STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2024 - 3:06 PM - 4:33 PM - SHS Library

2023-2024 Committee Members

School Principal:	Michael Jimmerson
Parent Representatives:	Marc Lewis (SAC Chairperson)
	Maria Paige (SAC Secretary)
	Deirdre O'Leary (IAC Parent Rep)
Staff Representatives:	Olga Sims (IAC Staff Rep)
	Adam Mitchell
Student Representative:	Rachel Bruce
Community Members:	Fidela Lopez (PTO President)
	Christine Gelerter
School Liaison Officer:	Brian Pappas

a. Open from the School Advisory Committee

1. **Principal's update -** Mr. Jimerson shared about finishing the European championship with a great level of community support. He's been impressed with the level of support through the year so far, from the kids, and positivity of the parents.

He then shared that course selections have already begun and students can make adjustments if needed. Mr. Jimerson went on to share that they're working with the middle school to support rising middle schoolers. To date, both middle and high schoolers can go into Aspen and/or meet with counselors to prepare their requests. Mr. Jimerson also mentioned the master schedule of high school classes is based on student requests. He went on to share that the school can provide more options for electives if the students request them. Another point Mr. Jimerson shared the intervention for tier three, which is up and running well with the addition of sections including two different groups, led by two faculty

each.

Mr. Jimerson then went on to share his presentation of mentorship opportunities for students to staff and the community. The community has been receptive to support needs, collaborating with PTO/School Liaison, and finding career exploration opportunities. Looking ahead, Mr. Jimerson shared the MTSS social emotional learning coming next year or year after, focussing on the Social Emotional/Casel Model. While Mr. Jimerson is unaware of what it will look like, he's sharing with the committee now. He then shared examples of what the program may include such as perspective/preference differences, learning to apply to a team environment, mindfulness of career, changing courses, and how to make transitions and source information for new or different goals. He later provided a reminder of the current efforts to focus on early intervention for resiliency with adjustments, and how student and teacher mentorship has been very helpful.

Mrs. Sims shared about the disconnect between students and staff, for example, the staff see a different side of the child's adjustment than what may be presented with their parents; that side being the expression of challenges associated with the change in environment.

Mr. Jimerson replied with the possibility of mentoring for parents as well, with help from the community.

Mrs. O'Leary, inquired about support for children transitioning from active-duty to civilian life. She mentioned there's a difference in the community, different services, and a different mindset. She also inquired whether this topic has come up in the intervention efforts.

Mr. Jimerson replied that yes, they're aware of such transition challenges and are trying to determine ways to further support these students and families.

Mrs. Lopez suggested maybe connecting with ACS to provide a class similar to TAP, possibly a youth version. She explained her family's stressors surrounding transitioning from active-duty to retired and their ability to now help others through the process. She then highlighted a new contract opportunity to prepare contractors for relocation to the school/area, which might be worth looking into for the purpose of obtaining resources to support this demographic.

Mr. Jimerson shared that Mrs. Matskey knows who is going through these transitions and perhaps can help identify these students for intervention/transition support. He also made note of how transition expenses

can impact the overall family and how we have families who value being here and want to remain here.

In closing of this topic, Mr. Lewis shared his experience as a retiree who relocated as a contractor. He elaborated by recognizing TAP and School Liaison Officer, Mr. Pappas, as they were helpful in passing information to include details about costs and support services. Mr. Lewis further shared how here in Germany, there are different contracts for contractors to support school transitions. He believes there are people here in the community that are knowledgeable about contract benefits and may be able to offer support for transitioning parents to further support their students.

2**. Chairperson update -** Mr. Lewis expressed his love for the support turnout for the European championship. He then highlighted the great feedback and comments received from the other schools regarding the communities dedication to traveling and supporting the teams. Mr. Lewis then gave a shout out to parents, kids, and community members for coming together in support of the athletes/school.

Mr. Lewis, then shared he's seeking previous notes from the past chair for 2023 meeting notes, to include subcommittee plans Kathy Elinger drafted regarding regulations, non-compete, and more in depth points for action (refer to bullet three for inquiry). He shared how these past points for action were intended to go to a meeting, yet became unfinished business due to several conflicts; the current board is working to bring forth and re-address these points for action. At this time, Mr. Lewis can't locate the notes and will see if the past Principal has a copy. Continuation of this topic will take place at the April 24' meeting.

b. Approval of the December minutes, February 7th 2024; Posted to web.

c. Updated 23/24 SAC Meetings

October 18, 2023
December 13, 2023
February 21, 2024
April 10, 2024

d. New Business

1. Hybrid Meeting Details for April

a. The potential for a hybrid meeting was approved for April.
b. Mr. Jimerson will connect his computer in the Library for those dialing in.
c. It was also determined based on feedback from Mr. Pappas and Mr.

