STUTTGART HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2024 - 3:05 PM - 4:20 PM - SHS Library

2023-2024 Committee Members

School Principal:	Michael Jimerson
Parent Representatives:	Marc Lewis (SAC Chairperson)
	Maria Paige (SAC Secretary)
	Deirdre O'Leary (IAC Parent Rep)
Staff Representatives:	Olga Sims (IAC Staff Rep)
	Miata Coleman
	Karen Mills
Student Representative:	Rachel Bruce
	Kyla Hangsleben
Community Members:	Fidela Lopez (PTO President)
	Christine Gelerter
	Ryann Hangsleben
	Sarah Asimakopoulos
School Liaison Officer:	Brian Pappas

a. Open from the School Advisory Committee

1. **Principal's update -** Mr. Jimerson greeted everyone and set the Google Meet for participants to join virtually.

2**. Chairperson update -** While Mr. Jimerson set the virtual meeting, Mr. Lewis opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m., to allow time for virtual setup, Mr. Lewis brought forth the open discussion to the beginning of the agenda.

b. Open Discussion (moved up from line "f" in agenda)

1. **Driving Course-** The first item presented to the SAC was by Mrs. Lopez who inquired about the potential for a driving course for high school students. Mr. Pappas shared that there may have been one offered in Kaiserslautern and perhaps information can be obtained. Mrs. Lopez replied by sharing a program offering driver's education in Okinawa back in 2022. She then asked if the SAC can further explore this opportunity at the next meeting, as a future agenda item.

2. **Sports Travel Policy-** The second item presented to the SAC was by Mrs. O'Leary. Mrs. O'Leary asked if the travel policy could be reviewed as travel to Lakenheath has proven to be a challenge for students/athletes provided the time missed from school and in route. Mrs. O'Leary asked if considerations can be made to omit Lakenheath, or consider alternate travel options such as chartering a plane or flight. She also questioned why students must ride the bus to sporting events and not with their families.

   Mr. Jimerson replied to Mrs. O'Leary's inquiry by sharing constraints that may prevent this change, to include participation and budget limitations. Mr. Jimerson also highlighted the current plan is most cost effective and allows the most students to participate in sporting events. He also shared that parents can request an ETP in lieu of their child traveling by bus.

c. Approval of the February minutes, March 12th 2024; Posted to web.

d. Updated 23/24 SAC Meetings

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

e. New Business (moved up from line "e" in agenda)

1. Community Feedback Inquiry (moved up from #3 in agenda)

Topic: Parent requests that the SAC votes on a solution to the misuse of DODEA issued computers topic; presented initially in October 2023 and revisited February 2024.

Problem: Despite the existing DODEA Purposeful Driven Learning policy,

teachers allow students to use DODEA issued computers in class for entertainment, thus degrading the academic atmosphere in the classroom and increasing screen exposure.

Recommended solution: The SHS principal trains teachers yearly on the existing DODEA Purposeful Driven Learning policy in tandem with the school psychologist providing information about the negative neurological consequences of screen exposure.

Solution benefits: This solution would increase compliance with an existing DODEA policy, eliminate non-educational screen exposure, and promote high academic standards in the classroom.

Solution costs: Principal and school psychologist time and effort to deliver training.

a. Mrs. Gelerter opened this topic by emphasizing that there is a PDL, but she believes teachers still allow children to access computers
b. She then proposed the solution that would provide training to teachers in effort to reduce non-educational screen exposure. She then re-emphasized the importance of the purpose of PDL, and inquired if the school psychologist could explain the potential impact of harmful behavior in specific training.
c. Mr. Lewis initially asked to have SAC present this to the parents and faculty for the coming school year as they would be the ones to carry out this request. He then requested an email with this request to vote.
d. It was then mentioned in response to the proposed computer changes, by a student, Kyla Hangsleben, that computer restrictions impact ability to access wifi and complete work and materials as they're now blocked with lightspeed; example, Bio-

tech required coding on a website, but they couldn't be accessed due to restrictions. Miss Hangsleben then proposed more leniency on computers.

