



KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 3/12/25 at 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting with Kitakata

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board was held beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, via Zoom. Sammy Scarpone called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., followed by roll call.

PRESENT

Josh Dalglish
Sammy Scarpone
Mike Bohlen
Jenelle Reid
Matt Brown

Chiharu Igarashi (AKIA Foreign Residence Advisor)
Megumi Dote (AKIA Office Chief)
Michael Yamaguchi (Interpreter)
Jiro Sato (AKIA Board Member, and Sister City Chairman)
Keiko Hori (AKIA Secretary General)

ABSENT

Seiji Shiratori
Adrienne Scritsmier

STAFF PRESENT

Erica Behler, Recreation Coordinator II
Kris Ammerman, Parks and Recreation Director

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Moved to approve the February 12, 2025 Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board Minutes.
Motion made by Member Mike Bohlen. Seconded by Member Matt Brown.

Voting Yea:

Vice Chair Sammy Scarpone
Member Josh Dalglish
Member Mike Bohlen
Member Jenelle Reid
Member Matt Brown

Voting Nay:

None

Abstaining:

None

Vote: Motion carried 5-7.

BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS:

- Board members each took turns introducing one another to the group

DECEMBER 2025 VISIT

- General Feedback from the AKIA
 - The biggest takeaway for students when they go back to Japan is that they gain confidence and are better at overcoming obstacles
 - Specifics are less important than the opportunity to get out and learn and overcome obstacles
 - Visit does not need to meet any class curriculum
 - Get students out of their comfort zone
 - Sammy followed up with the question what specific activities would help get them out of their comfort zone? AKIA staff replied-
 - More opportunities for interaction with students their own age
 - Classroom time is enough (2 days)
 - Having peers in the audience allows the students to be more comfortable when introducing themselves or giving a presentation
 - Seasonal Events are important – the group discussed making Christmas ornaments as an example, or decorating a Christmas tree
 - Site seeing is less important than interacting with others
 - Nike/Coca-Cola Factory Tours – “Icons of American Business”
 - Local Farms
 - School Bus experience – potential field trip with other students?
 - Solo home stay is best if possible, versus doubling students up

BOARD COMMENTS

- Future Meetings
 - AKIA expressed interest in meeting at least one or two more times before the trip in December. Specific dates have not yet been decided for these meetings

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm