

## **MINUTES OF PTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 29 SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **Call to order and prayer**

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by President Mr. Nathaniel George. Mrs. Helen Francis said the opening prayer and Mr. George welcomed the parents, guardians and teachers.

### **Executive Committee members present**

Mr. N. George  
Mr. S. Cadette  
Mr. S. John  
Ms. J. Andre  
Mr. E. Xavier  
Ms. A. Austrie  
Mrs. J. Dublin  
Mrs. G. Bertrand  
Ms. A. Fontaine  
Ms. J. Bruney

### **Amendments to Agenda**

The agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting. Under the sub-heading 'New Business', one item was added: 'Gorgeous in Green'. Mr. Steve Joseph moved a motion to adopt the agenda as amended and Ms. Kimone Joseph seconded the motion.

### **Reading of minutes of last AGM, 1 October 2008**

The minutes of the last AGM were read. There were no amendments. Ms. Jessica Bruney moved a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. This was seconded by Ms. Roberta Allport.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

#### ***Raffles***

The problems associated with raffles were raised. These included safety concerns for girls selling the raffle sheets; the burden placed on parents to fill the sheets; lost sheets and the annoyance encountered when parents are asked to pay \$50 for lost sheets.

### **President's Report**

PTA President, Mr. Nathaniel George presented his report. He solicited strong support from the parents for compliance with the rules and regulations of the Convent High School. This stemmed from ongoing discussions at the PTA executive meetings. He challenged parents to answer the question: 'Why did you select the Convent High School for your daughter?' Mr. George elaborated on the four 'R's': Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness and Reliability." He summarized by reiterating the need for parental

involvement. The President thanked the members of the PTA Executive who served for the 2008-2009 academic year and commended the Principal and staff for an excellent job.

### **Principal's report for the Academic Year 2007 –2008**

The Principal, Mrs. Josephine Dublin, welcomed the parents and guardians and presented her report for the academic year 2008-2009. She thanked the members of the PTA executive for the service given the past year. Her report included the following areas.

#### ***School fees***

Written notification of the increase in school fees to \$525 per annum had been received from the Ministry of Education.

#### ***Security and expenditure***

Enclosure of the area east of the Auditorium had been done for security purposes. Vagrants and loiterers from the neighbourhood use the area for sleeping, smoking marijuana, bathing and washing clothes in the taps. Retrofitting of the ceiling at the front of Auditorium had been done. The cost of the project (\$75,000) was more than had been anticipated. Plans for constructing a lunch facility were shelved since this project would be very costly.

#### ***Staff turnover***

Nine teachers had left at the end of the last academic year (Ms. Lander, Ms. Grell, Ms. Nisha Durand, Ms. Netisha Durand, Ms. Burton, Ms. Emmanuel, Ms. Francis, Sr. Alcess and Mr. Richards. The new teachers employed were Misses K. George, D. Wilson, G. Eloi, S. Pascal, J. Joseph and R. Allport and A. Seaman. Also returning was a former member of staff, Ms. Dionne Durand.

#### ***Graduation***

75 students from a Form 5 population of 111 graduated at the last academic year. This included more than half the students of a 2-year remedial class.

#### ***Uniform***

Inappropriate wearing of the school uniform continued to be a problem. Particular mention was made of thick woolen type socks, stockings and coloured undergarments.

#### ***Colds and Flus***

Many students have to be sent home due to colds and flus. Parents and guardians were reminded to keep sick students at home to allow them to rest and recuperate as well as to reduce the spread of the viruses.

### ***Lunches***

Parents and guardians were asked to desist from handing lunches to students along the road. The aspect of safety was reiterated. If this was acceptable, then anyone, known or unknown to parents, could deliver items to students. Parents were asked to bring food items to the School's Office. The Principal informed the gathering that no passes would be issued for students to leave the school compound during lunch. This was another safety measure.

