

**Fort Stewart School Board
8 December 2008**

1. The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, December 8, 2008, at Brittin Elementary School. Mr. Robertson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Brittin Art Room.
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,
Dr. Joe Motolenich, Principal of Brittin Elementary School (BES),
Mrs. Linda Kidd, Principal, Diamond Elementary School (DES)
Mrs. Carol Lee Kipp-Caldwell, Principal, Kessler Elementary School (KES).
4. The following non-voting member was not present:
Mrs. Inza Downing, Fort Stewart School Liaison Officer, was at a Liberty County School Board Farewell Ceremony.
5. Others in attendance were none.
6. A special presentation on the Brittin Elementary School Art Program was made by Mrs. Nancy S. Jackson, Art teacher at Brittin. Mrs. Jackson emphasized that Brittin is the only DDESS school that maintains a student online art gallery, currently located at Artsonia.com. It allows controlled parental interaction with the students, even during deployments. She highlighted the school's participation in the Smithsonian Videoconferencing in the fall, and that 670+ out of 716 students, grades K-6, receive Art instruction once a week for 45 minutes.
7. The Pledge of Allegiance began the formal part of the School Board meeting in the Brittin Library at 4:30 pm.
8. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read, amended and approved.
9. Requested Amendments:

-#4. Mrs. Linda Kidd was **TDY (not absent)** from November's School Board meeting.
10. Comments from the audience: No audience present.
11. Comments from the Superintendent:

a. Student eligibility to attend schools includes the following criteria: A parent in the military, the parent must live on post, and the parent must be legally responsible for the child.

- b. By law teachers and school personnel must report suspected child abuse to the authorities.
- c. The kitchen at Diamond Elementary has experienced a collapse of the drainage pipes. Money to repair the pipes will come from DDESS. The cafeteria may have to close in January and food brought from one of the other elementary schools for breakfast and lunch during this repair.
- d. From January 12 to January 16 Dr. Guiendon, Dr. Motolenich, Mrs. Kidd, and Mrs. Kipp-Caldwell will be attending a conference at DDESS, in Peachtree, GA.
- e. School Registrars did a great job passing their inspection. The school board would like to see an article published in the post newspaper on this success.
- f. "One call now" is a new system that will call parents when their child is absent from school. The Superintendent will be do a test message call to initiate the system.

12. Comments from the School Board:

- a. Mrs. Hansen thanked Mrs. Kidd for being the only school to list the school board meetings date, time, and location on her school marquee for the last two months.
- b. Mrs. Johnson requested that we amend the School Board Agenda to add "Comments from the Principals" as a separate item. It was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved to be added to all future Agendas.
- c. Mrs. Kulka asked for further clarification on which teacher slots in the special education program are still not filled at the three schools. Mrs. Hansen requested that the school board be provided a listing of these statuses. Dr. Guiendon will provide this information.
- d. Mrs. Kulka asked for further clarification on the qualifications of the Spanish Teachers at the three schools. Dr. Guiendon emphasized that all of the teachers are certified with the exception of one of the teachers who is currently in the certification process.
- e. Mrs. Hansen asked Dr Guiendon on the status of the requested meeting by Mr. Acevedo from the November School Board meeting. Dr. Guiendon informed the Board that Mrs. Gray called him the following morning informing him that Mr. Acevedo has been told to work this issue through his supervisor at ACS. Coordination with the Fort Stewart School District, for an "Autism Task Force", as requested by Mr. Acevedo, is not presently needed by ACS.
- f. All future school board meetings will be limited in time and will end at 5:30 pm when the meeting starts at 4 pm. Mrs. Hansen made the motion, Mrs. Johnson seconded it. It was unanimously approved.
- g. Mr. Robertson announced that easels have been ordered for use at all three schools and the Administration Building to be used to display School Board information.
- h. The status of inbound teachers was discussed for resource, specifically moderate to severe qualified teachers.

i. Twenty five substitute teachers were being hired through the hiring process next week. Teachers currently are authorized 12 sick days and 3 personal days by contract. We will be overspent on this part of the budget.

j. The status of students not receiving classes was requested to be presented at the next school board meeting by each school. Specific information requested by the School Board is for the number of students who do not receive classes in art, music, physical education, and Spanish taught by the teachers in these areas.

13. Comments from the Principals:

a. BES: Dr. Motolenich held a round table meeting with the staff which was received well. He plans to have a similar meeting with the parents.

b. DES: Mrs. Smith's second grade class visited MG Cucolo with their traveling bear. The Jingle Bell Shop did well and the PTA had a performance of Christmas around the World that was received well.

c. KES: COL Buchs will be visiting KES on Tuesday.

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. Enrollment has declined about 30 students from the last meeting. Trends were also attached.

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.)

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

a. the numbers of students who were retained at each level last year.

b. what the SRO's are trained on.

16. Due to the Superintendent and all 3 Principals attending a conference on January 13, the next School Board meeting will be held on January 20 at 4:00 at DES.

17. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM with refreshments provided by the BES PTO immediately following adjournment.

Catherine Hansen
School Board Secretary

Jeffrey Robertson
School Board President