



**DoDEA PACIFIC REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) MINUTES
THURSDAY, May 21, 2020 (1000-1245)**

Welcoming Remarks

- Congratulations to Mr. Posthumus who received a full ride scholarship to William & Mary. He's done a great job providing the student perspective over the past few years. You represent our amazing DoDEA students.

Member/Attendee Introductions

Members:

Ms. Lois Rapp
Mr. Jim Journey
Mr. Ballesteros-Burkett
Mr. Christopher Lamb
Ms. Christine McNeace
Ms. Diana Mizell
Ms. Barbara Askey

Ms. Christine Monroe (absent)

Ms. Lucinda Ward
Ms. Vanesa Berdoza

Ms. Kelly Curtis (absent)

Ms. Susan Torres
Mr. Daniel Posthumus
Ms. Dara Davis
Ms. Christine McNeace
Col Sean G. Barrett (absent)
Mr. Patrick McEleney
Mr. Oliver Cunningham
CMDCM Lisa Tisdale (absent)
Mr. James Sellers (absent)
Dr. Thea Lopez-Parrish
Mr. Todd Schlitz

Other Attendees:

Ms. Jean Grice
Mr. Richard Pollock
Mr. Tom McKinney
Mr. DeAngelo Galang

Mr. Phil Norris
Ms. Tuya Rosenberry
Ms. Michelle Block

RAC Overview

- RAC Membership and Responsibilities
- Council Hierarchy and Relationships
- Overview of new DoDEA Administrative Instruction 1358.01
 - Includes changing SAC composition as recommended by this RAC (formerly Area Advisory Council). This allows civilians to be members of the SAC.
 - The new [RAC webpage](#).

Coronavirus Response

- Overview of the COVID-19 Timeline
- Actions by the numbers
 - 22,695 student in virtual learning/2 day transition
 - 26,367 grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches
 - 2,079 laptops loaned to students
 - 13 EEE waivers issued

- Virtual Learning
 - Feedback overall positive (ICE Comments). Negative comments also allowed us to address issues and improve virtual learning.
 - Identified several virtual learning best practices, including hours of instruction based on grade level and a combination of live and recorded instruction.
 - [Parent Guides for Online Learning](#)
 - Tips, resources, and engagement strategies for parents.
 - Tailored to include a brief overview for parents wanting quick facts, and more in depth options for parents wanting additional resources.
- Graduation Plans
 - June 3 – 6 2020
 - 12 HS, 952 grads
 - All will have a virtual component. Several schools will also have an in-person component. In-person graduations were developed in coordination with the installation commander.
- South Korea In-Person Activities
 - South Korea is now in HPCON B. Schools in PAC West will have optional in-person closeout activities.
 - Memos going to families with details for their school-specific events.
 - Mitigation strategies for in-person activities developed in coordination with installation commanders.
- Supporting our Sailors
 - McCool EMS and Guam HS housing sailors in support of Navy effort to combat COVID-19
 - Navy will deep clean buildings, leave the buildings vacant for 14 days, and return to DoDEA by 1 August.

Pacific Highlights

- Awards
 - Patrick Buckley- PAC Principal of the Year
 - Michael Pope- PAC East Teacher of the Year
 - Angie Fino- PAC South Teacher of the Year
 - Laird Sessions- PAC West Teacher of the Year
- Farewells
 - Dr. Schiavino-Narvaez (moved to HQ-promoted to Chief Academic Officer)
 - Mr. Michael Johnson (retired)
 - Dr. Greg Mowen (retired)
- Virtual Jr Science Humanities Symposium
 - STEM Research Projects; competing for scholarships and chance to go to Nationals
 - Able to switch to a virtual format to host the event in March as planned.
- [The SUN](#)
 - Used leftover travel funds to purchase hard copies for every student that is published in the magazine.
 - Q (Diana Mizell)- How will the books be distributed?

- A-The hard copies were shipped to each school so they can distribute directly to their students in a manner appropriate for that location.
- 9 Man Football
 - Lower enrollment schools (Osan/Daegu) played 9 vs 9 football this year so they'd still have the opportunity to play even if they couldn't support a traditional team (11 man).
- Far East Drill Meet
 - 13 teams competed; 130 total students.

