

**Minutes of the CHS PTA AGM
held on 17 September 2013
St Alphonsus Parish Hall
Goodwill**

Call to Order and Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by the Mrs Janice Jean Jacques Thomas, President of the PTA. Mrs Jean Jacques Thomas welcomed all present especially the parents of the first forms to this meeting. She stated that with a good parent-school relationship children do succeed. The gathering was led in prayer by Mrs Marilyn Joseph, a parent.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated on a motion by Mrs Missy Henderson and seconded by Ms Nadia Riviere .

Reading and Confirmation of Minutes – 18 September 2012

The Minutes was read by Ms Isabella Prentice, Deputy Principal. On a motion by Ms Ellise Darwton and seconded by Ms Patricia Etienne the minutes was confirmed as read.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Reports

1. **Treasurer – Mr Patrick Fontaine**

Balance b/d	\$9 552.00
Collection	<u>553.91</u>
	\$10 105.91

Rental of Hall	\$150.00
Expenses	\$210.00

Balance \$9 955.91

2. President's Remarks – Mrs Janice Jean Jacques Thomas

Mrs Jean Jacques Thomas stated that the 2012-2013 academic year showed much promise as the PTA Executive was able to hold several meetings during the first and second terms. She highlighted some of the activities undertaken by the Executive.

3. Principal's Report – Mrs J Dublin

She started off by thanking Parents especially those of the new entrants. Mrs Dublin based her presentation on the areas within the School's Development Plan.

- (a) The school information system is 'live' parents can now log into to check on daughter's/ward's progress/fees etc. It is hoped that this would serve as a platform for parent/child dialogue.
- (b) The PTA Executive was much more active than the previous. More meetings were held and in some cases use was made of the technology to communicate among the executive members.

(c) The CSEC 2013 exams saw the school obtain a 96.4% pass rate. This should not mean that we must rest on our laurels and relax, the work must and should continue. Our academic prowess must be in tandem with the non-academic.

(d) Teachers have been urged to develop and use varying strategies in the execution of their work.

The Students in first form had been grouped whilst it was felt, based on grades that there was no need to group for mathematics.

More use is being made of the Homework Diary. Parents are inserting comments, which indicated that they are keeping up with what the student is doing.

In the 2011-2012 academic year, Wednesdays were set aside for student council meeting and other meetings of the school body. Thanks to Miss Seaman who served as Teacher monitor.

The school continued its teacher training especially for new entrants.

Know Your Faith Session continued for staff.

(e) School Climate – a concerted effort had been made to improve on the cleanliness of the school. The existing plant structure is aged, the youngest section was about 60 years.

Energies to be directed at replacing the frames of frames for windows and doors.

Students pay little or no attention to cleanliness appeal as they have said “people are paid, so they have to give them work to do”.

(f) The school's band and choir had been used on various occasions and these added to the celebrations.

(g) In 2012, the school started an experiment with the 3rd form Science and Foreign Language. Teachers reported that students chosen to pursue the Science subjects – physics, chemistry – performed much better. There was a greater willingness on their part to handle the challenges of the subjects. At the end of the academic year 47 out of 96 students chose physics; 45 out of 92 chose chemistry and they all meet the criteria. To ensure that students would be able to do the options of their choice in 2013-2014 year, the school used its ingenuity to accommodate in timetabling.

(h) Staffing – At the end of the 2012-2013 academic year the following teachers resigned and went on to pursue higher education.

Ms Albertina Alfred, Ms Gem Eloi, Ms Rochelle Joseph, Ms Daina Matthew.

