

**Minutes of the CHS PTA AGM
held on 17 September 2014
St Alphonsus Parish Hall
Goodwill**

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by the PTA's President Mr Patrick Fontaine. Mr Fontaine welcomed all present - old and new parents of CHS Students. He stated that he was very happy to be associated with the School and that he could attest to the hard work that all stakeholders put in. The gathering was led in prayer by Mrs Debbie Jean Jacques, a parent.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated on a motion by Ms Patricia Etienne and seconded by Mrs Adina Bellot-Valentine.

READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of 17 September 2013

The minutes which had been circulated online was read by Ms Isabella Prentice. On a motion by Mr Cornell Phillip and seconded by Mr Simon Edwards, the minutes was confirmed as read.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS

(A) President - Mr Patrick Fontaine

1. Mr Fontaine stated that the executive continued to serve in an advisory role to the school, however, the challenges of getting a quorum to meeting still existed. He asked that persons make a special effort to attend meetings once they had agreed to serve on the executive.
2. The executive explored the sourcing of e-readers for the school and he guaranteed parents that as soon as this materialises parents will be notified. The executive had made a commitment to purchase one dozen e-readers.
3. He also stated that he was proud of the school especially considering the release of the CSEC results. Mr Fontaine asked teachers to stand to accept a standing ovation for their hard work. He pointed out that too often we are quick to criticise especially when things do not go as we wish, but are slow in applauding good effort.
4. Mr Fontaine also went on to state that he would like to commend the IT Department at the school as the online availability of information helped in the reduced outstanding school fees over the 2013-2014 academic year. He also congratulated that school in its efforts to source scholarships for needy students.

(B) Treasurer - presented by Mr Fontaine

Mr Fontaine presented on behalf of Mrs Kathleen Pascal who was ill.

Balance b/d	\$9955.91
collected	<u>\$659.59</u>
	\$10 606.50

Expenses	
Rental - Hall	\$250.00
Creole Day	
& Christmas concert	\$900.00

Balance	\$9456.50
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(C) Principal - Mrs Josephine Dublin

Mrs Dublin started off by commenting on how glad she was to see so many parents in attendance at the meeting, this was an indication of their interest in their students. She pointed out that since parents had no questions from the minutes her report will be based on activities within the minutes.

Mrs Dublin stated that last year's success was a collaboration by all. She also stated that last year was not a typical year as the 5th formers had a very short year. Mrs Dublin noted that the school's flexibility allowed it to manage the year.

IT Department

1. She pointed out that this department is the driving force of the school. Here, she publicly thanked Mr Michael Peter, the Systems Administrator for his untiring efforts to ensure that the school is at the cutting edge of technology. She noted that he is assisted by Mr Julius PAul and at times by Ms Natasha Nation.
2. Since the last PTA AGM much strides had been made with the Student Information System (SIS). The PTA Executive is now part of the school's e-domain. Google classroom is now being used hence the Homework Diary has become obsolete. At this point she asked parents for permission to redirect the funds of the Homework Diary for the maintenance of upgrade of the SIS. Parents voted unanimously to effect this change.
3. Mrs Dublin stated that in 2012-2013 Wednesdays had been set aside but as of last academic year Mondays have been set aside to be used for various co-curricular activities. She stated that as of this year, whenever the new academic year starts, Monday being the first day, the school commences it full academic timetable from the Tuesday.

Environment

She stated that this area is still a work in progress. She thanked the Environmental Club. She also stated that the windows of Forms 1-1 and 1-4 have been changed at a cost of approximately \$12 000. This process of changing the windows will be ongoing over a 2-year period. She promised that the school will attempt to put \$3000 aside per month to assist.

Mrs Dublin said that considering the expenses that are to be realised over a period, the school will be making a concerted effort to fundraise. One small way is through a 'small change' drive. All small change can be brought into office and placed in a piggy bank. Additionally the school hopes to tap in to one of the Church's Pontifical Association - Holy Childhood. After the windows have been replaced there will be an overhauling of classrooms - painting last done some 6 years ago.

Staffing

Ms Kiran Ettienne had gone on to further study whilst Ms Shannie Blanc had migrated. This year the school recruited - Ms Aisha Ernest, Ms Diane Charles, Mr Larenz Wiltshire and on a part time basis Ms Gailene John. Ms Valencia Webb and Ms Pearle Christian.

