EJ King School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Date: April 21, 2026
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Location: EJ King Commons
Chairperson: Tyson Baca
Minute Taker: Katherine Rocha
Attendance

- Imari Marti (DOWEA Staff)
- Leslie Barnhart (DOWEA Staff)
- Jennifer Gamble (DOWEA Staff)
- P Diane Danjanic (Parent)
- Katherine Rocha (Parent)
- Tyson Baca (Parent)

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tyson Baca at 4:30 p.m.
a. Minutes review from previous meeting – 17 February

- The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to all attendees for review.
- No revisions or corrections were noted, and the minutes were accepted as presented.

Agenda Item 2: Principal's Update
Presented by Ms. Jennifer Gamble

a. Locker Usage Update
The school has reverted its policy to allow students to carry backpacks throughout the day. Students have expressed positive feedback and are happy that backpack use has been reinstated. Lockers remain accessible for student use if needed. This approach will continue into the next school year, providing flexibility while maintaining convenience for students.

b. Homework Review Initiative
The school is beginning a thoughtful review of homework practices:

- A committee will be formed to gather feedback from both students and teachers.
- A key focus will be defining what "homework" means from both perspectives, ensuring shared understanding.
- Further discussions and analysis will take place next school year, with an emphasis on evaluating the impact of homework on instruction and student learning outcomes.

c. Gym Drop-off of instruments
The proposed plan for student drop-off at the gym was not be implemented due to the time the doors open.

d. Campus Access and Gate Closure
The exterior gate between the main building and adjacent facilities will be closed and unavailable for student passage.

- Students will continue to access buildings through designated doors on each floor.
- This adjustment is intended to improve campus safety and supervision.

e. Student Feedback: Resiliency and Well-being
The school continues to prioritize student well-being:

- Out of 343 students, 285 participated in the survey (approximately 85%).
- Results indicate that 85% of students report having a trusted adult on campus.
- Future survey plans include:
    - Asking students to identify their trusted adult.

    - Expanding questions related to well-being, including what students feel proud of.
    - The goal is to foster a more welcoming environment and increase staff awareness of student needs.
- Additional points:
    - Parents have been informed about survey data collection through the school newsletter.
    - "Temperature checks" (ongoing well-being surveys) are still being conducted, although some students have expressed reluctance to participate.
    - Approximately 8% of students indicated they would like to speak with a support professional, such as an MFLC (Military Family Life Counselor) or school counselor.

f. Staffing Update
A new school counselor will be joining the staff next school year, enhancing student support services.

g. Current School Activities
- College and career readiness testing is underway for 6th and 7th grade students.
- Advanced Placement (AP) testing is in progress.
- Spring sports, including soccer and track & field, are ongoing.

h. Upcoming Event – May 4: Junior Night
- Led by Dr. Rosier
- Focus: Preparing students for their senior year, including academic planning and post-secondary readiness.

Agenda Item 3: Chairman's Update
a. Athlete Academic Support: Student-athletes have access to structured academic support, including Homework Club and writing workshops.
b. Information from Principal Cobra Day: Scheduled as a make-up day, with a school-wide event planned for May 21.
c. Athletics Director Policy Reminder: Teams traveling over the weekend and returning on Sunday will not have practice on Monday, supporting student rest and well-being.

Agenda Item 4: Current Business
(No major updates recorded.)

Open Forum
Agenda Item 5: New Business
(No major updates recorded.)

Agenda Item 6: Open Forum
Discussion focused on ongoing school improvement efforts:
- The school is currently working on Phase 5 of its improvement/project cycle.
- An internal review of school data has been conducted, including:
    - Action plans
    - Scorecards
    - Classroom walkthrough observations

Key discussion points:
- Emphasis on understanding the *real experiences within the school*, not just numerical data.
- Continued focus on goals and action steps, with a need for stronger supporting evidence of progress.
- Priority areas include creating a more welcoming and supportive school environment.
- Identifying patterns observed by teachers and staff to better address student needs.
- Strengthening collaboration and alignment among the three schools (EJ King, Darby and Sasebo Elementary) particularly at the administrative level (e.g., scheduling and shared practices).

Agenda Item 7: Future School Advisory Committee Meeting Date

a. **Tuesday, 22 September 2026**
b. **Student Representative**: A vote will be conducted to determine which student representative(s) will attend future SAC meetings.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

- **Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Katherine Rocha