



**REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC) MINUTES**  
**Friday, June 4 2021 (1000-1230)**

Member/Attendees:

**Members:**

Ms. Lois Rapp  
Mr. Jim Journey  
Ms. Barbara Askey  
Ms. Michelle Crawford  
Ms. Diana Mizell  
Ms. Melody Hill (*absent*)  
Mr. Ed Breslow  
Mr. Oliver Cunningham  
CDMCM Lisa Tisdale (*absent*)  
Mr. Kip Gleason (*absent*)

Ms. Vanesa Berdoza  
Ms. Cherie Sergeant  
Ms. Jessica McCollum (*absent*)  
Ms. Melanie Reed (*absent*)  
Mr. Todd Schlitz  
Dr. Chris Marczak  
Ms. Erin Grazak  
Ms. Rebecca Villagomez  
Mr. David Ballesteros-Burkett  
Ms. Amy Sweeney

**Other Attendees:**

Mr. Tom McKinney  
Mr. Phil Norris  
Mr. DeAngelo Galang  
Ms. Michelle Block  
Mr. Richard Pollock  
Ms. Tuya Rosenberry  
Ms. Jean Grice  
Ms. Nicole Martinez

Mr. Keith Carr  
Ms. Shay Berchtold  
Mr. Chris Kitt  
Ms. Christine McNeace  
Ms. Ladonna Abdullah  
Ms. Marcella Atwood  
Mr. Robert Chance

Thank You

- To everyone on the line for supporting our children this school year.

Pacific Region Update

- *Decision Day/Graduations:* kids excited about where they're going next; lots of scholarships this year. For graduations, fortunate to have some face-to-face component for all of our graduations. Developed plans in coordination with our local installation leadership. The graduation parades have been very popular. We continued with the virtual keepsake component this year, but will likely not continue that contract for next year.
- *Test Scores:* Concern last year over Pacific Region AP testing times (in the middle of the night). Fortunately, Pac Region AP Tests scores went up this year. SAT test scores increased last year as well. Very proud of results.
- *SY21-22 Planning:* Thank you to military partners for collaboration on guidelines. HPCON still tied to school operational status; but as vaccinations increase and risk decreases, HPCON level will reflect that. 62 cases in the Pacific; 39 of those associated with in-person learning at schools; no school-

spread. For next year, will continue to partner with installation public health, walkthrough of schools and mitigation measures before reopening, etc. Coordinating with installations on approved fall sports season activities. Decision to approve sports devolved from HQ to Region level. Expect to announce decisions in early July.

- *Full time Virtual School*: HQ offering one more year of full time virtual school for those families that may continue to have increased medical concerns. Capped at 2K total students; only 179 Pacific students have requested; full year commitment. New PCS families who missed enrollment window may request a waiver to attend DVS.
- *PTEC*: Meeting on 5/20, discussed Guam Force transformation-continued discussion on what the increased numbers will be and across what services. Looking at short-term mitigations to address overcrowding at Guam schools before new schools/additions can be built. For example, Navy will retrofit old dental building to allow us to use that space (McCool EMS). PTEC will not be visiting schools until Spring 2022 at the earliest.

### Pacific Highlights

- *Far East Events*: fortunate to have sports competitions in the Spring. Only region who was able to offer this based on local conditions. Continued to have Far East academic events, adjusting to offer virtual and hybrid opportunities.
- *Prom*: last year, that was one of the things that students weren't able to do. Glad we were able to offer a variety of prom activities this year. Support from military and USO partners. Outside dancing, games, etc.
- *Jumpstart to Success Summer Program*: polled parents to see if there was interest. Worked with Center for Instructional Leadership to put together curriculum. Review of locations and numbers of students for summer schools across the districts (see slides for details).
- *Principal/Teachers of the Year (TOY)*:
  - Mr. Strait (Kubasaki HS): DoDEA-wide Principal of the Year
  - Ms. Rachel Guilfoyle (Daegu ES): DoDEA-wide TOY/Pac West TOY
  - Dr. Pamela Tucker (Edgren MHS): Pac East TOY
  - Ms. Christina Scarborough (Amelia Earhart IS): Pac South TOY
- *Student Accomplishments*:
  - Giani Chavez (Kubasaki HS): National Merit Scholarship Finalist
  - Neleh-Jan Leon Guerrero (Guam HS): JRM Student Excellence Award

