MAXWELL ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

800 Magnolia Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36112

SAC Meeting Minutes

Thu, Jan 22, 2026

3:51pm – Started meeting

- **Welcome**
  - Mrs. Jones and Lt Col Montgomery explained the purpose and structure of a School Advisory Committee (SAC)
    - Discussed the shift from School Board to SAC
    - Revealed status/results for key topics (MILCON project, reusable meal trays/kitchen dishwasher, lack of a breakfast program, school landscaping schedule) generated by last year's School Board.

- **Introduction of New Principal**
  - Throughout conversation, Principal Kopke conveyed her 2026 Goals: Be Kind, Communicate, Be Clear. She will emphasize Safety. She will seek to understand and reiterated she's here for the children/students.

- **Introduction of Attendees**
  - Mrs. Shaw: Stem Teacher
  - Ms. McGinley: Media Specialist, **SAC Member**
  - Mrs. McGuire: Parent and PTA
  - Mrs. Ganster: Maxwell School Liaison
  - Ms. Tonia Jones: Child and Youth Services, Flight Chief
  - Col. Williams: Mission Support Group Commander
  - Mrs. Ewers: PTA President, Parent
  - Mrs. Ellenburg: PTA Vice President and **SAC Chairperson**
  - Mrs. Montgomery: Parent, PTA member and Kindergarten LTS
  - Lt. Col Montgomery: Parent, **SAC Member**
  - Mrs. Christy Jones: Registrar, **SAC Secretary**

- **New Business: Discussed current areas of concern in an open forum**
  - Field Trips - Will field trips be reinstated? Will budget constraints continue? There were no field trips in 1st semester 2025.
  - Breakfast program – MEMS has no breakfast program, while every other school in our district does. Why can't MEMS provide breakfast for students?
  - Lunch options – Food choices have improved, but portion sizes should be addressed. Are USDA guidelines referenced in considering nutrition standards for students?
  - Sports programs – MEMS is a member of the AISA (Alabama Independent Schools Association), providing a competitive platform and participation in an organized league. A lack of interest/participation is eliminating some opportunities (no Soccer team in Spring 2026). MEMS sports programs operate on a $7K budget, completely driven by PTA fundraising. Does DODEA have a budget to support school sports? If so, why isn't MEMS included? How do other district schools fund their sports?
  - PTA – Participation is dwindling and no one is stepping up to replace key positions (must have a President and Treasurer). PTA is sole source of fund raising at MEMS, funding almost all programs and events (athletics, book fair, field day, spirit days, celebratory breakfasts/dinners, picture days, etc.).

Transfer of key positions should occur in April-May. Currently, only one parent/spouse has expressed interest in serving within the PTA. How can there be stronger recruitment/advertising efforts?

- Block Schedules – Discussed the feasibility of block schedules for middle school students. Can a modified block schedule be effective?
- Assessment calendar – The Principal expressed the importance of producing and using an assessment calendar.
- Homework – Is the amount of prescribed homework beneficial for our students? Is all homework graded/recorded in Aspen?
- Car drop-off and pick-up – Dangerous situations occur if/when children exit/enter on the left side of vehicles. What can be done to mitigate this risk? Security Forces involvement? Can SROs (School Resource Officers) be brought into MEMS?

- **Closing**
  - Principal Kopke would like the names of students who have been at MEMS for more than one year, so she can speak with them and gain their perspective.
  - Next Meeting: TBD, aiming for a date in late February or early March. Emails will be sent, and the meeting will be input into Principal Kopke's calendar.

4:44pm – Ended meeting