Community Partnerships

- English Language Initiative- Partnership between DoDEA & Japanese government to help train host nation teachers in support of the Japanese Government's English Language curriculum.

New initiatives

- Pacific Student Transition Program
 - Military children transition schools every few years. We want to do whatever we can to support them.
 - Schools have some type of transition program. We're standardizing components and creating baseline for the program with key program components.
 - Students taking the lead as ambassadors.
 - Piloting at six schools in SY20-21 across all 3 districts.
 - Eventually all 21 MS & HS in the region will be integrated.
 - Esports Initiative
 - Growing interest among schools. Students are already doing it, we have extracurricular clubs already running in 4 schools.
 - Path to college and scholarships. STEM and career opportunities.
 - Availability in social distancing environment.
 - Next steps-Pilot in 4 schools.
 - We are making sure content is appropriate, and looking at opportunities for esports with physical components.
 - Military services have esports components.
 - Guam Realignment to PAC West
 - As of July 15, will move from Pac South to PAC West.
 - PAC West has half the students as PAC South so will help evenly distribute resources.
 - Direct flights between Korea and Guam will allow for better oversight and support along with cost savings.
 - Parents/students/schools won't be impacted, other than the additional support that will be provided through resources.
 - Behind the scenes there is some work like realigning payroll.
 - Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) Initiative
 - Focus on importance of satisfaction in workforce, impacts our students and families. Good way to give us a temperature check on the cultural climate.
 - Established a DEOCS program at Pacific Region; first in DoDEA.
 - Command-sponsored and confidential. Three key areas: organizational effectiveness, equal opportunity, sexual assault response and prevention. We can also add questions specific to our organization.

- Criteria each district: (1) newly appointed Superintendents and Community Superintendents; (2) every 3 years; (3) allegations; and (4) at Director/Superintendent discretion.
 - No cost; provided through federal government.
 - Non-Command Sponsored Students
 - Thank you to PAC West and Jean Grice for putting this brochure together.
 - Shout out to the SLOs for elevating this issue. If there are any trends or issues that you see, we can partner with you and local military leadership to help address issue and come up with communications tools.
 - We created a product so parents can make informed decisions before bringing non-command sponsored children. There may not be space for all children in a family, and space may not be available each subsequent year.
 - Planning to make a related video as well.
 - Q (Diana Mizell): Since this is specific to Korea, is there a way to get more generic info? I've had cases where the rest of family is sponsored except an EFMP child.
 - A: This was phase 1 because that's where immediate need was, but we'll be coordinating with all SLOs to address their area's impact.
 - Q (Barbara Askey): Reminder that non-command sponsored children in Guam are not eligible to go to a DoDEA school.
 - A: Thank you. Because Guam is a U.S. territory, there are different rules and they are not eligible.

Construction Update

- Facilities by Numbers
 - COVID-19 and border wall have impacted the budget and timeline for some of the projects.
- Recently Completed Projects
 - Sasebo ES is completed. Construction ongoing for Sasebo MHS.
 - We've had to coordinate closely with installation on where to house students while construction was ongoing. We had to have any student living off base attend Darby. Challenging for some students but it was the only option since there was no space for temporary classrooms.
 - We were excited to bring some of the students are back now that it's reopen. We could not bring back all students because the top floor is housing high school students while that project is underway.
 - District has had to review districting again. Letters have gone out to parents on redistricting. Kids already at Sasebo are not moving. For new families coming in, if they live off base their kids will attend Darby. We will continue to provide buses from Darby to Sasebo. We know it's not perfect but the only option we have right now.
 - Also completed-Yokota HS Culinary Arts facility and JROTC-full suite with shooting range.
- Projects Under Construction
 - EJ King renovation has had a delay due to COVID-19 and issues getting materials.
 - Edgren HS was originally scheduled to open this fall but will be delayed. Weather makes it difficult to do mid-year moves. More to follow.
 - Q (Dara Davis) - Are there any new facilities being considered for Guam?
 - A- It is something we and the military are looking at with the USMC coming. We just completed a study for HQ as to what that might look like. Several courses of action

proposed to create island-wide solutions with full E/M/H school systems on both ends of island.