### Community Partnerships

- *Lester MS Cultural Day*: Ginowan City students won essay contest but could not travel to the states for their prize. Ginowan City reached out and installation and DoDEA coordinated to provide cultural day at Lester MS instead. Students had a great time; Japanese students enjoyed the grab-n-go lunches.
- *MOFA Partnership*: Misawa Innovator's Camp in December 2020. Two other events at Iwakuni and Sasebo had to be cancelled/postponed due to COVID-19. Coordinating with MOFA for SY21-22 events.
- *SLO Updates*:

- Daegu (Shay Berchtold): Next Steps Workshop-coordinated with Daegu MHS on life-skills workshop. Got great feedback on initial workshop in May; looking to do two days of workshops next school year. Youth Sponsorship Program/Student Transition Program: collaborative program with DoDEA and base entities to support inbound and outbound youth.
  - Ms. Rapp: Thank you for sharing best practice and highlighting importance of collaboration and partnership to strengthen program. One of the reasons we are establishing regional student transition program is for consistency.
- Okinawa (Christine McNeace): Post-Secondary Resources Guide-posted online and available to share. Virtual Career Day videos and facilitators guide. Originally developed by request from Amelia Earhart IS but can be used at other locations (available online). Student Transition Video Library—videos on what to do in Okinawa to help inbound students. DoDEA has provided to Okinawa-based Transition Coordinators to share as well.
- Okinawa (Diana Mizell): Coordinating mechanisms with command to address school topics (CG breakfasts, monthly luncheon, Installation Command Safety Councils, etc). Leadership visited schools for prom, faculty meetings, etc.

[5 minute break]

#### New & Ongoing Initiatives

- *Esports*: Update on program; testing 4 varsity programs for the pilot schools; all other HS will begin with a club sport next year. Developing handbooks and support guides-to help new schools with best practices, rules, regulations, etc.
- *Pacific Transition Program Update*: rolling out to all MS and HS for SY21-22. Just completed training for all of the new transition coordinators. Existing coordinators able to participate in Hawaii Transition Conference in March and gather best practices.
- *JROTC 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program*: law changed allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate. Completed test at 2 schools in SY 20-21; starting 3 additional schools in SY21-22 and 1 school in SY22-23. Requirement-MS must be co-located with HS so students can walk over to HS to participate in classes.
- *JROTC Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential*: Military partnering with National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOTCI) to seek an “Employability & Leadership Skills” CTE credential.
- *Middle School Leadership Program*: Pilot next year at one school per district to focus on developing leadership skills for MS. Teachers will deliver the program; JROTC instructors and students will serve as mentors.
- *Assistant Principals Network*: Support leaders and the work they do; how do we help Assistant Principals in the current job and to build leadership skills moving forward. Developed 18-month program with leadership and management training sessions.
- *Safety Attendant Update*: Safety Attendant Program critical in Japan and Korea to have English-speaking adult on the buses with children pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Thank you to our military and community partners for their advocacy; HQ has agreed to retain the program.
- *EFMP Flyer and Video*: Developed as a result of discussions at a previous Regional Advisory Council, to expand the Pac West brochure on this topic to be more universal across the Pacific. Provides information to parents on DoDEA eligibility categories and considerations.

- *SLO Summit*: Held on May 28; collaborative session with SLO sharing and programmatic updates, included roundtable with district Chiefs of Staff.

### Construction Update

- Bob Hope Elementary School
  - Will open in Fall 2021. Old Stearley Heights school will close. Bob Hope Primary School will be renamed Ralph F Stearley Primary School to avoid confusion of having two Bob Hope schools.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Realignment: Pac East
  - Combined MHS schools were grades 7-12. For SY21-22, transitioning 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Elementary to MHS configuration to support educational goals for 6<sup>th</sup> grade level and align to the rest of DoDEA and the states.
  - Some construction projects are upgrading MHS facilities to support this transition.
- Completed Projects:
  - Bob Hope ES-opening Fall 2021
  - Zama MHS Renovation-opening Fall 2021
- Projects Under Construction:
  - Renovating EJ King HS
  - Renovating Edgren MHS
  - Replacing Killing ES
- Projects in various stages of Programming, Planning and Design Phases::
  - Renovate Bechtel ES
  - New Pac East DSO building
  - Replace Kinnick HS
  - Replace Kubasaki HS
- Host Nation Funded Projects:
  - 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