e. Mr. Lewis stated this information is useful, and perhaps the SAC would like to elevate this issue to the community to obtain further feedback.
f. Mrs. Lopez then replied asking if the school can provide access on a case by case basis to certain websites to allow students to complete necessary work.
g. Mr. Jimerson replied by sharing that there is a way to set the restrictions for certain classes, that Lightspeed is fairly new, and there are benefits/drawbacks to the program.
h. Another parent in attendance addressed the need to be somewhat flexible, but to also have restrictions for many as they can't all control their use. She then noted she'd like to know what Lightspeed restricts.
i. Miss Hangsleben shared that her teacher has a list of permitted websites, and purposefully regulates what the students can have access to
j. Mr. Lewis shared from a DOD perspective, that they have to request permission for certain sites, which seems to be similar to the school
k. Mr. Jimerson shared that there is web filtering/blocking and there's also a process for students to inform teachers so they may request IT to review and improve/approve certain sites for use.
l. Mr. Pappas then inquired whether Miss Hangselben is looking for leniency for academics.
m. Miss Hangsleben replied by sharing it would be for academic purposes, but she believes if students have completed their work, they should have some flexibility to listen to music and complete other academic work. She also explained that she can't connect to certain wifi networks through the Splash portal as her computer

will block it, further impacting her ability to complete coursework outside of school.

n. Mr. Jimerson then re-emphasized that these are DOD computers and they're working on changes in support of security, which could further impact external use.
o. It was then mentioned, by Mr. Lewis, to re-introduce Miss Hangsleben's points at the next school year's SAC meeting and to follow up to Mrs. Gelerter's requests following receipt of community feedback.

2. Principal Inquiry- Should we change freshman off-campus lunch privileges?

Details: Mr. Jimerson inquired with the SAC as to whether or not the school should continue granting Freshman the privilege of having off-campus lunch.

a. Mrs. O'Leary explained that her rising 9th grader is looking forward to off-campus lunch and that she would understand the need to keep them here on campus. She shared how teams will meet off site and that gives them some opportunity to go off campus in the event Freshmen are no longer permitted to do so. She also liked the idea of a gradual increase for off-campus lunch privileges overtime, or due to good conduct.
b. Mrs. Asimakopoulos shared that she had a freshman who she would have preferred stayed on campus to make friends and got the privilege to go off campus when it was earned.
c. Miss Hangsleben noted that the school has previously taken away lunch and meal options which has in turn caused the lunch line to be long. She added that she has to prepare meals in order to eat in time to return to class. She also addressed that having open campus provided an option to bond with peers and access to other meal options. She additionally shared her experience and how other schools have restrictions and consequences for those that fail to meet guidelines, and she believes that's effective.
d. Mrs. Lopez shared her experience of not having off campus privilege and how our freshmen are provided a lot of flexibility in the first semester. She proposed implementing lunch off campus for freshmen halfway through the year or when they've earned it.
e. Mr. Lewis inquired as to whether or not we have any statistics to justify a decision, which compares all of the grade levels, so that we can better understand the issue and support the reason for either direction
f. Mr. Jimerson added that we do have statistics and the freshmen are

presenting challenges based on the data that has been collected. He additionally noted that he appreciates the input and agrees that we need to provide better places for our students to have lunch.

g. Mrs. Sims, agrees it should be a privilege for those that abide by the rules, and grades. She mentioned how some children have struggled this freshman year with time-management, would like the idea of a signed agreement, and supervision off campus is another challenge, whereas if they remain on campus they can be supervised and guide the students with the policies, especially at the start of school.
h. Mrs. Coleman responded by sharing the consequences of 3 tardies returning from lunch, resulting in a detention.
i. The issue of long Lunch lines was mentioned again as a potential problem in restricting freshmen from obtaining lunch off campus.
j. Mrs. Lopez inquired if instead of detention as a consequence of tardies, can there be removal of off campus lunch privileges.
k. Mrs. Asimakopoulos then responded by asking if we can implement a task during detention. She also noted the benefits of having more lunch options on campus to promote students remaining on campus for lunch.
l. Mr. Jimerson replied by stating we can't implement tasks during detention.
m. Mrs. Coleman then responded by sharing some details about detention to include the zero use of devices policy.
n. Mrs. Gelerter inquired about talks to set up ping pong tables during lunch.
o. Lastly, the SAC explored the potential to obtain more tables and chairs to support the ability of more students having lunch on campus.

3. December Meeting Inquiry

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

a. As this topic was re-introduced following course selections, a note is being recorded here to present this topic for course selections, videos or support with course selections, as something we can consider <u>next school year.</u>

3. SAC Vacancies and 2024-2025 Elections

a. Mr. Lewis turned to the SAC and asked who would be interested in returning next school year. Verbal confirmation was given by current members as to whether they'd be interested in returning next school year.
b. Mr. Lewis noted that we will definitely need a teacher representative to

be vice-chair, 1 parent representative, and 1 student representative, as the persons currently holding these roles will not be returning.