### ***Cell phones & safety***

The incidents involving the misuse of cell phones by students was cause for concern. Many students have 2 – 3 cell phones. Parents are generally unable to control the use of the phones by their daughters. Some students have received text messages and phone calls from individuals and they reply during class and at break. The sexually explicit nature of the text messages received, the times these texts and calls are made (i.e. late night and early morning), and the invitations for rendezvous were distinctly disturbing. Some students have been intercepted meeting male strangers in the Botanic Gardens. The school was contemplating a total ban on cell phones. Parents were reminded that phones should be inaudible and invisible.

### ***CSEC RESULTS June 2009***

CHS received a 94.4% overall pass rate in the CSEC examinations. 100 % passes were obtained in 12 subject areas: Biology, Chemistry, Electronic Document Preparation & Management (EDPM), English A, English B, French, Geography, Human & Social Biology) HSB, Information Technology General, Information Technology Technical, Physics and POB. Spanish and Math both received a pass rate of 97%; POA, 88%; Mathematics and History both received an 85% pass rate. Music received a 44% pass rate. Special mention was made of the English A results (81 students of the 111 obtained Grade 1) and HSB (24 of the 28 students obtained Grade 1). Among the top performers were: Kimberly Lawrence (valedictorian 2009) - 9 Grade 1's  
Emma Etherington - 8 Grade 1's & 1 Grade II  
Rochelle Joseph – 7 Grade 1's and 2 Grade II's

### ***CCSLC***

This examination is done at the end of third form. Government pays for the Math and English CCSLC. Integrated Science would be done in addition to English this year.

## Treasurer's Report 2009 – 2009

Mr. Cadette presented the treasurer's report.

Balance B/d	\$2937.65	
Passing of the hat	\$627.99	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3565.64</b>	
 <b><i>Creole Day Fundraiser</i></b>		
Parents' contributions	\$1250.00	
Admissions	\$1431.35	
Sales	\$2505.34	<b>\$5186.69</b>
 Less:		
Purchases & transportation	\$2265.78	
Security	\$241.56	<b>\$2507.34</b>
 <b>Profit</b>		 <b><u>\$2679.35</u></b>

## Unfinished Business

Work was ongoing on the SDP (school development plan).

## New Business

***Gorgeous in Green*** is carded for October 17. This is a semi-formal event organized by the school for Convent High School students and their friends.

***Creole Day*** activities for this year include the usual CHS pageant (talent, speech and creole wear) and sale of food and drinks. Donations from parents will be solicited.

## ***Homework diary/policy***

The introduction of the homework diary stemmed from the homework policy being developed at CHS. This policy is nearing completion and would be available online.

## ***Matters of grave concern***

Mr. George reiterated the potential danger of the cell phones and internet. He alerted parents that students can meet with predators via the internet.

Parents were also warned of the dangers of Emo, and asked to conduct research on this growing movement among young people, defined by the clothes, music and emotional status of the young person. Emo targets depressed youth who gravitate towards each other. Emo had infiltrated the student population.

## **AOB**

An appeal was made for payment of school fees.

The security of student passwords used for the SIS (Student Information Systems) was highlighted. Some students share their passwords with others.

The Principal expressed her disgust at the expense incurred by the school due to the toilet tanks being damaged when dirty sanitary napkins are placed inside the tank.

## **Elections**

Mr. N. George; Mr. S. Cadette; Ms. J. Andre; and Mr. D. Bobb consented to serve for another year on the PTA executive. Four other persons were needed. 7 persons volunteered to serve, namely: Mr. Alexander Stephenson; Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson; Mrs. Cecilia Vital; Ms. Jacinta David; Ms. Nazarene Gordon & Mr. John Robin. A motion was moved by Julietta Joseph that all volunteers be accepted and that the PTA constitution be amended to allow all seven to serve. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kimone Joseph. There was unanimous agreement from the floor.

Ms. R. Allport moved a motion for the ratification of the amendments to the constitution. This motion was seconded by Ms. Clara Charles.

## **Closing prayer**

The meeting ended with a prayer by Mr. Cadette at 6:15 p.m.

