

**Minutes of the CHS PTA AGM  
held on 18 September 2012  
St Alphonsus Parish Hall  
Goodwill**

**Call to Order and Prayer**

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 pm by the school's Principal, Mrs Dublin. The gathering was led in prayer by Ms Ellise Darwton, a parent.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the CHS School Band provided some musical entertainment for the parents.

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as circulated on a motion by Mr Steve Joseph and seconded by Mrs Maria Pascal.

**Reading and Confirmation of Minutes – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Minutes was read by Ms Isabella Prentice. On a motion moved by Mr Irvin Phillip and seconded by Mrs Adina Bellot-Valentine the minutes was confirmed as read.

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**Reports**

1. **Principal's**

Mrs Dublin informed the persons present that the 2011-2012 year proved challenging for the PTA Executive as it was difficult to hold meeting based on the inability to obtain a quorum. She called out the names of the Executive members. Mrs Dublin sought to obtain from those present at the meeting confirmation on their willingness to continue serving.

Present were:

Janice Jean Jacques-Thomas

Jacinta David

Nazarine Gordon

Elizabeth Robinson

Absent

Daryl Bobb

Alexander Stephenson

Nathaniel George

All those present indicated their willingness to continue serving.

**Service Groups**

The 2011-2012 academic year saw a wave of service groups springing up at the CHS. The groups were mainly class-based.

- (a) ***Perpetual Help Programme***  
The students formerly of Form 2-3 sought to provide breakfast to students who appeared to be having difficulties in having a breakfast before the start of the school day. This however, is now available to all students thanks to some generous parents and donors.
- (b) ***God's Big Little Helpers*** – Third Form students (originally Form 3-2) provided mentor-ship for student of the Roseau Primary School.
- (c) ***Waste management*** – Former 2-2 students who undertook to manage waste at CHS. The students had a structure for collection of paper, plastic etc.
- (d) ***Environmental Club***
- (e) ***Dance Club*** – appeared to be very popular among students. The Dance Club provides added impetus to CHS's celebrations.
- (f) ***Choral Speech*** - this group is under the direction of Ms Leandra Lander. The students were able to managed and persevered in Ms Landers absence.
- (g) ***Sign Language*** - this group had been newly formed
- (h) ***Sports programme*** – provided a varied array of activities from basketball to tennis.
- (i) ***Communication Club*** - this was now merged with the Writers' club. Students are involved in debates and essay writing.
- (j) ***Adventure Club*** – this club is more ad hoc as persons chose to participate in hikes or trips that interest them. There is no formal membership.

#### Student Council

Mrs Dublin stated that this is a critical area as it could assist students in leadership development. For the 2012-2013 academic year, Wednesdays had been set aside for council meetings from 1:30 – 3:00 pm on a monthly basis.

#### Bible Enthronement

This was part of the thrust within our Diocese and all Catholic schools were asked to participate. It was felt that in order to assist in the holistic development of students, some emphasis should be placed on the spiritual component of education. At CHS, on any given day the Bible is open to the prescribed reading of the day.

#### Youth Rally 2011

The students who were not representing the school or formed part of some uniformed group; went to the rally as a school body. From all reports, the level of discipline displayed by CHS students was exemplary. However, the school apologised for not dismissing student at 12 noon as had been promised to parents, due to the length of the day's programme.

#### Test Cricket

The school received a few tickets to attend the game and a few students were selected. Reports received indicated again the exemplary behaviour displayed by CHS students.

### Subject Department Activities

During the 2011-2012 year, most departments at CHS celebrated either a week or a day:

Those who held week long activities were:

- i. *English language* – Literacy Week
- ii. *History* – History Week and all students will forever remember performances by Chubby, Sonia Lloyd and Lawrence Brumant.
- iii. *Geography* – Geography Week: focus was on Mapwork and included a tour of Dominica at the end of the week.
- iv. *HFLE* – HFLE week

Whilst others who simply had one day were

- i. *Modern Languages* with French and Spanish days
- ii. Career Day
- iii. *Music* – Drumming competition and 3<sup>rd</sup> Form Calypso
- iv. World Respect Life Day – usually celebrated along with St Agnes House Feast.
- v. *Mathematics* – Pi Day. This also saw the painting of a part of the school with a display of Mathematical Formulae. Much thanks to the Mathematics Department headed by Ms Bannis and all firms who sponsored the day.