- School Selection between brick & mortar, homeschool, or virtual school:
  - Available resources online, including (1) comparison chart between virtual school and brick & mortar, and (2) homeschool webpage.
  - Strong partnership between homeschool families and DoDEA schools-including auxiliary services, partial enrollment, and sports. One question we often get is can homeschool families walk in graduation—no, must meet DoDEA requirements to walk in DoDEA graduation.
  - Each family must make the decision that works best for them.
- Substitute Realignment
  - When a school closes, that staff, including subs, will move to the new school.
  - While sub is assigned to one school, they can work at more than one school. If substitute wants to be reassigned to another school they can apply to that school.

- Parent Involvement at School
  - As COVID-19 conditions improved, parents wanted to get back in schools. We're at that point but has to still be managed.
  - Established COVID-19 Coordination Teams at each school to evaluate requests, develop implementation plans, and coordinate with the installation and district for approval.

#### Closing Questions/Comments

- Ms. Grazak (Humphreys HS): First pinning ceremony for 5 students that received their certified nurse assistant pins. Graduation parade- students stood under their banners and community drove by to celebrate. 5 academy appointments from our Senior class and others receiving ROTC scholarships. Able to hold an indoor prom. Thank you to all of our partners for the positive school year.
- Mr. Ballesteros-Burkett (Kadena ES): Moving to England, Dr. White will take over. Ms. Cooper will be new Assistant Principal. Summer school (ESY, Enrichment, Host Nation) will be happening at Kadena ES. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving On Ceremony-teachers created nice program to share awards and luncheon at school due to COVID restrictions. Parents participated virtually.
- Ms. Villagomez (Yokota MS): Thank you for the hard work to make this school year a successful one.
- Mr. Breslow (USFJ): Appreciate being part of the RAC.
- Mr. Cunningham (USFK): Thank you to the tremendous support from DoDEA-including Ms. Rapp, Dr. Arrington, and all of the teachers-to give the kids the best school year possible.
- Ms. Sargent (parent rep): no questions; thank you.
- Ms. Sweeney (FEA): Thank you to teachers for everything they've done this year; most are looking forward to travel this summer. Thank you to summer travel group for their work on that.
- Ms. Askey/Ms. Atwood (Guam SLOs): Thank you to all the educators.
- Ms. Martinez (Zama SLO): just arrived; met with Arnn ES and Zama MHS principals so far. Attended the 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition and graduation ceremonies-beautiful events with mitigation measures. Excited to coordinate on student transition resources.
- Ms. Berchtold (Daegu SLO):
  - Q: Can students tour schools before reopening date with youth sponsors?
  - A: Great question; may be doable this year, please bring proposal to school COVID-19 coordination team for review. Also coordinate with school student transition coordinator. New coordinators should all be reaching out to local SLOs.
  - Q: Can there be a Family Consumer Science Class?
  - A: Very few offerings of this anymore; at HS this has been replaced with culinary arts which we view as more pertinent for college and career readiness. There is a possibility it could be offered at MS level, but that would be at local level (principal/superintendent) to see what is feasible since it would have to be done with existing authorized staff manpower.
- Mr. Chance (Okinawa AF SLO): Thank you for welcoming me back to DoDEA Kadena team. Thank you Kadena HS Culinary Arts team for preparing lunch for our postal workers and security forces; prepared 300 tacos.

- Ms. McNeace (Okinawa Army SLO): Thank you to DoDEA and Mr. Journey for leadership this year. Thank you to other Okinawa SLOs for their coordination and partnership.
- Ms. Mizell (Okinawa USMC SLO): Thank you to Mr. Journey for your responsiveness. This year shows importance of collaboration and partnership between command, SLOs, and Superintendents/Principals.
- Mr. Journey (Pac South Superintendent): Getting ready for summer school; schools will have a break first week in July to reset and get ready for next school year.
- Mr. Schlitz (Pac Region Chief of Staff): Thank you to everyone for the collaboration. Working with Jean on the SLO Summits to continue to grow the relationship and take back ideas that you have.
- Ms. Rapp (Pac Region Director): Thank you to our amazing team-families, administrators, command, etc. Our support network is fantastic. We look forward to reconvening the RAC in the fall.