



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
SOUTH CAROLINA – FORT STEWART – DODDS CUBA SCHOOL DISTRICT
376 DAVIS AVE, FORT STEWART, GA 31315**

From: School Board Chairman

Subject: **FORT JACKSON SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Minutes of March 4, 2010**

1. Welcome and Opening Meeting

The following members were present:

Holly King - President
Patricia Moore - Secretary
Cliff Burgoyne - Vice President
Austin Davis, Jr. - Member (Absent)
Joshua Harms - Member
Ann Gordon - School Liaison Officer

In addition the following people were present:

Dr. Samantha Ingram - Superintendent
Dr. Thelma Gibson -Principal (C.C. Pinckney)
Brian Perry - Principal (Pierce Terrace)
COL Kevin Shwedo - Deputy Commander
Karen Padgett - Balfour Beatty Representative
Margaret Gavin - Thrift Store Representative

Holly King called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and the board conducted business as follows.

Holly King stated that the Board Meetings are recorded for transcribing purposes only. She also explained the purpose of the comment sheets. The Board introduced themselves one by one.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The board president asked for a motion to approve the minutes dated March 4, 2010. Patricia Moore made a motion to approve, Joshua Harms second the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Colonel Shwedo's Presentation:

- Colonel Shwedo thanked Margaret Gavin from the Fort Jackson Thrift Store for all their support. He presented Margaret Gavin, representative for the Fort Jackson Thrift Store with an award and a Post Coin for their dedicated service to the Fort Jackson Post family.
(Holly King thanked the Thrift Store for supporting "The Patriot Program" at the Fort Jackson Schools.
- Fort Jackson Post Theatre is opened for business and will offer a FREE SCREENING of the movie "Hot Tub Time Machine". The free screening of "Hot Tub Time Machine" will be on March 13, 2010 at 4:00 pm. You may pick up tickets at the Post Exchange.

5. Board President's Comments:

Holly King stated that the School Board is here to support the student's education and the teachers.

6. Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Ingram thanked the Board and Mrs. King for their leadership.
- She also thanked the staff, teachers, and parents for coming out to the School Board Meeting.
- Terra Nova Testing will take place March 8-12, 2010.
- All after school extracurricular activities are suspended until after testing.
- Extracurricular activities are not to go past 3:15 pm. Dr. Gibson will send out more information.
- Update on Priority List – Dr. Ingram will meet with officers of the board to review “Indicators of Success”. Progress Reports might be available in April.
- Give consistent message every time we are sharing information.
- Our way of sending that message will be through written communication.
- Dr. Ingram and Holly King – Informed everyone that there will be two (2) vacant seats on the School Board next year. On April 19, 2010 letters will go out announcing what the vacancies are on the Fort Jackson School Board. We will be accepting nomination letters up until April 30, at 3:15 (close of business). Parents may also pick up a Bio Sheet at that time. Please return the Bio Sheets by May 5. The Bio Sheets will then go to the Public Affairs Office for publication into the Leader newspaper.

7. Karen Padgett – Community Manager from Balfour Beatty

Karen Padgett – Reviewed Handout Booklet. (See Handout in School Board Binder)

- She discussed future housing projections. We have 450 homes occupied. Cliff Burgoyne stated that as of January we have around 441 children enrolled between the two (2) schools.
- She asked everyone to encouraged soldiers to consider living in Government Housing.
- Karen Padgett discussed the Community Center and all that it has to offer.
- Holly King asked Karen Padgett to let her know how the schools could partner with Balfour Beatty.
- Cliff Burgoyne made a statement about how having more students (116) will effect the next School year.
- The board will look into this and report back (in April) on how this will effect Teacher/Student ratio for next year.

8. Brian Perry (Pierce Terrace Principal)

- Brian Perry provided a slideshow presentation about Pierce Terrace's “Read Across America”.
- Pierce Terrace's celebration about Read Across America was a success.

9. Kate Burgoyne – Read Across America

- Melanie Mingay did an awesome job at Pinckney.
- A variety of guest readers were scheduled to read all week. They read in certain classrooms and in the Media Center. A student greeted each reader at the front door of the school and guided them to where they needed to go.
- Dave McDonald taught the students how to create a cartoon.
- Read Across America was a success at Pinckney.