Other Co-curricular activities included

- i. U15 Netball competition – organised and sponsored by CHS, for secondary schools in Roseau.
- ii. Each sport House celebrated its Feast Day

### CSEC and CCSLC 2012

Mr McAulay was invited to present this report to the Parents. He stated that CHS obtained a 94.7% at CSEC with 12 or more subject obtaining 100 % passes as compared to 10 in 2011. Additionally all 109 students were entered to do the mathematics exams and the school recorded a 79% pass in that subject. The top CHS student was Leah Doods with 10 grade ones. He implored parents to provide as much support as possible for the students. Mr McAulay asked all staff to stand and take a bow for their hard work.

At CCSLC, students were only entered for French and Spanish. The school obtained a 97% pass rate.

### Subject Options

Mrs Dublin pointed out to parents that she had already received information that 5<sup>th</sup> Formers had been slacking off on homework. She also indicated to parents that the school experimented with English and Maths by having students of Forms 1 and 2 be set into groups based on ability level. The results of the Ministry of Education Literacy and Numeracy test grades were used to place students. This was to give students a fair chance and improve on their ability level.

It was also stated that over the years there had been a call for reducing on the number of Subject options available at the Form 3 level. Effective from the 2012-2013 academic year, Form 3 students were afforded the opportunity of a reduced number of subject options. All students will be allowed to pursue Biology, and **ONE** Foreign Language rather than the traditional two. Additionally, based on maths grades, some students had been selected to pursue Physics and Chemistry. It means therefore that rather than everyone doing 17 subject courses 1/3 of students based on their Form 2 grades would be pursuing less than 15 subjects.

### Student Information System (SIS)

A call was made for parents to make adequate use of the school's website. Much information may be found there. The school is however, attempting to materialise its dream of having a 'live' portal of the parent's site. This would mean that parents would be able to track students grades, discipline, attendance and the financial status with the school. One firm has given some money, however, any interested person or firm may contribute to ensure that this comes to fruition.

### Gifts

Mrs Dublin highlighted some gifts received during the academic year

- (a) band instruments from a Canadian couple
- (b) cash donation from the graduating class of 1987
- (c) Laptop from Ms Esther Scotland – then Manager of Bank of Nova Scotia Roseau Branch
- (d) NCCU – funds to commence trial 'live' parent portal of the SIS
- (e) many firms who have assisted over the year namely: Jays Ltd, Burtons & Co, Archipelago trading among the many firms.

She also noted that the Geography Association of UK, sponsored all expenses for Ms Prentice to attend their conference in Manchester in April 2012.

### Uniform

A call was made to parents, that they are to ensure that students are well attired for school. The uniform should be worn with much pride.

### Fees

This is an area of much concern. Some persons are paying fees very late. The school has to pay its electricity, water, telephone bills among many. The school appears to be managing simply because, it is stretching the limited resources it has. In order to manage the fee collection, effective 2012-2013 year, the instalments are such: first \$200, second \$225 and third \$125. From the government, the school receives an amount which covers teachers' salary as well as \$45 per annum per child.

### Punctuality

Parents were urged to ensure that child/ward was on time for school.

### Respect

It is very apparent now that children do not want to respect adults, although we encouraged children to be assertive, this does not mean they are to be rude. In this vein parents are urged to keep check of their child/ward to ensure that they learn to be respectful, not only face to face but also on the social media such as Facebook.

### Curriculum

CHS offers an extra hour per week in subjects such as mathematics, accounts and sciences. There are gratis, however, there is the evening programme which students may wish to pursue where they attempt a subject not pursued in their regular day. These courses carry a fee. Areas are Business, Accounts, Geography, HSB, ICT, EDPM.

### Staff

Mrs Dublin informed of the changes in the academic staff for 2012-2013. She asked the new staff members to stand as they were each introduced to the PTA:

Ms Sherena Christmas

Ms Tishena Lloyd

Mrs Deborah Harris

Ms Patricia Emanuel

Ms Leandra Lander

Sr Alces Williams

Ms Kimora Hamilton (substitute for Mrs Tyrelly Fabien who is out on Maternity Leave)

### 2. **Treasurer**

This was presented by Mr McAulay

General Fund balance as at July 2012           \$9552.00

#### Charities Fund:

Receipts       \$9906.00

Expenditure   \$6687.48

Balance       \$3237.52

#### Cahdene Edmund Fund

Receipts       \$3552.45

Payments      \$2550.00

Balance       \$1052.45 – A cheque for this balance to be given to her parents.

