

OCTOBER 14, 2008

SUBJECT: FT. STEWART SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Minutes of 14 October 2008

The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at Diamond Elementary School. The following members were present:

Neal Titus
Cherish Kuka
Jeffrey Robertson
Cathy Hansen
Myrtle Johnson

In addition the following members were present:

Dr. Joseph Guiendon	Superintendent
Mrs. Inza Downing	School Liaison
Mrs. Linda J. Kidd	Principal, Diamond Elementary
Dr. Ford Stone	Principal, Brittin Elementary
Mrs. Carol Lee Kipp-Caldwell	Principal, Kessler Elementary
Mr. Gary Cantrell	Library Media Specialist, Diamond ES

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance (during WDGTV broadcast)
3. Each morning at the start of the school day, WDGTV broadcasts announcements and school information. This is televised to all classrooms at Diamond ES. At the beginning of each week, Mrs. Kidd, Principal, hosts a special live spot on the station to talk to all the students and staff members at DES. This is well received by students, staff and parents. Gary Cantrell, Library Media Specialist, supervises and trains the students. All students who participate are fifth and sixth graders and they must pass a "screen test" in order to be a part of the production. This is one way of preparing our students here at DES for the 21st Century learner. The students presented a special program to the School Board on WDGTV so that they could view what occurs on a daily basis. The program was very creative!
4. Nominations for the Ft. Stewart School Board were held. Jeffrey Robertson will serve as the President. Neal Titus will be the Vice-President.
5. It was agreed that the meetings would occur on the first Tuesday of each month
6. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read and amended. The amendments included the following: There was discussion regarding the follow-up on the dishwasher repairs at Diamond ES. Dr. Guiendon will check into the "part" that is missing, the cost, and funding for the repairs. General funds have to be used for such repairs. No money has been allocated to the budget at this time

for the new fiscal year. Dr. Guiendon will e-mail the School Board members on the findings.

7. A question was posed as to the repairs at the other schools. All three schools use a computerized system for sending in needed repairs. Dr. Stone reported on the maintenance/repair program. The program is called "School Dude" and sends replies to personnel regarding the need of and progress of repairs. Kessler ES has no major repair problems. Major equipment placed in the new school is no longer under warranty. Therefore, all repairs must go through our maintenance/repair system now. Each school follows this procedure for repairs. All that cannot be repaired go to the base and then to the contractor. We utilize the most efficient routes to make repairs in a timely manner.
8. An amendment to the minutes was recommended by the members. There was discussion on the types of forums that could be used to increase attendance at the Ft. Stewart School Board meetings. Suggestions included to publish the agenda in the Frontline, in school newsletters, on marquees, on Marne TV and any other methods to inform the public.
9. Comments from the Superintendent

--The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Customer Survey will be sent out to parents from November through February. This is an opportunity for parents to submit their comments regarding all three schools. This survey assists DoDEA and the schools in providing quality education for ALL students. There was discussion regarding how to ensure that parents participate in the survey. Several suggestions were made such as incentives to students of parents who complete the survey, public announcements of the survey in all types of base and school publications, and use of school publications and websites. Ms. Kipp-Caldwell challenged each school in a contest based on a percentage of returned surveys. The winning school would be able to keep the mascot of the school for a period of time.
10. A copy of the enrollment report for each school was provided. Board members asked for clarification on what determines the addition of another classroom at a school. The procedure was clarified by Dr. Guiendon.
11. The cafeteria report was also presented.
12. Dr. Stone, Brittin ES Principal, has been promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent Fort Benning School System. He will be leaving in mid-November. Joe Motolenich, Antilles ES Principal, will be the new Principal of Brittin ES. He will be moving from Puerto Rico. The press release will be sent by e-mail tomorrow.

13. DoDEA will change the requirements for students to enter Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten to September 1. This will not change for the Ft. Stewart schools.
14. School board training is available on DVD for anyone who needs it. By-laws have not been written for the Ft. Stewart School Boards. There are only policies.
14. Flu shots will be administered at all three schools for students and staff members.
15. Book Fairs have been held at Kessler ES and Diamond ES. Brittin ES has one soon. Kessler ES made \$1300.00 and \$700.00 in book vouchers. This will provide 1200 in books for the library. Diamond ES made \$1500.80 and \$1350.48 in books and materials.

Comments from the Board Members:

1. There was a great deal of discussion on the registration requirements for immunizations from DoDEA. Questions were raised regarding why the Georgia state requirement is a part of process. Ms. Downing will check with the hospital and Dr. Guiendon will review the DoDEA regulations.
2. Updates were requested on new classroom additions at the various schools. All of the Principals provided their new additions. Discussion was raised regarding a possible kindergarten addition at Diamond ES due to the large class size.
3. Hiring procedures and process were discussed. Ft. Stewart has had difficulty in the past of attracting teachers. Teachers are given only five years of experience when they accept a job. The hiring process at Peachtree City is being revised to include a new technical system where applicants can submit applications on-line. This is a federal hiring system and specific procedures are followed to provide equal opportunity for all applicants.
4. There are teachers who remain in our schools for many years. Others move as their military members PSC. We have very experienced as well as new teachers in our schools.
5. Myrtle Johnson stated the Kessler ES has a warm and inviting atmosphere.
6. The next School Board meeting will be held on November 18 at 4:00 at Kessler ES in the library. The topic will be the new program on bullying. School counselors received training on the program in the early fall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM