robinson Barracks MS counterparts (Administrators, Counselors and SACs) – are we doing a good job in preparing our students for transition to Middle School (academically and logistically)? What are we doing well and what areas need improvement? Coordinate early for dates to support MS course selection, orientations, etc.

d. Communication - Look for ways to improve communication (e.g., school newspaper, flyers, SAC information board, etc.). The SAC e-mail, although very easy to access off of the PES webpage has had very little use. For the most part, issues/concerns have been forwarded to SAC members in person.

e. EUCOM Mentor Program – engage the EUCOM Mentor program coordinator as soon as possible in Aug/Sep 07 and educate and/or advertise this resource within the PES faculty.

8. Actions taken to strengthen and improve the PES SAC.

a. Utilized electronic staffing to coordinate SAC issues and staff actions as they came up. Issues were dealt with on a timely basis, vice waiting until the next meeting to address and forward to the responsible agencies (school administration, AAFES, etc.) for action.

b. Established effective communication and information sharing with two of the three other SACs in the Stuttgart community.

c. Successful in elevating several key issues to the DoDDS-E AAC forum for discussion, study and/or resolution to include: Potential Impact of Africa Command, Differentiated Instruction, Redistribution of text books/material from closing DoDDS-E schools and ExtraNet.

9. Recommendations for improvement of the Local Education Advisory Program: None.

10. Additional comments: Key to success is effective communication with the educational forum both horizontally within PES (e.g., support/advice to PES principal) and sharing with other SACs within our community, and vertically to DSO and through the IAC forum for issues that fall outside SAC but that impact PES. Collectively, we need to support our respective schools and be willing to address issues that are forwarded to this forum. Hopefully by establishing an effective and credible information chain and solving some issues, it will encourage greater community confidence and participation in the process as well.

Michael A. Newcomb
PES SAC Chairman

cc: PES SAC Team
PES Principal
Bavaria DSO
DoDDS-E Regional Director
USAG-Stuttgart Commander