- Projects in Solicitation
 - Both Kinnick and Bechtel replacements impacted by border wall. On hold at this time.
 - Installation Command supporting us with temporary Kinnick facilities, including School Age Care and Ed Center locations. We are allowing Red Cross and other organizations access to our middle school facilities while we use their offices.
- Projects in Design, Planning & Programming Phases.
 - PAC East DSO project on hold due to border wall. Focus is on the schools.
 - Kubasaki HS-we were not previously able to secure enough funding for the replacement. We were able to reprogram funds and it is on track for FY2023.
 - Zukeran ES replacement also awarded and planning to begin demolition this summer.
- Host Nation Funded Projects
 - Four projects. Timeline TBD based on funding.

AAC Member Discussion

- Assessments Proposal
 - Submitted by Kinser SAC to reduce standardized interim testing, use adaptable assessments, and provide parents with more information about testing and the ability to opt out.
 - Pac Region submitted to HQ for their consideration. Feedback from HQ:
 - *Reduce standardized interim testing:* final testing calendar developed with HQ and field subject matter expert feedback. We will continue to gather input about best ways to address interim testing needs.
 - *Use adaptable assessments:* DoDEA is currently exploring use of universal screener tools. CCRS assessment is aligned to our curriculum, allowing us to assess student mastery of our standards. We will continue to make sure the central purpose of our assessment is to inform and improve instruction towards this goal.
 - *Provide parents with more info and ability to opt out of tests:* [DoDEA CAS webpage](#) contains information on each assessment. A child's sponsor can request an exemption to opt out in writing.
- Submitted Questions
 - Q1 – Can we go back to two days for MS and HS parent teacher conferences?
 - A1 - Sending to HQ for consideration, decision is made at that level.
 - Q2 – What are the schools doing to prepare for upcoming SY if we have to remain close or should have to open again?
 - A2 – Local collaboration with installation commands; DoDEA-wide planning and working groups; continue to identify best practices and lessons learned for virtual learning.
 - Q3 – Teachers use various platforms for students to do work. Can they decide on a platform that works so students don't have to go back and forth between different programs?
 - A3 – Yes, this is something we will do if we have to go virtual learning next year. We will have less opportunity for confusion.
 - Q4 – Is flexible seating being eliminated in schools?

- A4 – No. We have to make sure surfaces we’re using are able to be cleaned. We can clean hard surfaces but not fabric. New regimens in place for cleaning the hard surfaces. Flexible seating can include cleanable surfaces. The other question we have to look at is how we arrange the furniture in our classrooms for social distancing.
 - Q5 – What can be done to help students who do not qualify for a 504 or SPED services but have known learning difficulties?
 - A5 – Available support includes differentiated instruction, literacy & math support programs, and strategic support interventions. Key is communication between parents and school administrators.
 - Q6 – Would it be possible to offer online learning/training opportunities to help parents with the platforms being used?
 - A6 – Parent guides, DoDEA and District Digital Tools including platform tutorials.
 - Q7 – Can the last few weeks of Q3 grades be excused? Students still adjusting to online learning and platforms.
 - A7 – Current system set up to hold students harmless. Those who did not do well at the end of Q3 had the opportunity through Q4 to raise their grade. We also liberalized our makeup work policy to accept late work.
- New Questions/Comments
 - Q1 (Vanessa Berdoza)- Many schools provide one laptop per household. If you have a large household with many children can you get more than one laptop?
 - A1- Many schools have done that. Each school gave one per family for those that requested, and then were able to look at what was left to give other families extra laptops. We can do more next year to advertise that option.
 - Q2 (Chris Lamb)-Are compensatory services an option if needed?
 - A2- Not using the term ‘compensatory services’ since we are since we were open and operating. Confirmed with Dept. of Education, everyone is in the same boat in the U.S. We are providing Extended School Year services. We will continue to work with each child individually and determine their needs.
 - Q3 (Diana Mizell)—If Japan goes to Health Condition Bravo mid-June, would Extended School Year go to in-person?
 - A3—We do not anticipate any change, because the amount of kids for ESY in Japan is high, so there would be social distancing concerns even in Health Condition Bravo.
 - Q4 (Vanessa Berdoza)-If teachers don’t allow late work to be turned in, what can students do?
 - A4-Our guidance has been to be very liberal with accepting late work. If a parent has come to you with a concern, talk to the school principal, and if you’re not satisfied reach out to district office. But usually those issues can be solved on a case-by-case basis to come to a win-win solution.
 - Q5 (Daniel Posthumus)-In my experience, virtual learning was less rigorous than in person classes or Virtual High School classes. If virtual learning continues next year, would they look more like VHS classes?
 - A5-Your point is well taken. We have worked with our Virtual High School, they helped to provide training for some of our teachers in what that instruction needed to look like. As a student we appreciate your patience and dedication.

