

SAB MINUTES

Aviano School Advisory Board Minutes

December 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the SAB Pres. at 4:00 p.m.

In attendance

Kevan Seamans – SAB president, parent Aviano ES
Samuel Maglio – SAB vice president, parent Aviano MS
Rachel Carpenter – SAB secretary, parent Aviano ES
Cindy Murray – Asst. Principal, Aviano ES
Lillian L. Hiyama – Principal, Aviano ES
Donald Evans – Student Transportation Office
Ann Maglio – Student Liason Officer (SLO)
Karen Mackenzie – parent, Aviano ES
Cristina Echevarria – Principal, Aviano MS/HS
Ken Younkin – Asst. Principal, Aviano MS/HS
Joseph Sansone – SAB parent rep, Aviano MS/HS
Gina Cross – FLES teacher, Aviano ES
Beth Petty – SAB parent rep, Aviano ES
Jim Hardin – SAC President
Diana Woods – 3rd grade teacher, Aviano ES

Reading of Previous Meeting Minutes

SAB secretary reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. One change was noted, and the minutes were approved by the SAB president.

Old Business

- Issue regarding discrepancy between the AYP policy and the Italian laws for child supervision was discussed again. SAB president had contacted AYP director; their stance is to follow their current policy of using parental consent forms for individual parents to allow their children, ages 9 or older, to be able to sign themselves out to access the shoppette and other businesses in the mini-mall area on area 1. The responsibility for child welfare is then placed on the parents through the signed consent form. This policy used by the AYP is AF-wide and wing-granted. Despite this, the discrepancy between AYP policy and Italian law still remains. The board voted to push this issue up to 31 FSS to address this further and discuss any additional action.
- The board asked for more information on volunteers needed for various activities in the schools. The need for volunteers was expressed at the last meeting, and the board wishes to move forward with this. The MS/HS is asking for 2-4 volunteers for lunch and an unspecified number for tutoring; the ES is asking for 4-6 volunteers for lunch and an

unspecified number for tutoring or other activities. Jim Hardin, SAC president, and Ann Maglio, SLO, also cited other groups that are trying to coordinate volunteers for the schools, and the decision was made to coordinate all these groups together in a subcommittee. The SLO will contact the SAC and SAB before the end of this month to confirm a meeting time and will open this meeting up to other groups that wish to volunteer.

- Parent teacher conferences for the MS/HS saw better attendance with command support. The typical comments and attendance were doubled, thus showing the success from the push from command to allow parents to attend conferences and encouraging service members to attend.

New Business/Open Floor

- The SAB president received an email from a parent about concerns over online homework. Upon inquiry, the ES principal stated that there is no online homework for elementary students. There are supplementary math and reading programs available online, but these are not required. The MS/HS principal also expressed that there is no uniform policy in place for online homework; if it is assigned, it is up to the individual teacher's preference. Internet is made available during the school week for students who cannot access it at home. The board decided to direct this parent back to the individual teacher for more information.
- *Lillian Himaya, ES principal and Cindy Murray, ES asst. principal:* there will be a price increase for the school lunch program effective 3 Jan 2012. The increase will be \$.35 per full price meal, raising current meal prices to \$2.40 for ES students and \$2.55 for MS/HS students. Reduced price meals will remain the same at \$.40 per meal. This information will go out in the school newsletters, on the WYVERN, and on AFN.

ES principal also highlighted the anti-bullying programs being used in the school. The "Bucket Fillers" program has been running smoothly and uses two methods for recognizing good behavior and for addressing students who are struggling. Any member of the school (student, teacher, etc.) can fill out a water drop shaped form with good deeds, and these are read on the TV for the school biweekly. There is also a bully box that allows students to drop forms about their experiences with bullying or troubles. Counselors can then identify students and address their needs individually.

The board was asked to help with the DoDEA community strategic plan (CSP) that ends in the 2011. DoDEA is asking for suggestions or changes that would like to be considered with the current CSP. Information was given to all present at the meeting, and the information will be made available to parents via email. The last day for submitting feedback is 16 Dec 2011, although it is noted that the deadline is often extended.

Finally, the administration wanted to recognize the efforts of Brig. Gen. Zobrist for his efforts for reaching out to the education community and for strengthening the school/base partnership. He is attending the Deployment Club next week, and he is also coming to read to the kindergarten classes next week. The partnership is very important, and all wished to express their gratitude for his efforts.

- *Cristine Echevarria, Principal Aviano MS/HS:* Brig. Gen. Zobrist had expressed concerns with the emergency procedures in place at the schools in the event of weather/disaster related events. All administrators, as well as Lt. Col. Moncrieffe and Dave Andler, have been working on a better system and methods for communicating to parents in this event, incorporating email, phone, AFN radio, and teacher phone trees. The recent 2-hour delay on 5 Dec 2011 tested their efforts, and the newer methods were a great success. Administrators wish to express how urgent it is for parents to keep contact information updated. Recognition was given to Donald Evans and the transportation office for also making this a smooth transition.

The MS/HS calendar is completed for Jan.-March 2012 and sent through newsletters. Exams will be held at the end of Jan. with partial exams for MS students and full exams for HS students. Basketball, wrestling, and competitive cheerleading are the sports in season. The principal will also begin the Principal's Diner, a time for her to sit down with students during lunch to discuss grades, methods for improvement, etc. to help ensure that all seniors graduate on time. The graduation site for this year is still being negotiated, as the Sacile site from last year is unavailable.

The MS/HS will hold school testing on 13 Dec. 2011 to assess reading and writing skills. A post test will be given at a later date to readdress the problem areas.

Closing Notes

The SAB president asked for any other questions, concerns, etc. Upon no further business, the next meeting date was set and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

4 Jan. 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the MS/HS information center/library.