West Point Middle School
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West Point Middle School SAC
OPEN (Public) MEETING
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025/4:00 – 5:2 P.M. / WPMS Library

Meeting called to order: 4:05 P.M.

SAC Members in Attendance: Katharine Terry, Courtney Neubecker, Robert Catten, Theron Gertz, and Pamela Granger

Other Attendees: Mollie Deaton (student), Mary Ann Bell (student), Ms. Irani-Tehrani (parent) and Allison Wilhelm (parent)

1. Welcome/Meeting Norms

2. Presentation of Agenda

3. Reports:
    - Principal: SAC presentation, purpose and role, topics that it addresses, does not address, SAC successes overseas, committee composition, and responsibilities.
    - Expectations for the year
        - DoDEA Blueprint for Continuous Improvement
        - Priorities for the Regional Continuous Improvement Plan
    - School Advisory Committee Chair: SAC Goal Focus areas (communication, partnerships), communicating with SAC
        - Contact the principal via email
        - Share with members of the SAC
        - Ms. Wilhelm asked if there are restrictions on how to communicate. No, there are many ways to communicate, but preferences are the website, Everbridge, and email.
        - Living on West Point Facebook page, partnership with the school and the USMA. West Point Insider may be an option, according to Ms. Wilhelm. However, Ms. Wilhelm said that texting is her preferred method. Mr. Catten said he would look into the other options (Mojo, other Apps).The Garrison Facebook page is another option.
        - Ms. Irani-Tehrani suggested a unique subject line for each email to draw attention.
        - The sports team schedules and information are coach-driven, not school-driven.

    - Next steps – list of types of information and the ways to communicate. Chair said that we could look at that list and use it as a basis for a questionnaire about the best way to communicate school information to send out to the community.
    - Ms. Neubecker said that we need an App, and suggested Remind. She said it would be a great possible channel of communication.
    - Text messages are preferred for timely information, immediate, happening in the school, etc.
    - We can check with our Educational Technologist to see if there is a DoDEA approved app that might work.
- Mr. Catten Celebrations – the PSAT we had 100% completion, Veteran's Day assembly
- Important Dates (including Family Night, NAEP Testing, Education Day, etc.)
    - Ms. Granger asked for ideas for Family Night from the community to make it relevant and fun. Ms. Wilhelm suggested an opening ceremony with a performance (band, choir).

4. New Business:

a. Meetings - suggestion of 5:30 for a start time (Ms. Wilhelm). 4 pm may be too early for many parents to attend.
b. School Platforms – Aspen, Google Classroom, Online books, Mathia
c. Dress Code – issue is that females are dress coded more often than boys
d. Attendance – needs to reinforce the attendance policy
e. Technology Use and AI
    i. There are specific platforms (CoPilot, Google Gemini) that DoDEA promotes.
    ii. Many students use ChatGTP, and that can be abused by students. Ms. Downey was using ChatGTP in class, but teaching students how to use it without cheating.
    iii. Ms. Wilhelm is asking if the school can address AI, especially the pitfalls if it is abused. Ms. Irani-Tehrani shared comments about ChatGTP with the meeting. She is concerned that students are accessing it during class "all the time" according to her daughters. It's own website said that it should not be used by children under 13 and requires parental consent. It may produce material that is not suitable for younger students and must be managed by an adult. She suggested blocking ChatGTP (lightspeed filter, e.g.) at school, because there are a lot of harms and risks.
    iv. Students said that it is a useful tool, as long as it is not abused. If it is blocked, students will probably find other AI websites that are not blocked.
    v. Ms. Wilhelm said that ChatGTP has practical uses, but does not feel comfortable with her children using it.
    vi. Ms. Terry said that she uses it every day, and it is a tool in the world, and it is better to teach kids how to use it ethically and effectively, than to just

ban it. She would advocate for supervised use and guidance by adults about the use and abuse of ChatGTP. Ms. Wilhelm agreed that AI education should be given to all of the students. Maybe have a “lock-in” where they bring in speakers to tell kids about technology.

vii. The students said that they think it would be better to educate about it and how to use it effectively would be better than banning it.

viii. Ms. Irani-Tehrani suggested a guest speaker as well. She said that teachers bear the burden of engaging students, and AI is a huge distraction.

ix. Ms. Granger said it is a highly complex issue. We do have software available for teachers to see what students are doing on their laptops. We do recognize the difficulties and are combatting it to the best of our abilities.

5. Open Forum
   a. Student teacher volleyball game proposed by student reps.
   b. Install clear lockers in the girl’s bathroom for feminine hygiene products. Currently just in the Nurse’s office
   c. Ms. Wilhelm - Suggest ways that students can volunteer in the community

6. Closing – thank you for coming and sharing your ideas.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:20 P.M.

   a. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27th

Submitted by: David Gertz