



School Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION

The School Advisory Committee (SAC) at Cayman International School is represented by CIS parents, faculty and staff who meet periodically throughout the school year to discuss a variety of topics and issues regarding all divisions of the school. The purpose of the committee is to aid CIS in realizing the school's strategic plan and to enhance communication. Upon conclusion of each SAC meeting, the committee provides a bulletin to the school community in an effort to inform and clarify.

Constructive discussion and additional points of view regarding these topics and other issues are welcome. Please talk with a representative of the School Advisory Committee to share your input.

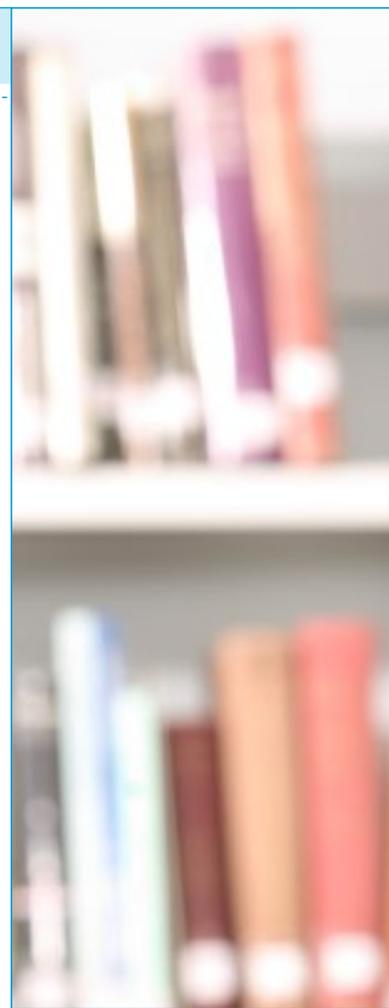
Members of the School Advisory Committee

	Sarah Dyer		Wendy Foreman		Aimee Bush
	Sarah Parham		Rashada Clarke		Christina Frank
	Elena Oster		Denis Corin		Jessica Wolfenden
			Ian Whan Tong		Jeremy Moore

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Note that issues and information shared in the bulletin are categorized by school divisions based on the representatives who shared the questions/concerns, but there are several issues that are school-wide and apply to all divisions.



EARLY CHILDHOOD



Issue/question: *Should a permanent fence be constructed to create a barrier between the field and the east perimeter road in order to enhance safety?*

Information: Traffic flow, safety, and perimeters are being considered as part of an overall campus review. If reports indicate that there is a safety hazard, then the issue will be addressed. This issue would be addressed collaboratively with Dart.

Issue/question: *Some elementary students are wandering during recess time, especially when they utilize the restrooms. Should elementary students be directly supervised when traveling back and forth to the restrooms?*

Information: Students utilize the restroom between classrooms without being directly monitored. Students can also be trusted to use the restrooms during recess time, with teacher permission. Students who are wandering should be redirected by staff.

Issue/question: *Does CIS have tents that can shade students for games that are played at the field?*

Information: Yes. CIS has been working to procure tents for sports activities and events. These will be helpful in providing shade to students.

Issue/question: *Are the leveled reading resources being appropriately and sufficiently utilized?*

Information: The Elementary Principal has responded to this and indicates that the leveled reading resources are being utilized appropriately and sufficiently. Contact the office for more specific information.

Issue/question: *There are concerns that parents involved in the school-wide Parent Volunteer Program might inappropriately manage situations involving students.*

Information: Parents who choose to volunteer their time in this program go through a training session to ensure that they understand school philosophies and the limitations of their role. Parents do not discipline students, but may serve as a helping hand for teachers and others.

Issue/question: *School photos are expensive. Can the contract be negotiated to decrease the cost or change photographers?*

Information: The Office Staff welcomes information regarding alternative photographers that would be beneficial. They conducted some basic research and found that the prices were higher with the other photographers that had been suggested.

Issue/question: *Can an emergency alarm/button be integrated into the pool gate system to open it without the access code in case of emergency?*

Information: Having the pool accessible to the public through this system may be problematic. This idea may be better addressed by Dart as there are other users of this facility beyond CIS.

Early Childhood Representatives



Jessica Wolfenden



Christina Frank

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Issue/question: Can “unhealthy” items be eliminated from the lunch menu, or only serve them once per week? Can parents have a list of the ingredients being utilized?

Information: Parents can pre-order lunches and snacks for their children through the Mise En Place online system. The ingredients and cooking processes of Mise en Place are health conscious, and this provider was selected by a group of parents partly based on their nutritional lunches. Mise en Place is happy to provide additional nutritional information (beyond what is provided in the CIS Newsletter) to parents. Please contact them for more details.

Issue/question: Some Elementary teachers feel that time in the library is not effective.