We've also heard comments the other direction, that virtual learning has been too hard with too many assignments. Good to hear the other perspective. If we continue with virtual model, we'll continue with additional training for staff. Critical to prepare students for the college environment.

- Q6 (Dara Davis)-When do you expect to have plan for fall? We need to make appropriate accommodations-people who are dual military and would need to bring grandparent over for childcare. Time to get materials (slow mail in Guam).
 - A6-Your question is universal. I wish I could give an answer today. Everything you brought up are considerations we're looking at. Some families want their children to go back face-to-face while others don't. Looking at CDCs-remained open and no cases. Military partners have done a great job at monitoring people and creating bubbles. Testament to our community in complying with restrictions. How do we balance needs of dual-military families with families who are not comfortable going back to school yet. Looking at those considerations, CDC guidelines, and local conditions.
 - We have had several meetings with DoDEA-wide working group. Looking at lessons learned from Korea in-person activities.
 - Understand we have to make some decisions, will pass message along that the sooner we know the better.
- Q7 (Dara Davis)-Are you looking at virtual elementary/middle school like VHS?
 - A7-Looking at everything but no decisions have been made at this point. Looking at how to provide parents different options. We are interested in your feedback. Send any input, articles, etc to Ms. Rapp and Todd Schlitz. Important that parents' voices be heard.
- Q8 (Diana Mizell)-As SLO I have had only positive feedback on teachers during the virtual learning. Thank you for RAC webpage so people understand what we do. For football, if large school vs. large school it's 11 man, and it's only for large vs. small or small vs. small it's 9 man?
 - A8—Osan/Daegu went to 9 man, so if anyone plays those schools they have to play 9 man. PAC East and PAC South schools, and Humphreys HS, have 11 man teams.
- Q9 (Diana Mizell)—Esports and Zwift are great. Kubasaki is a pilot school, has that been considered in the budget? Will it be extracurricular or PE?
 - A9—One of the reasons Kubasaki is a pilot school is they already have a club in place. So minimal cost, just formalizing it more. We're going to request your assistance in with working group. How do we develop, improve, and standardize the program? Potentially bring in some bikes for physical activity.
- Q10 (Barbara Askey)-How do we address concerns related to gaps that kids have due to the virtual learning (or lack thereof coming from other districts to DoDEA)?
 - A10-Having some specific assessments, kids will be in different places. Important to gauge that as we open back up. We have existing assessment tools in place and then address with differentiated instruction, support staff, etc. Each year we have to spend the beginning of school getting a baseline, we'll have to continue down that path, along with other schools around the nation. Everyone across the globe facing the same issues.

- Barbara Askey-Guam expressions of gratitude
 - Col. Cooley, CDR of 36th MSG, appreciates the school's complete support of COVID actions and restrictions. Also appreciative of communications with DoDEA leaders. DoDEA's actions thoroughly congruent with base actions.
 - Capt. Grimes at US Naval Base Guam appreciative of all support to Navy, including assistance to USS Roosevelt.
 - Thank you to all teachers and staff for everything they've done for families.
- Barbara Askey-SLO Christine Monroe is retiring.

Closing Remarks

- AFN Video on Daegu Virtual Learning