Jimerson, that for protection of freedom of speech and comfort, the meeting should not be recorded, but rather shared via link for dialing in, to listen and participate.

d. Mrs. O'Leary reminded everyone about an inquiry to host an evening meeting.
e. Mr. Pappas shared the history of meetings that have always been at 2:45 PM/3:00 PM for time and consistency.
f. Mr. Jimerson suggested that if we do later meetings, an all-virtual meeting is recommended so that more teachers and parents can attend following school/work hours.
g. Mr. Lewis proposed an evening all-virtual meeting for an end of year/post SAC discussion in May to discuss items for the next school year following the final SAC meeting. Mr. Lewis then suggested the April meeting remain hybrid at the regular time; all were in agreement. Mr. Lewis added that he plans to do public relations for SAC recruitment and will determine interest for an evening all-virtual meeting for involvement/planning in the next school year.

2. Current Fundraising Efforts and Improvements

a. Mrs. Lopez was in attendance to update SAC about current Fundraising efforts and improvements the PTO has made since the beginning of the school year. Mrs. Lopez shared that PTO did a lot of fundraising over the past few months. She then shared that next Thursday, February 29th, the PTO will have a meeting at 2:00 PM, at school, to review their updated fundraising packet. She added that she now has contact info for hosting bake sales, and how PTO is trying to streamline the processes for bake sales and fundraising. She then shared that she will begin routing info to Mr. Jimerson and Mrs. Bruce for advertising.
b. Mrs. Lopez additionally shared that PTO had five clubs/sports raise approximately $4500 from Valentine's Day bake sales; these groups include but are not limited to robotics, drum line, ambassadors, and sophomore class. She also shared that she has CYS approval for concessions between April-June, on Saturdays, at various fields/games.
c. Mrs. Lopez addressed the PTO's focus for summer will be fundraising. She also shared that she's requesting a second bank account to separate club/sports fundraising and PTO funds for the following year to support clubs/sports where needed most.
d. Mrs. Lewis shared that this topic has been presented as SAC recognizes fundraising has been a challenge and SAC is trying to focus on smaller groups/non-high profile fundraising. He added how he believes PTO efforts support this initiative.
h. Mrs. O'Leary mentioned the expiration of funds being an issue in past years and inquired whether or not that was still a concern.

i. Mr. Jimerson mentioned funds can be rolled over if intended for use and/or a specific purpose. He also addressed the importance of assessing needs for certain sports in the future as funding expenditures, regardless of the circumstance, have to follow guidance of school/DODEA. Mr Jimerson then added how Items not provided or required and within guidelines can be purchased with funds derived from fundraising.
j. Mrs. Lopez asked whether funds raised are approved for off base expenses.
k. Mr. Jimerson replied that there are restrictions and awareness of needs is important prior to spending. The important thing Mr Jimerson noted, is to be methodical and share the opportunities.
l. Mrs. Sims shared her experience as a coach and not receiving materials that should have been provided by DODEA in time for the season, therefore resulting in the team purchasing the necessary items. As a result of this challenge, Mrs. Sims inquired about deadlines for team requests to be submitted. She additionally added how dates and the ordering process will be helpful for coaches and teams to know.
m. Mrs. Lopez shared that PTO would like to then know what items aren't provided so that PTO can help meet the needs. She also added that PTO will do a volunteer drive in preparation for the new year, extending membership to the community. She also added plans to expand the volunteer demographic to include a database and structure for events and planning.
n. Mr. Lewis shared that we need to lay a foundation now to plan ahead especially with transitions in the new school year. He believes documenting will be important for turnover and in an effort to prevent misinformation. Mr. Lewis additionally shared that a clear message of funding, spending, rolling over would be great to share to prepare for the upcoming sports/school year.

3. Review of Initiatives Presented in 2023 Regarding Funds/SOP

a. Refer to Mr. Lewis statement above (a.2).

4. December Meeting Inquiry

Topic: Regarding course selections, "Can SHS complete videos to help these students select courses?".

a. Students can currently make course selections. This topic will be further explored in the April 24' meeting due to shortage of time and parent attendance/participation regarding the below inquiry.

