

Vicenza Elementary School
School Advisory Committee
Caserma Ederle Vicenza, Italy
SAC Minutes 24 February 2011

School Advisory Committee Meeting Attendees

- Parent Representative (Chair)
- Parent Representative (writing the minutes)
- Teacher Representative
- School Liaison
- Principal
- Vol

Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Agenda

- Corrections to Previous Minutes

It is not the Garrison's goal to change the feeding program. Instead, AAFES is considering leaving the feeding authority.

AAFES will feed children even if they don't have any money in the lunch account. They will not be served seconds, though.

Past Issues Update

- Lunches

It is the parents' main concern that the lunch portions are too small. An increase in portions would mean an increase in price, of course. At times, the cafeteria runs out of main dishes.

- Italian Exchange Program

This program receives a lot of positive feedback from both communities, therefore great support and help is to be expected.

The program, starting next school year, will run as follows: Each class participating, i.e. immersion classes only will be split into two halves. Each group will attend an Italian school for one week per quarter. The school will ensure that its curriculum standards will be met. So no child falls behind.

Host Nation already has exchange programs with an Italian school.

- Crossing Guards

The MPs have been controlling parking and traffic in front of the school. Parents can stop to drop off or pick up children in front of the school but must not vacate the car.

- Teachers leave

Teachers accrue medical leave. They receive 10 sick days per year, three of which can be used for other purposes. Often, teachers have to seek treatment in the States, which, of course, demands more time. It should be noted that teachers are only provided with limited access to on-base medical services.

New Business

- Read Across America

On Monday, 28 February 2011, volunteers are asked to read to school children during "Read Across America" day. Not all classes participate in this program.

Parents would like to celebrate "Crazy Hat" day. Children can participate in the Crazy Hat-Day coloring contest. This will be on 02 March 2011, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday.

A parent suggested that the PTSA could sell Cat in the Hat-hats during "Read Across America" next year. It could be a successful fund raiser.

- Bring your Child to School

April will be the "Military Child Month". DoDDS supports "Bring your Child to Work" day.

Since this affects only half a work day, it would be a nice opportunity for the parents to return the children to school and have lunch with them there. It was mentioned that

fewer parents have lunch with their kids now. The reason might be that the school is not in the Caserma anymore.

- College Night

On 12 March 2011, the HS PTSA is organizing "College Night" and still needs volunteers to help.

- Other Issues

The SAC minutes will be published on the ES website. This shall contribute to a more widespread awareness of SAC.

This meeting was scheduled for the morning right after bell. With this, the SAC members attempted to enable more parents to attend the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next SAC meeting is 21 April 2011 at 15:00.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.