

**Fort Stewart School Board
10 March 2009**

1. The Ft. Stewart School Board met on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at Brittin Elementary School. The PTO president called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Brittin Library followed immediately by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Two of five voting members were present.
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)
Dr. Joe Motolenich, Principal of Brittin Elementary School (BES)
Mrs. Inza Downing, Fort Stewart School Liaison Officer.
4. Others in attendance were:
FLES Teacher, BES
3 ID Family Readiness Support
5. A special presentation of BES Gifted and Talented Program was given by the Gifted and Talented (GT) Education Teacher, and students from the GT program. The School Board was given a presentation from BES GT students who participated in the Liberty County Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. BES won 3rd place in our sub region which included nine schools in Liberty County. BES GT students also demonstrated the robots that they built.
6. The minutes from the previous School Board meeting were read. The PTO president made a motion that the minutes be approved and it was seconded. All present voted approval.
7. Comments from the audience:
 - a. SLO. It was noted that there were 41 educators from Liberty and Chatham Counties who participated in training. On March 23-24 SLO is sponsoring Living in the new normal at HAAF. And on April 13-15 SLO is sponsoring the Future Leaders Conference for students in Grades 4-12 with 'Army Family Teen Building'.
 - b. BES FLES. The BES FLES teacher commented that in all of her classes, grades K-3, student speak Spanish 100% of the time. No English is used during any of her classes at this point of the school year. Around May 5th she will have a program that will include some classes going to a Hispanic showcase in Hinesville.
8. Comments from the Superintendent:
 - a. FLES. Foreign Language Classes will not expand up a grade level for SY 09-10. The current grade levels being taught this year will be the same grade levels that will be taught FLES next year. This is so that an evaluation of the program can be completed.
 - b. Quest. Quest enrollment information is on the school district webpage.

c. Read Across Liberty County. Our schools will be participating in the April 9 Read Across Liberty County sponsored by the United Way of the Coastal Empire, Liberty. Mr. Minutelli is the District Point of Contact. Twelve classrooms in each school have been identified to have volunteer readers from the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and the Hinesville Police to read for a half hour in the morning. Each student in the twelve classrooms will be presented with one age appropriate book to take home with them for their own. This event is at no cost to the parents or to the schools.

d. Sixth Grade Student Status. Due to the intervention of the 3ID Commander, our School District received an exemption to allow 6th Grade to be taught at our schools until the new middle school is ready to be opened. A memorandum from the Garrison Commander, explaining this to all of our parents has already been sent home.

e. Cafeteria repairs. The ice machines and warmers in the cafeterias that were not working properly have all been replaced.

f. Enrollment. Currently our School District's enrollment is hovering around 2060.

g. One Call. Child safety and security is the purpose of our new system being put into place. Starting 9 March 2009, if a student is absent an automated phone call will be made to the phone number on the student's record, notifying the parents of their child's absence. One board member added that this is a good program as it may increase the number of students present at school and decrease absences/tardiness. The District ET will get information to the appropriate persons to publicize this newly implemented system to the Fort Stewart general population.

9. Comments from the Principals:

a. BES: Master scheduling for next year has begun. BES is making sure that the preferences of the teachers are met. Also, each grade level will have at least 1 grade level teachers meeting per week scheduled. For internal self improvement, a collaboration model is being worked on. An open meeting with Dr. Motolenich and parents is scheduled for mid-April.

b. DES: School pictures are March 11-13. On the evening of March 27th DES will be having a Family Literacy Night. Teachers and PTA are sponsoring this night. Parents will take Reading Counts test and be introduced to lexiles. Mrs. Kidd announced that a 3rd grade students at DES has earned over 1000 points in the Reading Counts program and is currently reading at a lexile level of 1000, equivalent of an eighth grade level reader.

c. KES: Read Across America was celebrated the week of 2-6 March 2009, culminating in a family picnic. Soldiers from their adopt-a-school unit read Dr Seuss to the students. On April 9th KES will celebrate Diversity Day. It will include parent involvement and booths.

10. Comments from the School Board:

a. BES newsletters. PTO President asked that the BES school newsletter include more information in it. Mr. Motolenich stated that future newsletters will include more upcoming events and information for the parents.

b. New elementary schools. One board member asked for clarification on the new elementary schools being built on Fort Stewart. Dr. Guiendon explained that there will be a new housing survey completed in July. The outcome of this survey will determine the possibility of up to two more DDESS elementary schools being built and their location on Fort Stewart. The results from the current survey on file do not guarantee any additional elementary schools being built, thus the new housing is needed.

c. SY 09-10 Calendar. A board member asked about the current status of the school district's SY 09-10 calendar, now up to Draft E. Dr. Guiendon did not have any updates on the calendar to present at this time.

d. Class update. A board member asked for an update on which grade levels in BES and DES have students/classes that do not have art, music, PE, or two FLES (Spanish) classes taught by the teachers in that specialty each week. Also, a discrepancy was identified in a message from BES between students not being afforded weekly music and PE classes versus a previously identified shortfall of students not receiving weekly art classes. No response was offered by the administration to identify the grade level and number of classes affected.

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

a. A copy of the latest weekly enrollment bar chart for the school district was provided.

b. A handout describing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program.

c. A copy of the One Call Now Message Report from BES on 9 March 2009. It shows the information that each school receives daily from One Call Now.

12. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM. The next School Board meeting will be held on April 7 at 4:00 at DES.