e. Old Business

1. Fundraising Updates/Review of Initiatives Presented in 2023 Regarding Funds/SOP

a. As this topic was reintroduced as unfinished business. Mrs. O'Leary updated all as the issue is not simply fundraising, but rather the sports and clubs full-proposal presented last year, which has not been recovered. She shared her concern that this discussion has been happening and we need to find a solution.
b. Mrs. Lopez replied by sharing that the PTO is still trying to determine problems with fundraising for sports and clubs, and that she would like to know frustrations to alleviate stress of fundraising.
c. Mrs. Lopez added that the PTO updated the fundraising packet, a new QR code is now in the front office providing access to the packet, and PTO is planning to promote it with the fall coaches now. She also added that PTO is trying to streamline fundraising to better support the needs of the school.
d. In closing of this topic, Mrs. Lopez called to action that all attendees provide feedback upon review of the fundraising packet.

2. DODEA Issued Computers Topic Revisit

Topic: The SHS principal trains teachers yearly on the existing DODEA Purposeful Driven Learning policy in tandem with the school psychologist providing information about the negative neurological consequences of screen exposure.

a. Mr. Pappas asked the SAC to reconsider voting to approve training and not push this issue to next school year as he believed this group had the ability to do so now without impacting policy.
b. Mr. Lewis responded by sharing his desire to obtain parent input.
c. It was then unanimously decided that the SAC can vote to elevate this request to administration for further review.
d. Mr. Lewis then called the presented action noted below, for vote; *Recommended solution:* The SHS principal trains teachers yearly on the existing DODEA Purposeful Driven Learning policy in tandem with the school psychologist providing information about the negative neurological consequences of screen exposure.

e. Mr. Pappas recommended the proposal to be sent from SAC to Admin for review and approval.
f. SAC members Mr. Lewis, Mrs. O'Leary, Mrs. Sims, Miss Bruce, and Mrs. Paige, then voted to elevate this proposal to administration.
g. Mr. Lewis then stated he will consolidate the information presented/voted on, and submit it to Mr. Jimerson.

3. SAC Representation for USO 16 August Event

Details: DODEA leadership/Mr. Jimierson inquired about Stuttgart SAC participation in manning a table to provide information.

a. Mr. Jimerson shared the inquiry for SAC members to volunteer at a table for the annual back to school event, occurring 16 August.
b. Mr. Jimerson added that we're preparing for what the start of the new school year will look like and that he received some feedback on wanting information and resources to be in attendance.
c. Mr. Pappas replied to Mr. Jimerson's statement by sharing that volunteer representation from the SAC would include other Stuttgart school SACs, in effort to share the same information with students and families.
d. The SAC members agreed to take this opportunity for action and present it to the new committee members in May.

g. Closing/open discussion

1. **Food Handling Training-** Mrs. Lopez shared that on May 2nd, at the Patch chapel between 10-2, the Army Public Health will have a food handlers in-person training. She has also asked if they can provide additional training at the school and will present an opportunity if it comes. She also asked for a one stop-shop for all volunteers and parents to complete fingerprints, food-handlers, and CPR training, etc. She also shared that she is still working to build a volunteer base to support concessions and alleviate stress from parents and coaches. Mrs. O'Leary responded to Mrs. Lopez' points by asking if there will be a survey to receive feedback from parents. Mr. Lopez responded by stating there will be a survey.

2. **Annual SAC Training-** Mr. Pappas shared that there will be an annual SAC training, Stuttgart-wide. He expressed gratitude for support this school year and encouraged everyone to stay tuned for updates regarding training.

3. **Rising 9th Grader Programming-** Mrs. O'Leary shared that the new program for

rising 9th graders has been great thus far.

a. Mrs. Lopez replied to this topic by highlighting ambassadors and their efforts to support the back to school event with the potential incorporation of a parent meeting while children engage with one another. She also shared that the PTO would like to take this opportunity for the parents to learn more about the school and opportunities and that she believes these efforts will support rising freshmen and new students at the back to school night.

4. **Other PTO Updates-** Mrs. Lopez shared that on April 30th, there will be a community meeting at 1100am.
   a. Mrs. Sims gave a shout out to PTO for college night.
   b. Mrs. Lopez shared that she's also been receiving feedback from the universities and community.

5. **SAC Next Steps-** Mr. Lewis reported that he will advertise for SAC positions and plan a meeting before the end of the school year. He added that the first meeting will be an hour and a half to execute elections

6. **Sports Event Highlight-** Mrs. O'Leary shared that there will be a baseball game at Husky Field this week and encouraged all to attend.

7. **Closing-** Mr. Jimerson thanked everyone for attending and reported that there were no virtual attendees present in the Google Meet.

h. Adjourned - 4:20 PM

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

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Paige

Approved: May 21, 2024