

**Fort Stewart School Board
18 November 2008**

1. The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at Kessler Elementary School. Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
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. Inza Downing, Fort Stewart School Liaison Officer,
Dr. Joe Motolenich, the new Principal of Brittin Elementary School (BES),
Mrs. Carol Lee Kipp-Caldwell, Principal, Kessler Elementary School (KES).
4. The following non-voting members were absent:
Mrs. Linda Kidd, Principal, Diamond Elementary School (DES)
5. Others in attendance were Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Karen Gray, and Mr. Steve Acevedo.
6. Pledge of Allegiance.
7. Nominations and election for the Ft. Stewart School Board Secretary was held. Catherine Hansen was elected as the Secretary.
8. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read and amended and approved.
9. Requested Amendments:

-#5. School Board meetings will occur on the **second (not first)** Tuesday of each month.

- #1 Board Member comments. The discussion at last month's meeting on school registration was on the DoDEA **medical screening requirements (not immunization requirements)**. Questions were raised regarding why using the Georgia state immunization forms/system is a part of our registration. Ms. Downing will check with the hospital and Dr. Guiendon will review the DoDEA regulations.
10. A special presentation on bullying was made by Dr. Tom Morgan, KES School Counselor. In September all DoDEA school counselors spent 3 days at American School of Counseling Association (ASCA) training that highlighted the program "T. Romain Bullying is a Problem". Kessler has seen a reduction in referrals. An example of indirect bullying (socialize isolation) also includes inviting everyone in your class to a birthday party but one. Most kids don't see females as bullies. The study used 16-18 year olds and another small study included 6-8 boys. Very little is studied on girls. Girls use indirect and on the sly bullying.

Kessler has zero tolerance of bullying. Every grade level K-6th will receive this training. Dr. Morgan trains an individual classroom, one class at a time, with a survey. Currently Grades 3, 4, and 5 are completed. Teachers do not receive any additional training other than what they get with their class. Currently there is no training for non-primary grade teacher employees, administrative staff or SRO Officers. Zero tolerance is specifically addressed immediately; it may not always result in a 3 day suspension. The student's teacher will call a parent at their home. Bully's usually lack supervision at home.

Mr Acevedo brought up that 3ID is highly deployable and we don't want a "band-aid". Dr Morgan stated that the more education a student receives will increase their knowledge of bullying.

11. The School Board would like to know what the SRO's are trained on? Dr Guiendon will get an answer back with us.

12. The current enrollment 4th – 6th grade families in "Grade Speed" is approximately 10% - 15% of the students.

13. Steve Acevedo, would like to coordinate an "Autism Task Force", with Dr Guiendon, to ensure that all issues are identified and help with gathering available resources to ensure the intent the educational act is fulfilled.

14. Comments from the Superintendent:

a. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Customer Satisfaction Survey has been launched. Survey runs until 28 February 2009.

b. A copy of the latest enrollment report for each school was provided. It has declined about 30 students from the last meeting. Trends are also attached.

c. The Garrison will host another Army Family Covenant Ceremony on 21 November at 10 am at KES.

d. An additional copy of the School Board training was requested by Dr Guiendon from John Chamblee, the DDESS Attorney. A video tape may be available. Cherish & Myrtle were only able to see a degraded copy of the training CD.

e. Dr Guiendon provided the following information about parent attendance at the Parent Teacher Conferences on October 16/1. BES had most classes in the 78-99% range. Their lowest two classes were 54% and 59% attendance with a highest class having 100% attendance. DES had 96% participation. KES had 14 classes above 90%, 4 classes between 80-89% and 5 classes between 70-79% attendance.

f. Next years school schedule will begin development with a finalized calendar for approval by February 2009. We coordinate the Fort Stewart Schools' start and end times with Liberty County's school schedule. The School Board would like to look at coordinating future 3ID training holidays and teacher work days to prevent high substitution teacher usage and students not

g. The school staff and student flu mist program was successful. The makeup day would be occurring tomorrow on Wednesday, November 19.

15. The August-October Monthly Financial Report of the Cafeteria Fund was distributed. The School board asked at October's meeting that a more detailed report be presented. This month's report included participation rates for breakfast and lunch for each month.

16. Budget. A discussion occurred on why some parents were asked to bring copy paper to school. Dr Guiendon explained that each school received \$15/child for October-December 2008. Neither Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell nor Dr. Motolenich could answer this question at this time.

17. Field Trips-all 3 schools are given money for field trips. The school Board would like to know what trips are scheduled by the schools.

18. Mrs. Johnson expressed her concern about a Third Grade child reading at a First Grade level and being given a First Grade reading test. If a disability identified SST works with the parents/teacher to get the best program for a student. KES goes through DRA/Terra Nova results to automatically identify students who need referrals.

Kessler currently has a Team 3 intervention group who focuses on Math. Mrs. Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell hopes to focus on reading also in January. Math was chosen first since it is easier to work issues with than reading. The team includes eight people who spend 45 minutes with 6 students each. The team includes the gifted teacher, reading teachers, special education teachers, a special education aide, and a speech teacher. They concentrate on "old learning" working on weak areas of the students most.

19. Mrs. Hansen brought up a question of how many students were retained at their current grade level at the end of last year. Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell stated that studies show that students who are retained 2 times do not graduate high school, so retaining students is not beneficial to the student. Dr Guiendon will provide the School Board the numbers of students who were retained at each level last year.

20. Mrs. Kulka asked what are the recess requirements at BES. Parents of students have reported that the Third Grade teachers state recess is a privilege and then also are not allowed to talk during lunch at BES? What outlet are the children allowed to have to get rid of their energy if both recess and talking at lunch is denied to the students? Dr. Motolenich stated that recess is under teacher control and that he will look into it. He will also look into the traffic light in the cafeteria that is used for allowing talking during lunch.

21. Mrs. Kulka asked if there was a dress code for staff. Several parents have asked because the lack of professionalism and the "roll out of bed" look of DoDEA Staff. Dr. Guiendon stated that a staff dress code "has not been negotiated". Ms. Kipp-Caldwell stated that she has asked her staff to dress professionally several times but cannot enforce it.

It was discussed that the children had a dress code and how it appears to the parents that the staff does not. It was expressed it showed a lack of respect to the military families. The board was told there was nothing that could be done because it was not in the staff's contract. A staff dress code cannot be implemented at this time. Superintendent said it could be negotiated in the next contract.

22. Mr. Robertson asked what the schools use for its nutritional standards for their lunch program.

Dr. Guiendon stated that the schools lunch program followed the USDA standard which is the requirement.

Board member wanted to know if meals could be planned to be more nutritious so that the students eat more and throw away less food. Dr. Guiendon stated that the only requirement is to meet the USDA standard. Mr. Robertson asked could the meals could be planned. Dr Guiendon stated yes, but that they had to follow standards of USDA.

23. The next School Board meeting will be held on December 9 at 4:00 at BES.

24. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

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Secretary

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President