

Mini-Revolt: School started late this year, due to disastrous aftermath of the 4 storms endured during August and September. Gardens, livestock, fishing and homes were hit hard and tuition was not as critical as finding food.

When school did start in October teacher salaries were owed for several months of the previous year. Eventually, two months of the that salary was paid with some emergency funds from somewhere. In most schools, students were allowed to enroll with no registration fees paid, planning on money at harvest.

The extended dry season, strong winds, plus no money for seed to replant gardens left most without income or food. Small amounts of tuition have been paid by about half of students in all schools. No teacher salaries have been paid on La Gonave, except at Anse a Galets since school began.

Recently, I received a printout of emergency funds from Michigan Task Force for teacher salaries. \$25,000.00 was sent for the Petit Guave Circuit but none for La Gonave. I questioned that and was told La Gonave Circuit was to be included with t-Guave.

Last week, LG school directors were given checks and traveled to the bank in AAG to receive funds to pay teachers in 8 schools, minus AAG and the closed school at Mawatye . The amount they received would pay only one month. The teachers have received no pay for the 6 months of this school term.

Yesterday, we watched as teachers from the closed school at Mawatye joined the SAP teachers and went to school. Eventually, we heard loud cheering from the school and many students exited the school grounds. Some remained to play kick ball but most wandered away. The school director was seen walking around in the school yard and at the normal break time several teachers left.

Most teachers refused the one month salary in sousafilip and other communities and eventually all students with no tuition paid were sent home. The few teachers remaining (some had already been paid portions of salary as loans) met with students that were allowed to remain.

Only about 13% of students in SAP have purchased books for class. We paid over \$3000.00 for books to be sold to parents at discount. We have asked those books be given to teachers so students can complete assignments as books are checked out to them. Books remain in the "library."

In the six months we have witnessed food being served to students on only 5 occasions. We have met with directors o discuss funds for food but information is inconsistent and unsupported by the food superintendent. The food superintendent has asked us for \$700.00 US to repair the motorcycle he was given by Michigan Task Force several years ago to manage the food program.

At the meeting in Atlanta with GBGM, salaries and resolutions for this year were discussed and plans written. We are told none of those programs have been successfully addressed. The issue affects all schools, private, national and church. Protests will increase.

Shirley, LaGonave, 13 Friday 09