10. Comments from the Audience

Parent Comment

Parent wants to know why teachers can not continue to stay after school to help tutor students any more.

Dr. Ingram stated that normally the Board do not address or respond to comments made, (After researching the Board will report back on comments at the next Board Meeting.).

Holly King asked that Dr. Ingram try to address this comment.

Dr. Ingram stated that some teachers volunteer to help students after school and some teachers are paid (EDA Extracurricular Duty Assignment) for after school programs and activities. In this case the Principal's concerns are that a time limit be placed on the teacher. All children should be out of the school building by 3:30 p.m.

Debbie Scobey, Union President, explained how the teacher staying to help a student after duty hour procedure should go. Teacher must have written permission for each child to participate and maintain a sign in roster. This will let everyone know what children are in the teacher's class.

Cliff Burgoyne tried to clarify the parent's question.

Dr. Ingram added that she will get with Debbie Scobey and Dr. Gibson to research this issue and that she encourages after school activities. She also stated that Pinckney's funding for after school programs was just reinstated therefore no after school programs will be taken away. After school activities will continue until the end of the school year.

Parent's concern is about the animals (dogs, cats, and deer) roaming around the housing area and children are getting ringworm.

School Board explained that they will not be able to answer that comment. It is a housing concern Karen Padgett, had already left the meeting so she could not address this comment.

Parent Comment

Parent provided the Board with a letter that stated, "After School Program's had been cancelled" the letter was signed by Dr. Gibson. (See Board Member for a copy of the letter)

Debbie Scobey tried to explain the difference between DoDEA and DDESS.

Parent Comments

Parent expressed concern about the stress level being placed on the children about the TerraNova test. Her daughter is so upset and scared about the test. (Parent became emotional for a moment) Her daughter is afraid that if she does not pass the TerraNova test she will not be promoted to 4th grade.

Dr. Ingram responded to Parent comment. TerraNova is not a part of the children's grades.

Parent asked if the school was announcing about TerraNova on the morning announcements. She also asked why is so much pressure being placed on it (TerraNova test)?

Dr. Ingram stated that there are some things that the teachers have been doing to prepare for the test.

Parent Comment

Parent asked about the disciplinary issues. Who is on the Disciplinary Board?

Parent Comment

We all need to act like adults and respect each other. Everyone is aggravated. There is animosity among the staff. In addition, a lack of communication. Everything is screwed up here! Parent stated that she hopes the school will get better.

Parent Comment

Recess is her concern. Recess is not organized very well. The movies shown are not age appropriate. Let the children go outside!

Parent Comment

Parent stated that some parents were told that staff can not speak with parents or their jobs will be in danger. As a parent volunteer, I would like for parents and staff to feel free to talk and communicate with each other.

Parent Comment

Parent stated that he agrees with Kate Burgoyne, that communication is the key. He also agreed with Dr. Ingram's statement about providing consistent information to everyone. The Board's job is to figure out what equals consistent information. Information must be given in a timely manner. How will we get the message or responses from this meeting? Are the methods and modes that are being addressed, for example about the after school programs and other stuff that needs to get to parents sent through internet, e-mail, or letters? What are the methods being used to communicate? This might help to relieve some of the tension and maybe some of the problems will go away.

Parent Comments

- When will the children that did not receive their Reading Counts award/metals during the program Reading Counts program that was in February receive them?
- What was the \$1400 spent on? Mrs. Fortier wants accountability for the awards and the money.
- Mrs. Fortier asked about our leadership. How could the after school programs be cut? How can we cut or curtail free programs and tutoring for after school. Are we losing sight of why we are here?

Parent Comments

- Pierce Terrace's lunch trays are not sturdy enough. They are too flimsy for the little children to carry their food.
- She is concerned about the way that Pierce Terrace lunch staff speaks to the children.
- Parent stated that teachers are special and are a gift from God. She thanked the teachers even though her son is home-schooled this year.

11. Adjournment

Holly King stated that the next School Board Meeting would be April 1, at 4:00 pm.

Cliff Burgoyne made a motion to adjourn board meeting, Joshua Harms second the motion. Holly King stated the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.