Charity Fund

Mrs Dublin promised to forward to all parents as soon as is available a complete report on the Fund. However figures to date

Charity fund balance	\$6297.52
Amount collected	\$10520.00

Breast Cancer & Health

This activity was spearheaded by St Theresa's House in October 2013. The Concert proved successful and \$3500 was made at the gate. \$1000 was given to a CHS parent and \$2500 was given to the Dominica Cancer Society.

Student Formal

The annual social took place last year and it appeared to be gaining in popularity. This year it will be held on 15th November.

COR

The first one is to be held 3rd - 5th October 2014.

Creole Day

The usual activities have been planned. Parents are to encourage their children to wear the creole outfits.

E-readers

This took some time as the school wanted to ensure an appropriate device would be purchased. The final decision is that the school will purchase fifteen Chromebooks. A young 13 year old British girl of Dominican ancestry [granddaughter of Winston & Sylvia Scotland] contributed US \$1000 towards this venture through a fundraising effort at her school.

Scholarships

1. Mrs and Mrs Winston & Sylvia Scotland have consented to provide 2 scholarships annually to students of the CHS - with a bias to the sciences. This academic year - 2014-2015 - Verena Lake and Celene Christopher are the recipients of the Scholarship.
 2. The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund - 5 scholarships valued at £650.
- The school is very happy for this assistance to students.

Additional Mathematics

Mrs Dublin also informed parents that this year students with an 90% or more in mathematics at the end of Form 3 had been invited to follow an Additional Mathematics course which would

better assist them with their college programmes. Most of the students responded in the affirmative. Interested students from Orion Academy and St Mary's Academy are also participating. The total number for this class stood at 12 students.

(D) Examinations 2013-2014 - Mr Andre McAulay

Mr McAulay gave the gathering a breakdown of the examination results.

CCSLC

French	19 Students	100%
Spanish	22 Students	100%

CSEC

This year's pass rate was 95.35% a 1% drop as compared to last year. He gave parents a total overview of the individual subjects as well as a listing of the 28 top achievers who scored 5 or more grade 1 at the exams. Mr McAulay went on to thank the school's benefactors, Board, Staff, parents and teachers for the great collaborative work which showed in the resulting dividends. All the information is available on the school's website.

ELECTIONS

Mr Fontaine informed parents that there existed 3 vacancies on the executive. He then invited Ms Prentice to conduct the elections. One parent - Mrs Wynant Adrien-Roberts - had volunteered her services prior to the meeting. The floor was opened for either nominations or volunteers. Two parents volunteered - Mrs Beverly Baron and Mr Ian Balthazar - and the gathering unanimously voted to accept the two rather than seek further nomination or volunteers.

The 2014-2015 PTA Executive comprised

Mr Patrick Fontaine, Ms Vanessa Prevost, Mrs Sheba Belle, Mrs. Wynant Adrien-Roberts, Mrs Deborah Robin, Mrs Kathleen Pascal, Mrs Glenda Irish, Mrs Heather Felix-Evans, Mr Ian Balthazar, Mrs Beverly Baron.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(A) Breast Cancer Awareness - Ms Lander

Ms Lander informed parents that this year the St Theresa House will again hold activities to heighten and create awareness of cancer. The 3 main activities are

- A House assembly
- Health Forum - this will allow for interaction among parents, students, cancer society and health practitioners through a Panel discussion.
- A Concert - mainly Fun and Fashion. The dress code being Pink. Proceeds from this will go to a staff member of CHS who is presently undergoing cancer treatment.
- Independence Activities - Ms Lander took the opportunity to inform parents that the school would again be taking part in the National Independence activities. This year the school has registered to participate in Creole song - Adult and Group; Creative Dance, Children Kont and Chorale Speech.

(B) Creole Day

Information will be sent out to parents later

(C) Student formal - Ms Prentice

This year's social is dubbed 'Blackout' tickets are available at school and price is \$35 single \$65 pair. No sale of tickets at the gate. Ms Prentice thanked Mr Cornell Phillip for partnering with the school over the past 6 years by providing the music. The event is scheduled to be held 15th November 2014.

(D) New Sport House - Mrs Dublin

Mrs Dublin informed the gathering that St Bahkita house will be launched in February 2015. This new addition is to facilitate the number of students and the ensure that students can adequately fit into classrooms for house meetings, as this proved challenging every year.

PASSING THE HAT

Total collected \$795.36

The meeting ended at 6:05 pm with the singing of the song 'Thanks thanks, we give you thanks'.