Information: The Elementary Principal, Librarian and teachers are working collaboratively to ensure that time is utilized effectively.

Issue/question: Some Elementary teachers would like to use the personal days that are allotted to them consecutively in order to increase the length of breaks or trips.

Information: This issue is being addressed by the CIS Compensation & Benefits Committee.

Issue/question: Some Elementary teachers avoid taking sick days because they feel that the substitute coverage is inadequate.

Information: It is difficult to hire high quality substitutes due to immigration policies, availability and other requirements. Staff are always encouraged to stay home if they are sick. The administration provides the best possible substitute teacher that is available.

Elementary

Representatives



Elena Oster



Ian
Whan Tong

Issue/question: Some Elementary teachers would like more administrators to observe their classes.

Information: CIS employs an instructional coach to observe and assist teachers who would like to be observed and receive feedback. Administrators periodically visit classrooms and formal observations are conducted as part of the required teacher evaluation system.

Issue/question: Some Elementary teachers are concerned that the Makerspace is not being well utilized.

Information: The Makerspace is being utilized by Secondary students more than Elementary students. Elementary teachers are encouraged to learn more about the creative nature of the Maker movement and utilize the space.

Issue/question: There are concerns regarding traffic. Can a mirror be placed near the security hut in order to see oncoming cars?

Information: A traffic study has recently been conducted by Dart. Results are forthcoming. This suggestion will be forwarded for future consideration.

Issue/question: How should the school calendar be altered for the 2016-17 school year?

Information: Parents vary on their preferences, as do CIS staff. CIS collects input and forms the calendar within the limitations of the Ministry of Education.

Issue/question: Should the school day be extended?

Information: There are many variables involved in extending the school day, including facility limitations. This issue can be further explored over time by the administration.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Issue/question: Can a digital scrolling marquee (or a different type of marquee) be added to the school campus?

Information: The Middle School Advisory Committee parent representative is exploring the cost and viability of this idea.

Issue/question: How can school spirit be enhanced?

Information: Everyone in the school community should be involved in building school spirit. It is not the sole responsibility of a coach, a committee or an administration. It takes a village. School spirit has increased significantly in recent years along with activities, and most see the potential for future increases as growth continues. Wonderful ideas are being talked about on many levels, and committees may address this directly in the future. Students are encouraged to wear jerseys on game days, clubs are exploring t-shirt options and the annual Spirit Week in Secondary is developed by student leaders. There is a school wide pep rally (with a dancing blue iguana mascot and the band) for the basketball tournament and other pep rallies are also happening for other events.

Issue/question: Are there sufficient extra-curricular offerings for students?

Information: Activities have grown tremendously for students and will continue to be developed as enrollment increases. If there are enough students interested in an activity or club, the school works to support them in the activity and helps them organize a group. Students in Secondary are spread thin because there are so many options and they do not have enough time to be involved in all the activities, contests and offerings.

Issue/question: Multiple factors are being considered by the CIS Compensation and Benefits Committee.

Information: A survey was sent out to the faculty and staff from the Compensation & Benefits Committee in order to determine priorities and the elements that people value most. CIS is constantly seeking ways to recruit and retain high quality employees. More information will be shared with faculty/staff as it becomes available.

Issue/question: There will be changes to the Performing Arts courses next school year for Secondary students.

Information: The Middle School Drama elective will be switched to a Music elective that is more choral focused. The annual drama production will continue to take place as a highlight event. Drama and Music will continue to be electives offered to high school students.

Middle School Representatives



Denis Corin



Sarah Parham

HIGH SCHOOL



Issue/question: It has been suggested that High School homeroom teachers be required to send out announcements via email regularly to parents in addition to the CIS Current (newsletter) and other communications from the school.

Information: Teachers are encouraged to read bulletins and communications and to inform students in homeroom classes daily. The student/parent portal is also a communication tool utilized by teachers to inform students and parents.

Issue/question: Is there a place for students to go when they are not feeling well without going home?

Information: Yes. CIS has a clinic space in the administration building.

Issue/question: Can CIS provide a driver's education class at the school as part of the school curriculum?

Information: CIS has a curriculum review cycle and an annual committee. Driver's Ed poses some inherent complications, but can be considered for review.

Issue/question: How can CIS enhance Service Learning?

Information: A group of CIS teachers are going to Haiti to support the Children of Haiti Project (COHP) and several high school students are involved in a service trip to Peru. But more importantly, service learning is being deliberately integrated in to project-based learning activities and faculty are having important conversations with children about service-related issues.

Issue/question: Can CIS purchase more research databases and resources?

Information: CIS recently invested significant resources into another online research database (JSTOR) to enhance research capabilities.

High School Representatives



Sarah Dyer



Rashada Clarke