Wiesbaden High School SAC Meeting

Quarter 4 Minutes

16 April, 2025 4PM

Location: WHS Information Center/Library

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Chair – Sara Arriaga
  - Vice Chair – Chris Heatherly
  - Secretary – Amy Icanberry
  - WHS Student Reps – Natalia Bergdorf and Hannah Buchheit
  - Current SY24/25 Committee Members – Marcy Grayson, Andrew King
  - Additional Contributors – Lauren Tobias, John Zesiger, Jamie Cook, Justine Driskell & family member.

- Reports/Updates:
  - Principal - Mrs. Lauren Tobias
    - School Improvement Plan is being discussed
    - School Counselors are developing SY25/26 student schedules
    - Graduation arrangements are being finalized
    - SAT scores are the highest in the District
    - PSAT testing is being considered for the Spring 2026
    - WHS is fully staffed except for the Information Specialist
    - WHS will have 568 kids for SY25/26
  - Vice Principal – Mr. John Zesiger
    - Requested all in this meeting to be mindful of not publicly publishing dates and locations for upcoming off-post events. This information is often private within our community for OPSEC reasons.
    - Construction is ALMOST completed at the football field.
      - Should be fully operational by the start of SY25/26
  - Mr Dickson – Absent
    - No updates from IACS

- Old Business
  - WHS SAC Q3 Meeting Minutes
    - **Accepted as written: Motion by M. Grayson, Second by C. Heatherly**
  - SY25/26 Drivers Education Class – no update
  - SY23/24 Behavioral Health
    - Natural Helpers Peer Program

- Tabled pending authorization
- Currently no staff have expressed interest in leading this program
- **Removed from the Agenda: Motion by M. Grayson, Second by A. Icanberry**

- Executive Order implementation and guidance updates
  - SAC Chairs met with DoDEA and Command Focus Group on 12 March 2025
    - General Rafferty established a touch-point with SACs
    - WHS Library
      - The Library has been, and will remain, open to everyone
      - Questionable books will be reviewed by DoDEA
        - Mrs. Tobias and Mrs. Rainey personally reviewed all library books.
        - Questionable books have been temporarily moved to a restricted area until they can be reviewed by DoDEA.
        - No books have been removed from the library
    - General Rafferty is looking for more resources for student Wellness and Mental Health Support
    - A.P. Psychology credit
      - Mrs. Cook, the AP Psychology instructor, explained that the textbook section (not a chapter) in question is accessible to students and they will receive AP credit.
    - Perspective from Mr. Heatherly
      - Regarding the frustration expressed about the EO and the speed with which local decisions are made, Mr. Heatherly wanted to encourage patience.
      - This broad EO takes a very long time to get to the ground level. The army is slow, and deliberate, in an effort to avoid next-level problems.
      - He acknowledged the NAVY and Air Force may be progressing at a faster pace than is seen with the ARMY
  - SAC Committee for SY25/26 – pending DoDEA approval
    - Each Wiesbaden school has a School Advisory Committee (Sac) – ground level
    - Each SAC sends representatives to participate in the Complex SAC – mid level
    - The Complex SAC brings a united voice to the Garrison Command at the Installation Advisory Committee (IAC) to discuss school issues - Garrison level.

- New Business
  - Complex SAC
    - Topics of Discussion at the Complex SAC meeting
      - Request for DoDEA leadership to attend TownHall
      - Kiss & Drop (student drop-off zone) safety at WMS/WES
        - Ongoing improvement and communication
      - Review start and release times for WES for transportation and weather-related safety

        - WES students wait on the bus for 20 minutes before WHS students are released from school – too long during hot weather when bus temperatures approach 100F
    - Awaiting approval from the District to continue a Complex SAC for SY25/26
- WHS SAC Elections SY25/26
    - Announcement of elections will take place 17 April
        - Middle School will advertise to parents of upcoming 9th graders
        - Nominations will be accepted until 30 April
        - Need 8 Committee Members (4 staff, 4 parent)
    - Elections will take place 01 May
        - John Ring will oversee the elections as a bridge to the incoming Committee. “Guardian of WHS student requirements.”
        - Will have a closed meeting to vote in new officers.
    - Announcement of WHS SAC SY25/26 Committee Members 02 May
- Open Discussion
    - Student Comments from Natalia and Hannah
        - There is high emotion and confusion among students about what books are off limits in the library. Rumors of books having been removed appear to be untrue.
        - Course Counselors should clarify information about the AP Psychology restricted content.
            - This doesn’t need to be a hot-button if the students were included in the dialogue
        - Cell phone restriction comments
            - Some neighborhoods already have no-phone restrictions
            - Comments about restrictions being not good for students included:
                - Parents need to get ahold of their kids in emergencies
                - Students should practice self-control in preparation for the adult world
                - It’s good to have Natural Consequences to inappropriate phone use
                - Restrictions amplify distraction because students are focused on getting their phones back instead of the classroom lessons
                - More Conversation, Less Restrictions
            - Additional comments
                - Phone-free time allows students in distress to get away from their aggressor/handler.
                - Phone pre-occupation illustrates addiction/withdraw scenario among students
                - Unrestrained content may not be good for developing minds
                - Each school makes their own policy

        - Students may be surprised at the rationale behind a no-phone policy. (Psychological, creeper access, access by others to kids on school time) They should engage the teachers for their thoughts on the subject
    - Bus schedule – opinion from Driskell family
        - Busses arrive on Hainerberg too early in the morning, causing students to sit on the bus for 10 extra minutes. Need to fine-tune arrival times.
        - Board suggested talking to the Student Transportation Office to provide input for next year's schedules

- Calendar Dates
    - Next Installation Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting: 29 April, 3 pm, ACS Building

- **Motion to Adjourn – Moved by M. Grayson, Second by A. King.**
    - **Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Icanberry