

**Fort Stewart School Board  
20 January 2009**

1. The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at Diamond Elementary School. Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Diamond 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), emergency leave.
5. Others in attendance were:  
Mrs. Patricia Hudson, Teacher's Union President
6. A special presentation on the DES Robotics Program was made by Mrs. Walker's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class. Nine different robots made of Legos were presented. Robots ranged from snow mobiles to three motor claws, and from electric guitars with ultra sonic sensors to a spider with no sensors. Mrs. Walker started the robotics program that now includes all of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at DES. 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 4:40 pm.
8. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read. Mrs. Hansen made a motion that they be approved and Mrs. Kulka seconded it. All present voted approval.
9. Requested Amendments: none.
10. Comments from the audience:  
  
Mrs. Downing announced that MCEC will be presenting a special education institute on March 25-26, titled "living in the new normal". Mrs. Kulka asked for more information to be provided to the School Board on these events.

11. Comments from the Superintendent:

a. From January 12 to January 16 Dr. Guiendon, Dr. Motolenich, Mrs. Kidd, and Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell attended a conference at DDESS, in Peachtree, GA. Dr. Guiendon informed the Board that Dr. Beraza, Director of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Secondary Schools (DDESS/DoDDS-Cuba) has announced that she will be retiring as of 30 June 2009.

b. Dr. Guiendon announced that he also will be retiring this year, as of 30 June 2009. Additional information for replacement should be forth coming from DDESS in Peach Tree City, GA.

c. The kitchen at DES experienced a collapse of the drainage pipes in December. The Fort Stewart DPW was able to repair the kitchen over the winter holidays without any loss of use of the cafeteria during school days. There also was a bubble in the school floor caused by building settlement that was repaired by DPW who re-laid the tile.

d. MG Cucolo has asked Dr Guiendon to have 272 students march with his 272 soldiers in the Georgia Days Parade on February 12 in Savannah. 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division will be providing the busses for the children to participate in this trip. DES was chosen to represent the School District and will be sending its 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade classes. The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes will not be sent due to the upcoming Terra Nova testing. And Kindergarten will also not be attending this trip, per Mrs. Kidd.

e. Two possible drafts of next years School Calendar was passed out to all present.

f. Dr. Guiendon announced that the easels are in that were ordered for use at all three schools and the Administration Building to be used to display School Board information.

g. The new hiring system is still not being utilized by DDESS. It may be implemented with the 2009-2010 hiring applications.

h. COL Buchs and Mrs. Downing have been provided Dr Guiendon with information on the possibility of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students moving to the Liberty County School District's middle schools soon. More information will be coming henceforth. This is all in reference to the new Liberty County School District middle school that will be opening up on Fort Stewart in the near future.

12. Comments from the School Board:

a. Mrs. Hansen asked about the 6 teachers that were listed as Temporary Staff in the updated enrollment report. It is believed that all of the current teachers are in permanent positions, but Dr. Guiendon will update us on this.

b. It was asked if BES has any rooms available for additional classes. BES has started a new Kindergarten class and has no more empty classrooms. DES is the only school with any classrooms available for growth at this time.

c. Mr. Robertson asked who planned the actual school meals and how the decision is made to pick which USDA choices are served. Dr. Guiendon stated that Ms. Morgan is in charge of this. More information will be provided to us by Ms. Morgan.

d. Mr. Robertson asked why DES is still using Styrofoam plates if the cafeteria has already been repaired. Dr. Guiendon will get an answer back to us.

d. It was asked of the Principals about whether National Certification is beneficial to increasing the quality of our teachers. Mrs. Kipp responded that those teachers that she knows of that hold National Certification are high quality teachers. However, DDESS does not recognize those that hold this certification for additional, higher pay.

e. Mrs. Johnson asked for an update on whether or not BES has recess. Mrs. Kulka was able to respond that BES does currently have recess.

f. Mrs. Johnson asked if we could do something for those who have made presentations to the school board. Mrs. Hansen asked if there is presently a "School Board Certificate of Appreciation" to recognize the students that have made presentation at the School Board meetings this year. Mrs. Kulka asked if we could also recognize those employees, teachers and counselors, which have made presentations too. Mr. Titus said he would design the certificates for the Board to present. The Principals will provide the School Board with a list of names for those who have already made presentations at our meetings.

### 13. Comments from the Principals:

a. BES: Not present.

b. DES: A teacher was hired on 20 January to fill the empty PreK Teacher position. The Counselor position has also now been filled. The SPED Moderate to Severe candidate is being selected but is not finalized yet.

c. KES: Kessler will have a Family Math Night this Thursday, January 22. Last year it was held from 3 – 5 pm. Per the requests of their parents, this years Math Night will be held from 5-6:30 pm. Mrs. Hansen asked Mrs. Kipp who actually runs the events, her staff or the PTA. It is run by the members of the school staff, not by the PTA.

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

A copy of the latest enrollment report for each school was provided. There has been a spike in enrollment this month with over 40 additional students enrolling at Fort Stewart schools since December. The greatest increase occurred at KES.

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

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

Vacancies. As of 1 December 2008, the openings at each school were:: Diamond-----SPED Moderate to Severe, Counselor, PreK Teacher, SPED Mild to Moderate; Brittin-----Aide (2), SPED Mild to Moderate; Kessler-----Art, Aide, Clerk, Assistant Principal, SPED Mild to Moderate. There is also a 6th grade Teacher that just came open at Diamond. Some of these may have been filled by the time of the publishing of these minutes.

16. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM. The next School Board meeting will be held on February 10 at 4:00 at KES.

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Catherine Hansen  
School Board Secretary

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Jeffrey Robertson  
School Board President