They gave been replaced by:

Mr Jovan Peter, Ms Odessa Elie, Ms Teri Douglas, Mr Akim Ismael

(i) Charities Fund – the idea came out of a PTA AGM as parents felt that rather than asking on different occasions for contributions, a one-time amount should be paid and this be divided over the various causes the school undertakes in any academic year. To date the accounts stood at:

Balance	\$ 3 237.52
New money	<u>\$10 260.00</u>
	\$13 497.52

Paid out	<u>\$ 7 200.00</u>
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Balance	\$ 6 297.52
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Organisations who benefitted during the 2012-2013 academic year:

Grotto Home, Operation Youth Quake, Dominica Infirmery, Catholic Radio Station, Education Trust Fund, St Vincent de Paul Society, House of Hope.

4. CSEC/CCSLC 2012-2013 – Mr A McAulay
 - (a) CCSLC
French – 21 students sat the exams and received a 97% pass
Spanish – 15 students sat the exams with a 93.3% pass
 - (b) CSEC
2012-2013 academic year final results indicated a 96.4% pass rate and increase of 1.7% over the previous year.
23 students obtained 5 or more grades one, with the top performers being Jade Alexander, Alex-Maree Roberts – 10 ones
Mr McAulay asked parents to applaud the students on their outstanding performance.

5. Elections
There existed 3 vacancies on the executive as Mrs Janice Jean Jacques Thomas and Ms Nazarine Gordon are outgoing. Absent from the meeting was Mrs Kathy Robinson-Pond, Mr Mathias Peltier Jnr and Ms Jacinta David. The other members present indicated their willingness to continue to serve. The following persons volunteered and were nominated from the floor.
Mrs Kathleen Pascal, Mrs Glenda Irish, Mrs Heather Felix-Evans, Dr Griffin Benjamin.

The 2013-2014 Executive comprised
Mr Patrick Fontaine, Ms Vanessa Prevost, Mrs Sheba Belle, Mrs Elizabeth Robinson, Mrs Deborah Robin, Mrs Kathleen Pascal, Mrs Glenda Irish, Mrs Heather Felix-Evans, Dr Griffin Benjamin.

6. Any Other Business
 - (a) Breast Cancer – Ms Leandra Lander
As part of the feast of St Theresa in October 2013, the House decided to embark on a Breast Cancer Awareness Program. Activities to be undertaken.
 - (i) Health Fair at CHS – health practitioners invited to come in to talk and display information, treatment (s) and inform students and staff about Health and Wellness.
 - (ii) A concert had been scheduled to help cancer patients and survivors defray expenses.
 - (b) French Exchange - Mr J Grimner
There is a concerted effort to revive the French Exchange programme. Two school in Martinique and Guadeloupe have contacted Convent High and St Mary's Academy to facilitate the exchange. The French students are expected to be in Dominica in February 2014 and the Dominican students would go to Guadeloupe or Martinique in March 2014. The students involved will be hosted by families. Cost is estimated at \$400 to \$500 and a registration fee of \$50. There will be a limit of 12-15 students.
 - (c) Student Formal – Ms Prentice
The annual colour coded social for students had been set for 17 November 2013. Cost \$35 single \$65 per pair. Music by the Fanatik Band.

- (d) COR – Mrs Dublin
The first one for the 2013-2014 year has been set for October 4-6. More details would be given at the Parents meeting scheduled for 18 September.
- (e) Creole Day
This year as has been over the last 3 years, activities have been planned by the Music Department. The students will portray skills in simple musical instruments using local materials. There will also be a drumming competition, along with a Folk Song session. CHS is an All Girls School therefore, students are to dress as young ladies or girls. All rules of modesty apply on that day. For further guidelines parents can refer to the Students Manual.
- (f) E-readers
One parents made the suggestion that the school should use the funds collected from passing the Hat and PTA fundraiser to purchase e-readers for the students. The Principal agreed and undertook the mandate to investigate the possibility of getting those readers.
- (g) Mrs Dublin asked of the parents/guardians that if they are aware of any organisation/institution getting rid of refurbished/used computer, CHS is interested in obtaining these.

- 7. Passing the Hat
Amount collected, totalled \$650.59.

The meeting ended at 6:10 pm