Mrs Dublin informed the PTA that from the \$3237.52 balance on the Charities Fund, it had been decided that the school donate \$1000.00 to a teacher whose son needed a kidney transplant.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Election

Mrs Dublin indicated the difficulties experienced with the 2011-2012 Executive. She stated that it proved very difficult to get a quorum hence the executive was not effective during the past academic year. No meeting could be held on account of this hence the absence of the Executive report. Of the 10 serving members of the 2011-2012 academic year, 3 members were absent at the PTA. The other members present all indicated willingness to continue serving, whilst 3 were outgoing. The meeting proposed and agreed that the position of the three absent members would be made vacant.

The floor was then opened for nominations to fill in the six existing vacancies.

There was one nomination received prior to the meeting, that of Mrs Deborah Robin.

Nominations from the Floor and number of votes received were: [*Persons voted by show of hands*]

Mrs Deborah Robin	94
Nr Patrick Fontaine	148
Mrs Sheba Bell	114
Ms Evadney Lawrence	51
Ms Vanessa Prevost	113

Ms Dinnia Joseph	52
Mrs Kathy Robinson-Pond	110
Mr Mathias Peltier Jnr	160

The following persons were all duly elected:

Mrs Deborah Robin  
 Mr Patrick Fontaine  
 Mrs Sheba Bell  
 Ms Vanessa Prevost  
 Mrs Kathy Robinson-Pond  
 Mr Mathias Peltier Jnr

The parent representation on the Executive for 2012-2013 were:

Janice Jean Jacques-Thomas  
 Jacinta David  
 Nazarine Gordon  
 Elizabeth Robinson  
 Mrs Deborah Robin  
 Mr Patrick Fontaine  
 Mrs Sheba Bell  
 Ms Vanessa Prevost  
 Mrs Kathy Robinson-Pond  
 Mr Mathias Peltier Jnr

2. Creole Day 2012  
 Same format as in 2011. Regular classes up to noon followed by a drumming competition, managed by the Music Department.
3. Blazing in Blue  
 Presented by Ms Audris Jno Baptiste.  
 Annual colour-coded student social, carded for 17 November 2012 at CHS from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. Music by the Fanatik Band. Semi Formal Affair.
4. 155 Anniversary
  - (a) Mother-Daughter Pageant  
 carded for May 11, 2013 at the Arawk House of Culture. Ms Lander gave details. It is expected that there will be 4 rounds – talent, evening wear, question and answer, coordinated casual wear.  
 Registration will be available from 25 September 2012.
  - (b) Banquet  
 Much had been done since the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for students. Focus is now on old girls hence it was proposed that a banquet be organised on February 2. Details to be given later.
5. School Material  
 Mrs Dublin apologised to parents of Form 1 and new entrants for non availability of Religion

text and Bibles. She also informed the PTA of the slight difficulty with the sports pants. She told parents that some of the pants were too big hence the school had to place a new order. It was expected that the new order would be received by the end of September 2012. As soon as they are received the students would have them.

6. Dates

- i. COR Retreats October 12 – 14 and November 9-11 2012.
- ii. First term exams commence 26 November 2012
- iii. Report cards 16 December 2012 – to be collected by parent/guardian or a responsible adult with a note from the parent.

**Any Other Business**

- i. One parent asked for the daily Canteen Lunch Menu – varies daily[ provision, rice, macaroni and cheese, baked or stew chicken, fish (mainly during lent), potato salad or scalloped potatoes, peleau.
- ii. One parent was concerned about the weight of bag students were carrying – parent expressed she asked whether it was necessary to carry all the text books needed per subject. Mrs Dublin promised to talk to teachers especially of the first form, so that they would indicate to students which books should be brought and when.
- iii. Seating area for students – one parent was concerned and asked whether it was possible for school and or parents to raise funds to build seats for students. Mrs Dublin welcomed the suggestion but indicated that the students prefer to put their bags on the chairs and themselves sit on the floor. She then thanked class 1987 for their financial contribution and told them it went into the paved walkway/driveway at the back of the school. The money covered only 25% of the cost.

Mrs Missy Henderson took the opportunity to thank the principal and staff of CHS for the work being done. She stated that although as parents they may appear to not be in support sometimes, they are still grateful for all that had been done.

**Passing the Hat**

Amount raised from parents contribution at the meeting totalled \$553.91

The meeting ended at 6:54 pm on a motion by Mrs Carlene Richards and seconded by Mrs Pastora Mills.