

**Fort Stewart School Board
10 February 2009**

1. The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at Kessler Elementary School. Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM in the Kessler Library.

2. The following voting members were present:

Mr. Jeffrey Robertson Board President,
Mr. Neal Titus Board Vice-President,
Mrs. Cathy Hansen,
Mrs. Myrtle Johnson,
Mrs. Cherish Kulka

3. The following non-voting members were present:

Dr. Joseph Guiendon, Superintendent,
Mrs. Linda Kidd, Principal, Diamond Elementary School (DES)
Mrs. Carol Lee Kipp-Caldwell, Principal, Kessler Elementary School (KES)
Mrs. Inza Downing, Fort Stewart School Liaison Officer.

4. The following non-voting member was not present:

~~Dr. Joe Motolenich, Principal of Brittin Elementary School (BES), absent.~~

5. Others in attendance were:

Mrs. Patricia Hudson, Teacher's Union President
Mrs. Vivian Kloppel, Teacher DES
Mrs. Weber, Teacher DES
Mrs. Kerry Fuller, MCEC
Mr. Norman Heitzman, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Lynette Morgan, Food Service Director, Fort Stewart Schools
Mrs. Smith, parent of a Kessler Elementary Student

6. A special presentation of STAR LAB was given by Mrs. Gwen Colson, Gifted Education Teacher, and students from the 6th grade. The School Board and parents of Kessler students were taught a class on the constellations. Parents of students that were present were invited to stay for the official part of the School Board Meeting.

7. The Pledge of Allegiance began the formal part of the School Board meeting in the Diamond Library at 4:35 pm.

8. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read. Mrs. Johnson made a motion that the amendment and minutes be approved and Mrs. Hansen seconded it. All present voted approval.

9. Requested Amendments: An amendment was requested by Mrs. Kidd to change the second to last sentence in paragraph 15 to say "There is a 6th-1st grade Teacher position that just came open at Diamond."

10. Comments from the audience:

a. Mrs. Hudson asked whether a decision had been made that our 6th Grade students would move to Liberty County Schools next school year. Counselors from Liberty County have been contacting the counselors of our schools asking if our 5th grade students have been prepared for their move to middle school.

Dr. Guiendon stated that the tentative plan is to have 6th grade at Liberty County Schools next year. No finalized decision has been made by either the Commanding General or through the DDESS channels. There is currently a memorandum on the Commanding General's desk. Before any such move is finalized the Commanding General must agree to it, and then the DDESS channels (Dr Beraza, Dr Miles and then the Pentagon) must approve it.

Liberty County wants 'fannies in the seats' to justify the new middle school that is being built on Fort Stewart. Dr. Guiendon stated that none of the teachers would be laid off, if such a move would occur.

Mrs. Hudson asked when something would be distributed to the teachers and students.

Mr. Robertson stated that the parents would like to know about this possibility of it happening.

Dr. Guiendon restated that Liberty County's request has not been approved by either the Post or the DDESS channels. As soon as possible information on a decision will be released to the parents and teachers.

(To be noted: A memorandum from COL Buchs, the Garrison Commander, stating that 6th Grade Students will be staying at the Fort Stewart schools until the new middle school is built was distributed to all students on March 5, 2009).

b. Mrs. Downing introduced Mrs. Kerry Fuller of MCEC who explained the upcoming MCEC reading event at Club Stewart. Three events each school year are sponsored by MCEC that include a book being read by a 'celebrity', activities that increase literacy, and a free book for each family in attendance. February's event will be the last event at Club Stewart for this school year, but MCEC has other workshops available to provide our schools as requested throughout the year.

c. Dr. Guiendon introduced Ms. Morgan from Food Services. She was able to explain why our schools follow a "traditional meal pattern" with only 1 choice of food given per food category. From 2002 to 2006 our school cafeterias lost money and were in the red. We were then supplemented by Georgia and must pay them back the borrowed money. Because of this the state of Georgia recommended we follow the "traditional meal pattern" to enable us to stop losing money and be able to pay back our debt.

Currently 72% of our students receive free or reduced meals. We get supplemented by NAF and USDA gives us money that we use to buy meats (ground beef) canned fruits and vegetables.

All meals must be made from scratch using USDA approved recipes.

Summer food programs have been moved to locations where the children have been proven to have easy access to during non-school months. We have had a great success rate of supporting our children with breakfasts and lunches over the summer months by doing this.

11. Comments from the Superintendent:

- a. There will be 2 new elementary schools being built on Fort Stewart. Tentatively one may be being built near Southern Oaks. However, since the location of all new housing has not been solidified yet, neither can the location of our new elementary schools.
- b. Ice machines at BES are currently experiencing problems.
- c. The warmers at both BES and DES are experiencing problems. The worn out warmers will be replaced.
- d. Copies of proposed School Year (SY) 09-10 calendars were distributed. Draft A was for Fort Jackson Schools, while Draft B, C, and D were for Fort Stewart Schools. The School Board members are in agreement to move the Parent Teacher Conference from October 19-20 to October 22-23 as shown on Draft D. The School Board disagrees with the administration with moving the staff development day from September 4 to September 25. Draft D was not approved due to the continued disagreement that was not resolved at this time.

12. Comments from the School Board:

- a. Mrs. Hansen asked about why DES ran out of bowls on a day that had soup on the menu. Mrs. Morgan will have to get back to us with the answer.
- b. Mrs. Kulka asked why the written menu at Brittin is not being followed. Mrs. Morgan answered that the refrigeration unit was faulty and therefore the menus were altered. Post Veterinarian Service came out to verify the safety of the food before it was consumed.
- c. Terra Nova testing dates were asked to be added to the official school district calendar for SY 2009-2010.
- d. Mrs. Kulka asked that recess be relooked at Brittin Elementary school. Teachers there are not allowing their classes to have any recess again, which is a change from the last School Board Meeting. The two principals present were asked how their schools treat recess. Mrs. Kidd answered that each class at DES has set times and does not have silent lunches. Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell stated that at KES recess is optional, but that most do have it and many classes also have an optional snack time in the morning if needed.

13. Comments from the Principals:

- a. BES: Not present.

stepped forward to be the Co-Chairs of the Diamond PTA. In March there will be a Literacy night and Diamond's Spring Book Fair.

c. KES: Kessler will have a "Poetry Alive" presentation from a poetry troupe on Friday. Read Across America will be the first week of March, with March 6th being a Family Picnic Day. Mrs. Johnson noted that the Family Math Night was great and some teachers had 100% participation.

14. The following hard copy information was provided to the School Board in hardcopy at the meeting:

a. A copy of the latest enrollment report for each school was provided. There is still a continued trend of increased enrollment for Fort Stewart schools since December.

b. An additional handout showed the breakdown, by grade level, of each school and which housing areas its students live in.

c. The (August-January) Monthly Financial Report of the Cafeteria Fund was distributed.

d. A copy of Minutelli's Minutes 11 was provided to those present. It discussed the message of Kaizen and continuous process improvement.

e. The Trevor Romain show will be shown to grades 3-6 during the first week of May.

15. The following information was provided to the School Board via email after the January Meeting by Dr Guiendon:

a. Memorandum from Ms. Morgan, Menu Planning Report -Fort Stewart Schools

b. The Fort Stewart Schools web site has been updated and can be accessed at <http://www.am.dodea.edu/scstewartcuba/index.htm>. There are links to the School Board minutes and a copy of the School Board photo is shown. We are still working on a method of direct feedback to the School Board via the web page.

16. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM. The next School Board meeting will be held on March 10 at 4:00 at BES.



Catherine Hansen
School Board Secretary



Jeffrey Robertson
School Board President