



REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) MINUTES
Friday, September 13, 2020 (1000-1202)

Welcoming Remarks

- Ms. Rapp
 - Introduced Dr. Chris Marczak, the new Curriculum and Instructional Leadership (CIL) Chief. Dr. Marczak replaced Dr. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez. Dr. Schiavino-Narvaez is the new Chief Academic Officer at Headquarters.
 - Thanked Ms. Diana Mizell for her support and serving to assist other services with School Liaison Officer (SLO) vacancies.
 - Acknowledged all SLOs participating in meeting

Member/Attendee Introductions:

Members:

Ms. Lois Rapp

Mr. Jim Journey

Ms. Barbara Askey (absent)

Ms. Michelle Crawford (absent)

Ms. Diana Mizell

Ms. Melody Hill

Mr. Patrick McEleney

Mr. Oliver Cunningham (absent)

CDMCM Lisa Tisdale (absent)

Mr. Kip Gleason

Ms. Vanesa Berdoza

Ms. Cherie Sergeant

Ms. Melanie Reed

Mr. Todd Schlitz

Dr. Chris Marczak

Ms. Erin Grazak

Ms. Rebecca Villagomez

Mr. David Ballesteros-Burkett

Ms. Amy Sweeney

Other Attendees:

Mr. Tom McKinney

Ms. Michelle Block

Mr. Richard Pollock

Ms. Tuya Rosenberry

Ms. Jean Grice

Ms. Hannah McCarthy

Mr. Keith Carr

Ms. Shay Berchtold

Mr. Lucinda Ward

Ms. Christine McNeace

Mr. Bradley Schmid

Ms. Christy Johnson

RAC Overview

- RAC Function: as stakeholder representatives, members resolve issues, propose new initiatives, and share information.
- DoDEA Council/Committee Relationships: RAC members may bring issues from school and district level groups and forward issues to DoDEA Headquarters, the Dependents Education Council, or the Pacific Theater Education Council, chaired by the US Indo-Pacific Command J1.
- RAC Resources and Website: <https://www.dodea.edu/pacific/about/rac.cfm>.
- DoDEA Blueprint Initiatives: Pac Region initiatives are aligned to one of the five Blueprint areas.

- SY19-20 PAC Region Graduation Snapshot: Of the 949 Pacific Region graduates, 15 were academy appointments or ROTC scholarships, 106 joined the military, and the group reported a total of \$11M in scholarships.

SY20-21 Return to School

- Overview of Return to School Options: Brick and Mortar or DoDEA Virtual School (DVS):
 - 35 (of 45) Pac Region schools started out in remote learning based on local HPCON at the time. All Pac Region schools have since transitioned to in person learning.
 - DVS students remain enrolled in online learning for the semester.
 - Enrollment and Eligibility waivers expire at the end of the semester; however, a waiver for next semester is being requested.
- Accolades were given to Host Nation, command, and DoDEA Headquarters partnerships & support for a successful return to school.
- Tabletop exercises with command teams and public health were conducted on COVID-19 positive case protocols.
- SY20-21 Remote Learning Best Practices
 - Use one platform (Google Classroom).
 - Limit screen time based on grade-level; include live and pre-recorded sessions and office hours for one on one contact with the teacher.
 - Curriculum focused on critical College and Career Ready Standards.
 - Important to work with School Age Care (SAC) regarding SAC hours, e.g., childcare for teachers during their instructional time in remote learning.
- Reduced enrollment in DVS will require adjustments to staff assignments; staffing expected to be completed by December.
- Based on DOD guidance, DoDEA cannot provide face-to-face instruction if local conditions return to HPCON-C.

Coordination with Military Partners

- DoDEA leaders and principals worked with the military to ensure a safe environment for students. Some initiatives included joint townhall meetings, joint walk-through schools and facilities with public health partners, joint training for school staff and development of local joint COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in case of a COVID-19 case in the schools.
- Mitigation measures include home pre-screening for students and staff, masks when social distancing is not possible, plastic barriers, signage, individual supplies, hand sanitizers and frequent cleaning and disinfecting common areas.
- The region developed guidance and forms to be distributed to principals to be used to submit and validate requests for school activities.

Pacific Highlights

- Golf, cross-country, cheer and JROTC Drill were approved for Fall.
- Soccer, baseball, softball, JROTC marksmanship, track and field are approved for Spring.
- Football is under discussion for the Spring. A final decision will be made by Dec 1.
- A Virtual Seminar was held in September; JROTC Drill, virtual cheer and cross-country competitions will be held through January.

- DoDEA Headquarters selected Mr. Ron Stephens, Pac South's Personnel Security Specialist Employee of the Quarter.
- Bill Nye, the Science Guy, held a virtual discussion with students at Osan MHS and Ryukyu MS. Other Pac Region middle and high school students were able to watch the event and ask questions via the chat box. More than 3,000 students participated.
- Sasebo Elementary was selected as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School; less than one percent of schools throughout the nation are selected for this honor.

New Initiatives

- Partnership with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: DoDEA Pacific host a series of educational partnerships with American and Japanese students in three locations (Iwakuni, Sasebo and Misawa) between December 2020 and February 2021. Each location's program will have a different focus, including education, art, and use of local resources.
- Pacific Student Transition Program (PSTP):
 - Each of the six pilot sites conducted activities either in person or remotely depending on the area's HPCON. Activities included virtual meet and greets, virtual lunches, new Ambassador training and student school tour videos.
 - Dr. Pamela Tucker, Edgren Middle/High School PSTP Coordinator, described her collaborative partnership with the local command organizations and community groups. Dr. Tucker's program was the focus of a Star's and Stripes' newspaper article about the region's PSTP.
- Esports: A pilot was launched in four high schools (Kadena, Kubasaki, MC Perry and Humphreys) as an after-school activity. The Region Office provided funding for equipment and Program Coordinators. A Working Group discussion is underway to expand the program and possibly include it as a varsity winter sport and form a Pacific League. Mr. Schlitz championed the Esports program.
- SLO Summit: First one was held in September with a focus on above school level programs and initiatives. A second Summit is planned for Spring.
- Region wide Non-Command Sponsored Materials: A pamphlet and video were created at the request of the last RAC. [Video link](#).

Construction Update

- Facilities by the Numbers:
 - 45 schools in current inventory.
 - \$440M planned construction over next six years for 13 projects.
 - 15 new facilities constructed in past six years.
- Projects in Construction Phase:
 - EJ King High School \$59.4M (renovation); estimated completion Winter 2022.
 - Edgren Middle/High School, \$34.5M (renovation); estimated completion Fall 2021.
 - Zama Middle/High School, \$35M (renovation); estimated completion Fall 2021.
 - Killin Elementary, \$71.5M (replacement); estimated opening Fall 2021.
 - Future Bob Hope Elementary, \$85M (replaced old Kadena Elementary); estimated opening Fall 2021.
- Projects in various stages of Programming, Planning and Design Phases (completion dates TBD):
 - Kinnick High School, \$170M (replacement); deferred due to Wall impact.

- Bechtel Elementary, \$94.9M (renovation); deferred due to Wall impact.
- Kubasaki High School, \$156M (replacement).
- Pacific East District Office (lowest priority-focus is on schools; construction is needed because staff are currently spread out across three locations).
- Host Nation Funded Projects (estimated opening TBD):
 - Humphreys East Elementary School (new school).
 - Lester Middle School (replacement).
 - Pacific South District Student Transportation Office (replacement).
 - Ikego Student Transportation Office (replacement).

Discussion Topics Submitted

- Assessment Proposal (with DoDEA HQ responses):
 - *Reduce standardized interim testing*: final schedule includes field subject matter experts' input; will continue gather input.
 - *Use adaptable assessments*: currently exploring the use of universal screening tools aligned to DoDEA standards.
 - *Provide parents with more information about testing and the ability to opt out*: Assessment information is located at <https://www.dodea.edu/assessments/>; a sponsor may request an exemption to opt out in writing.
- 1:1 Computer for every student (in class use):
 - DoDEA IT is leading an initiative to determine technology requirements with various stakeholders to determine various courses of action. Mr. Schlitz assured the group the proposal is being considered by group as the way ahead is determined. Ms. Rapp noted that approximately one third of computers were not used regularly. Mobile carts with computers are being used to move computer centers between classrooms as needed. IT must balance the requirement with resources and need.

Closing Questions/Comments

- Ms. Reed (Guam School Board): stated there were problems with students saving work in science classes (primarily) during remote learning. [Guam Community Superintendent followed up after the meeting to provide instructions and resources].
- Principal Grazak (Humphreys HS):
 - Thanked Ms. Rapp for contracting Herf Jones assistance with graduation this school year.
 - Expressed appreciation for the emphasis on Esports.
 - Described Humphreys High School Shadow Day where Administrators followed students and attended classes, an eye opening and appreciation experience.
 - Students are glad to be back in school.
- Ms. McCarthy (Yokosuka SLO): Asked if the flu shot deadline would be extended because a lack of the vaccine. Ms. Rapp said yes, and she would inform Headquarters for awareness.
- Mr. Gleason (Student Representative): Requested more freedom in class schedule if schools return to remote learning. Stated he hopes that does not happen. He happy to be back in school.

- Mr. Carr (Iwakuni SLO): Asked if sponsors can register in ROM. The answer is yes; however, they will not have remote learning in ROM. Materials can be provided (picked and delivered) to the student during ROM. On installations with multiple schools such as Okinawa, many families elect to wait until they have a housing assignment to minimize changing school zones. PCSing families have the option to enroll in DVS; however, the commitment is until the end of the semester.
- Dr. Tucker: (Edgren High School PSTP Coordinator): Asked how to obtain forms for the MOFA activities. Ms. Rapp said the SOP and forms will be distributed to the principals.
- Shay Berchtold (Daegu SLO): How can the Child and Youth program request use of the gym? Details on processing facilities use requests during COVID-19 (specifically addressing facilities cleaning and disinfection) are being sent to principals. Superintendents will approve the request. Form will address facility cleaning and disinfection of the facility by the user.
- There were many expressions of appreciation for the informative meeting.
- The Non-Command Sponsored video was shown at the end of the meeting.
- Ms. Rapp provided the opportunity for SLOs to share highlights or community updates during future RAC meetings (if they desire, not a requirement). This has been done in past years.
- Ms. Rapp thanked the group for helping to make school reopening successful.