

*Minutes of the CHS PTA AGM
held on 7 October 2015
Convent High School Grounds
Roseau*

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by the Principal - Mrs Josephine Dublin. Mr Patrick Fontaine, the President, was unable to attend the meeting. The gathering was led in prayer by Mr Eldridge Xavier - the staff representative on the PTA.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as circulated on a motion by Mrs Anna Raffoul-Andre and seconded by Miss Isadora Charles - a parent.

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 Mrs Raffoul Andre and seconded by Ms Amanda Dejean, the minutes was confirmed as read.

MATTERS ARISING

Ms Prentice updated the gathering on a few areas:

(a) Windows - the minutes indicated that the rooms of 1-1 and 1-4 had windows replaced.

However, during the academic term the entire first form had been retrofitted with new windows and door frames.

(b) Cancer update - the CHS teacher is now in remission and is back at work.

(c) Staff update - Ms Kiran Etienne has completed her course of studies and is now back with the CHS

(d) the annual social was held on 14 November 2014. Dubbed "Blackout" .

(e) the school did make good on its promise and purchased the Chromebooks

(f) The Winston and Sylvia Scotland scholarships have been withdrawn. The donors are redirecting their efforts.

(g) Additional Maths - a few of the students dropped out, however, those who had remained would be doing the exam for at the 2015 CSEC exams year.

REPORTS

(A) In the absence of the President and Treasurer Mrs Dublin presented the Treasurer's report-

Balance b/d	\$9456.50
Amt collected	795.36
Expenses	1425.00
Balance	<u>\$ 9826.86</u>

(B) 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 apologized for the venue being used and informed parents that it was too costly to use the previous venue - St Alphonsus Parish Hall. Mrs Dublin pointed out that since parents had no questions from the minutes her report will be based on the 3 areas within the school's Development Plan, namely: Curriculum, Resources and Environment.

Curriculum

The school projected for an overall 75% pass rate in all subject areas and requested that teachers utilise a variety of strategies within the classroom. There was widespread use of online and digital resources. The Google classroom platform registered a 75% use. There was increase use of online test and quizzes

Several departments recognised a day or week of activities over the academic year. History, English, HFLE, Mathematics, Modern Languages; Music.

In the quest to increase student participation the school had previously set one day aside for meetings, such as the Student Council and Staff Meetings. Over the 2014-2015 academic year, it was still not possible to hold a number of meetings due to competing activities. The students who had benefitted for training were not able to practise their skills. Hence the impact of their training was not visible.

The Geography Department in its quest to improve the teaching and learning introduced an e-book. There was a resulting 90% pass rate in the subject due to the fact that students could repeatedly go over the work and displays.

Resources

The school provided training to staff in the areas of Google Classroom and the Student Information System (SIS). At the end of academic year, teachers asked for this to be continued. Despite this training less than 20% of teachers inputted grades in a timely fashion. The inputting errors were a result of the attempt to post all grades in one sitting.

Based on the past proposal to repair classroom windows 4 out of the 6 classrooms to be retrofitted were done.

Environment

Mrs Dublin stated that the Environmental Club focussed on recycling of plastic bottles. The duties of the cleaner and janitor were updated and the holders informed of the changes to their work schedule.

The Starlight Club programme continued, however a call was made for the use of student photo in the place of stars.

The school has and continued to use the services of Ms Valencia Webb to assist in its counselling programme. We are grateful to Ms Webb for this service.

As promised the school adopted "LIGHT" as its theme and was able to finally define each letter - L Leadership; I Intelligence; G Godliness; H Health; T Truth.

Appraisal was done for most staff members and no one appraised got a "Need Improvement" rating.

Mrs Dublin further went on to state that although Tropical Storm Erika, did not impact the physical plant - CHS - some of the students were. The school is grateful to past students, Christ the King High School [CKHS - Antigua] and Ernie Stoute for their financial assistance. In addition the CKHS, Ministry of Education, Josephine Gabriel and Co Ltd, Dominica Social Security and HHV Whitchurch & Co provided water to the school.

Staffing

The new additions to the school staff were introduced: Ms Kiran Etienne had returned from completing her Masters; Miss Amanda Lawrence, Mr Nicholas Goldberg and Ms Remilia White.

Mrs Dublin also informed the gathering that Mr McAulay and Ms Prentice had received scholarships from the Ministry of Education to pursue a Masters in Education Leadership and Management. She stated that she prayed they would make CHS proud.

She went on to thank the parents for showing up for the PTA in spite of the impending bad weather.

(C) Examinations 2014-2015 - Mr Andre McAulay

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

CCSLC

French	14 Students	100%
Spanish	7 Students	85.7%

CSEC

This year's pass rate was 98.3% - the highest pass rate in the last 5 years. A total of 74 5th Formers and 7 4th Formers sat the examinations. He gave parents a total overview of the individual subjects as well as a listing of the 20 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.

Mrs Dublin extended congratulations to parents stating that they too should be commended for their cooperation.

ELECTIONS

Mrs Dublin informed parents that there existed 3 vacancies on the executive - Mrs Wynant Adrien-Roberts [out of state]; Mrs Deborah Robin and Mr IAn Balthazar - no longer have daughters at the school. She then invited nominations or volunteers for the positions. Mrs Samantha Letang, Mrs Antonia Harris-Lindsay and Ms Amanda Dejean were nominated and seconded to fill in the positions

The 2014-2015 PTA Executive comprised

Mr Patrick Fontaine, Ms Vanessa Prevost, Mrs Sheba Belle, Mrs Samantha Letang, Mrs Antonia Harris-Lindsay, Mrs Kathleen Pascal, Mrs Glenda Irish, Mrs Heather Felix-Evans, Ms Amanda Dejean and Mrs Beverly Baron.

Term 1 Examinations

Due to the lingering effects of Tropical storm Erika the school took a decision to reduced the first term exams. Exams dates proposed were 4th to 11 December 2015. Parents were informed that any protracted illness during the exams needed a certified medical report.

Student Formal

The annual social was scheduled for 14 November 2015. This year's theme "Psychedelic in Purple" price is \$35 single \$65 pair. Ms Prentice thanked Mr Connell Phillip and Fanatik Band for their assistance.

COR

The first one is to be held 9 - 11 October 2015.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Creole Day - information will be sent once plans have been finalised

Sports Uniform - a parent asked why are the students still without their sport wear. Mrs Dublin informed the gathering that the local agent did not order in time. However as soon as the pants have been received they will be distributed.

One parents asked whether it was possible that the students not be allowed to take part in active sports during that period on account of sweating up the formal uniform.

Online work - one parent queried the timeliness of online homework. Mrs Dublin responded that the school was already looking at the situation.

Worldwide web usage - one parent asked whether the school had any policy to deal with profanity and pornography with the wide usage of tablets and cell phone. The parent was asked to refer to the school's Bring your own device and Acceptable Use policies. Both are available online.

The parent went on to ask about the school's policy on Gays and Lesbians. The gathering was informed that the school does not have any policy however the role of the school is to treat students equitably. Mrs Dublin further stated that no one child has more rights than the other. She asked parents to train their children properly, teach them to respect all persons and the school would continue the job of ensuring that we develop respectful citizens.

Progress report - there would be none this year on account of making up from the late start due to the Tropical storm.

PASSING THE HAT

Total collected \$785.

The meeting ended at 5:50 pm with the singing of the song 'Thanks thanks, we give you thanks'.