

Minutes of the PTA AGM October 15, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting began at 4.35 p.m. with a prayer led by Mrs. Sharon Rolle.

The Principal, Ms. Prentice, welcomed the parents and guardians and called upon Mrs. Harris to read the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. The minutes were read by Mrs. Harris. The Principal asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes; there were none.

The meeting was informed that the front gate had been motorized. This was an improvement as it was now easier to keep out the vagrants who had been coming in and fouling the school. However, she noted that one such person continued to find a way onto the school grounds, leaving his garbage around. But, other than that, the matter had been resolved.

The meeting was then informed of the changes in Staff that had occurred. Ms. Inoela Vital left to pursue studies overseas. Ms. Ashner Dejean and Ms. Jada O'Brien were the two new staff members.

PTA Executive

The meeting was informed that two members of the previous PTA Executive had left as their daughters had graduated, to wit: Mrs. Angelita Dover and Ms. Sherma John. Additionally, the President of the PTA Exec, Ms. Kathe Robinson, had migrated. Parents and guardians were invited to nominate new members. The following persons were nominated and accepted to serve:

Ms. Janice Hypolite

Ms. Beverly Baron

Mr. Patrick George

Mrs. Oyane Matthew Henderson

Ms. Narlie Bertrand

They were invited to come upstairs so that everyone could see them and were duly appointed to serve on the new Executive along with the existing members. So, the full Executive for this year is as follows:

Ms. Isabella Prentice (Principal)
Mr. Andre McAulay (Dep. Principal)
Mrs. Deborah Harris (Dep. Principal)
Ms. Nadette Williams (Staff Representative)
Ms. Stephanie Alexander
Mrs. Lydia Talbot
Ms. Lisa Valmond
Ms. Tamara Adams
Mr. Joseph Floissac
Ms. Cee-Ann Lafond
Deacon Jeffers Paul
Ms. Avril Coipel
Mrs. Sharon Rolle
Ms. Janice Hypolite
Mr. Patrick George
Mrs. Oyane Matthew Henderson
Ms. Beverly Baron
Ms. Narlie Bertrand

School Repairs

The repairs to the south and south-eastern blocks of the school were supposed to have started during the summer of 2019; however, due to certain bureaucratic matters, this did not happen. The administration had identified a new project manager as the previous one was out on medical leave. It was hoped that the repairs could now get underway. It would now cost \$600,000.00 to repair the “L”., which must be done properly so that plans could be made to demolish the older building. The Principal expressed the hope that the repairs would begin before the end of Term I and said that although we had the money to start and get half-way, we did not yet have the money to complete the project.

End of Term Activities

The meeting was informed that the end of term examinations would take place from 25th November to 3rd December and that the time tables had been sent out already. Parents were exhorted to help their students plan for the exams. They were reminded to ensure that their daughters' devices were fully charged at home as no charging would be allowed at school. First formers should not have cell phones and in any case, all cell phones must be invisible and inaudible. Term I's exams would be abridged; however, there would be full exams for the fifth formers in Term II and for the rest of the school in Term III. Students must be acquainted with the exam rules so that they would know what they could and could not bring into the exam room.

Term I would end on December 13th, 2019. Parents were reminded to ensure that all email addresses were correct, including those of the emergency contacts. Emails would be sent out to all email addresses on file therefore it was important to have correct information. Similarly, cell phone numbers must be valid so that the school could contact parents, especially considering that dengue fever was prevalent. Students should not contact parents themselves. Parents were reminded that if the students had cell phones and could contact them, then they could also contact others.

CSEC Results

Mr. McAulay was called upon to report on CSEC and related matters. Mr. McAulay introduced himself and firstly, spoke about the many students who were absent due to illness. Parents were reminded to inform the school as early as possible when their daughters were going to be absent, either by email or a phone call. They were further reminded that there was a difference between absent excused and absent ill.

The 2019 CSEC and CCSLC results were then presented. One hundred and one candidates - 100 females and 1 male - a music student, sat 19 subject areas. Eleven out of the nineteen subjects obtained a 100% pass rate. The overall pass rate was 92%. The top CSEC student was Junelle Vital, with 9 Grade Ones.

In the CCSLC exams, there was a 100% pass rate in both French and Spanish. 2019 would be the last year in which CHS would enter students for the CCSLC exams.

Any Other Business

The meeting was informed that recommendations for the CSEC exams 2020 were out and that fees would be due by November 7th or 8th. Parents paying fees would have to pay about \$500.00 to \$564.00. The Principal maintained that CHS had done well in the CSEC exams and commented that CHS was the only school to have a 75% pass rate in Maths.

Photos:

The Principal then introduced a parent, Mrs. Jina Alleyne, to come to speak to the parents about having school photos taken of their children. Mrs. Alleyne explained her offer to the parents, saying that both individual and class photos were available. The Company, Picture Perfect, was already associated with other schools and would give 10% of the money collected from the sale of the photos here to the Convent High School. Each interested student would get a form to be filled out. The photos would be taken from January 2020 and would be available by the end of the term.

Christ the King Festival:

The Christ the King Festival would be held on November 24th at a diocesan level. The Principal asked everyone to come in school uniform. Students would meet here and then go to the starting point. The school would be responsible for the students up to 4:30 p.m. The parents' support was solicited.

Kweyol Activities:

The Principal remarked that the excitement of Term I had already worn off for some students as they were already not doing their homework. In an effort to generate enthusiasm, CHS had organized a "Twin day" for the next day (Oct. 16th) and a "Pink day" for Friday 18th October. On Friday, the students would come to school in full uniform, except that they would be allowed to wear pink ribbons, wrist bands, badges etc. with their uniforms.

Cultural Performances:

Ms. Lander informed the meeting that Ms. Teen CHS would take place here at school on December 14th. Ms. Teen CHS would go on to represent the school at the Ms. Teen Dominica pageant.

UMOJA had planned a silent headphones party for December 20th. Students would listen to music on their headphones, thus, no music would be heard emanating from the school by the public. Ms. Lander went on to thank the parents of the students who participated in the Independence cultural events for their support. CHS had placed first in all 4 categories - the Creole Song group; Creole Song Individual; the Children's Conte and Children's Dance groups. The students would be performing at the Cultural Gala on November 4th.

5th Form Retreat:

The school was looking into organizing a retreat for the 5th formers in January 2020, to replace the COR retreat. Parents will be informed when plans have been finalized.

The hat was passed. \$269.45 was collected.

Final Questions:

A parent again raised the issue of the school repairs. The Principal said that hopefully, we would start with the south-eastern section. There was a challenge with the beam and it was anticipated that the repairs would cost \$800,000.00. The building across the road was also in need of repairs, but although the school had the windows, there was no money for the labour. The last PTA Executive had found the money for the doors for the 2nd forms, but there were no windows yet. The galvanized sheets for the 2nd forms had come in from Trinidad but there was also no money for labour to install them..

Another question was raised about the reason for dismissing the students at 12 o'clock. The Principal explained that, had the repairs started last summer, everyone would have had to be off the campus by 1.00 p.m. as work would have been done between 1.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. daily. However, the school would resume normal hours in January 2020.

Re "twin day", in response to a question about those who had no "twin", the Principal responded that something would have to be figured out for them.

There were no more questions so the Principal announced the end of the meeting. Deacon Jeffers Paul led the meeting in a closing prayer and song.

The meeting ended at 5.42 p.m.