5. Community Feedback Inquiry

Topic: School Issued Computers. "Can we continue issuing computers to

students?". Follow up from parent; addressed at October, 2023 meeting.

a. Mrs. Gelerter joined us to provide updates following her original inquiry submission and meeting with points of contact provided by DODEA East Superintendent, Mr. Sanchez. She shared that she spoke to DODEA HQ, who informed her that Lightspeed has been implemented to prevent certain URLs and their limitations in pre-approval/disapproval of certain URLs. Mrs. Gelerter was additionally informed that because teachers may need to pivot their instruction, it is not possible to pre-approve URLs. DODEA HQ stated that computer use is driven by Purposeful Driven Learning (PDL) and teachers have been receiving PDL training for at least 10 years. Mrs. Gelerter emphasized that DODEA HQ stated that computers are supposed to augment analog teaching, not replace it and should be used only to enhance the lesson.
b. Mrs. Gelerter then addressed her second inquiry of which she presented to DODEA HQ, "Does the use of computers impact brain development in children?. In an effort to obtain an answer for this inquiry, she spoke with the DODEA psychologist who confirmed computer use can impact brain development. She then asked if PDL training was happening and why children have free range on computer use following lessons. She was then referred back to the principal to observe and recommend adjustments; this is what brought her here today. Mrs. Gelerter then asked Mr. Jimerson if the teachers are in fact receiving Purposeful Driven Learning training.
c. Mr. Jimerson replied by sharing that Mr. Taylor, the Stuttgart HS Educational Technologist, works with the teachers to provide educationally embedded learning. He added how they look at engagement and variety in teaching. He additionally shared that teachers have been making some adjustments to incorporate more hand-written work in support of their mission to impact and enhance learning. Mr. Jimerson also shared how all teachers manage computer time differently, however, he will share issues/concerns with teachers to encourage awareness of the concerns presented. Mr. Jimmerson then informed those in attendance that it is challenging for teachers to fully prevent computers from being used for entertainment purposes although some restrictions have recently been imposed.
d. Mrs. Gelerter replied to Mr. Jimerson that computers shouldn't provide entertainment and how she has observed students using computers for entertainment.
e. Mrs. Sims added that teachers only have 85 minutes for lessons and it therefore shouldn't all be computer learning. She asked if we can address using computers for Purposeful Driven Learning, disconnecting for down periods, and promoting discussions without computers with the teachers. She also suggested opening the dialogue/topic to teachers and parents.
f. Mr. Mitchell explained that the school's tech is trying to get there in terms

of finding a balance for computer use/access. He added that teachers have to monitor large groups and when working with focus groups, computer learning is helpful to keep other students engaged. He also shared his perspective as a mentor and teacher in providing a balance for children to take ownership and have autonomy with computer usage.

g. Mrs. Gelerter later suggested that PDL be emphasized and teachers be encouraged to shut down computer use during downtimes. She also inquired whether a professional can share the impact on the brain and computer use with teachers; she believes insight here can support teachers in reducing computer use.
h. Mr. Jimerson noted that parents can opt out of screen use and children can leave the computers at the school.
i. Mrs. Lopez suggested sharing knowledge about computer use, benefits, and impacts to determine parameters for teachers and children.
j. Mrs. Paige added the importance of parents also educating their children on safe computer use and following school guidelines when utilizing computers.
k. Mrs. O'Leary then highlighted ACS' computer/tech use class and how it may be helpful if presented to students and teachers.
l. Mr. Lewis added how there should be a balance, where parents and teachers work together to support children. He then inquired about what would be a good balance for the parents/teachers in how to better manage computer use. As we began to run short on time and the topic needed more follow up, Mr. Lewis then shared how he'd like to review the follow up concerns presented today to narrow down a presentation for action to the SAC.
m. Mr. Jimerson added that he will inquire about latitude to further restrict access to harmful content and sensor material children view/access to remain in compliance with their Civil Rights.

e. Open Discussion/Closing

a. In closing, Mr. Lewis announced the final SAC meeting will take place on April 10th.
b. Mrs. O'Leary highlighted the IAC February 20th, meeting notes which will be submitted via email to SAC and shared when available.
c. Mr. Jimerson wished everyone a good spring break.

f. Adjourned - 4:33 PM

Notes written by Maria Paige were used to prepare these minutes.

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Paige

Approved: March 12th, 2024