



MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING - Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Jessie Ripoll Primary Monday, 11 March 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Constantine Martin, President at 5:25 p.m. Prayer was said by Mrs. McDuffus.

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Martin welcomed all to the meeting and commended parents/guardians/teachers on the turnout.

The minutes of meeting dated 11 February 2013 were confirmed without amendment by Mr. Norman Baxter and seconded by Ms. Cheryl Thomas.

In opening Mr. Martin referred to the incident on Thursday, 28 February in which chemical fumes emitted in the vicinity of the school resulted in the suspension of classes and early dismissal of school. Notices he pointed out were dispatched timely via the school's website, radio, School Messaging Service (SMS) and posted on the Facebook page of the Jessie Ripoll Primary Alumni Association. This resulted in a short turnaround time from parents being notified to pick up and the ultimate evacuation of the school compound. Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Acting Principal, highlighted the importance of the SMS in such an occurrence and with the service still being offered, she urged parents to sign up at a prorated cost of \$220 (one number) and \$150 to add an additional number.

Sports Day – Sports Day 2013 was a success. Parents supported their children and the students enjoyed the day. Of particular mention was one of the highlights – the PTA/teacher race. Special mention was made of the Champion Boy, Marque Johnson and Champion girl, Ashanti Morris. Parents who were to be presented with medals won for respective parent races were absent for the presentation.

PRESENTATION - Jessie Ripoll Primary Alumni Association (JRPAA)

Motto - Continuing to Excel (jrpaa@gmail.com)

Mr. Joneil Alcock, President, thanked the PTA for the invitation and shared a wealth of information re the inception and objectives of the alumni association.

With the continued positive growth of Jessie Ripoll Primary, the Alumni Association was formed in November 2010 to consolidate a relationship between past students and the school. The aim of the group is to improve the school's standard, continue the legacy as it was imparted and to execute projects to better the life of the school community.

The objectives are:

- ✓ Establish a family relationship with students of Jessie Ripoll and members of the JRPAA
- ✓ Contribute to the advancement of the school's infrastructure, teachers' and students' welfare and the school's extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Aid in the improvement of the welfare of the JRPAA

He shared that since inception the alumni has been very active. Donations have been made to the St. Peter Claver Library, presentation of book vouchers to students; participation in devotions, involvement in mentorship programmes and the various school-based committees, etc. The highlight of the year for the Association is **Alumni Day which will be Friday, 10 May**. This involves past students giving back to Jessie Ripoll for the entire day by conducting devotions, relieve teachers of classes, impart life lessons, give talks (motivational/career) and arrange fun activities throughout the day.

Dates to note - 25 April (general meeting); **10 May (Alumni Day)**; 30 May (general mtg)

He encouraged parents who are past students to support the alumni and visit the group on Facebook. Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Alcock and asked parents to share the information received with past students and in particular to parents who are past students.

EFFECTIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS - Mr. Raymond Lopez, 391-3976/468-2111

With the general public seeking to reduce energy consumption and ultimately their electricity bill, Effective Energy Solutions offers an energy saving programme which would train, develop and implement sustainable energy management practices for homes and offices. Mr. Lopez shared that in his line of work he recognized that persons wanted to lower their electricity bill and they frequently questioned the authenticity of bills received for their premises. However, the solution he charged was simple - learn how to read the meter and track the usage over the billing period and implement cost savings measures. He stressed that it was imperative to verify the reading of the meter and ensure that it corresponds with the actual bill. In order for homeowners to achieve their desired electricity consumption goal, he directed the meeting to the website -- mypoweraudit.com -- which assist in monitoring usage by providing the customer with the ability to calculate electricity bill anytime to compare to actual bill and monitor consumption over time to ascertain if further cut back is necessary (Cost for service: \$2,500 per year to access the website)

He shared that it was unnecessary for a number equipment/appliance to run 24 hours. There are significant savings when the number of operating hours per day is reduced and would result in savings of over 20 per cent per billing period. He introduced a timer (Cost \$3,500) which could be used to manage a break in operation of an equipment/appliance. It would be programmed to turn off the equipment/appliance

without any intervention. With the purchase of this timer, buyers would receive a nine month warranty and one year free access to mypoweraudit.com. A parent questioned how long he recommended that an equipment/appliance could be off. In his response, he stated the 'off period' would be customized/adjusted to the environment and as such he recommends a home audit, (Cost - \$2,950) which would assess the home environment for waste, educate the homeowner on how much money each equipment/appliance contributes to the electricity bill per hour and make recommendations. In addition to the monitoring of usage and the timer, he recommended fluorescent bulbs over LEDs and reminded parents to unplug or turn off equipment/appliance when not in use.

UPDATE – Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Acting Principal

Following the presentation by Mr. Lopez, Effective Energy Solutions, Mrs. Detry Fogah shared her energy conservation methods at home. She practices to unplug appliance/equipment that is unnecessary to keep on when not in use. She added that with the challenging economic times, persons should be disciplined and make an effort to unplug items when not in use and change bulbs to fluorescent; this she said can be done over time.

Regarding the presentation by Mr. Alcock, President, Jessie Ripoll Primary Alumni Association she shared that past students overseas and abroad are supporting the Alumni and others should make an effort to support the vision of the JRPAA. The alumni have continued to support needy children and remain directly involved by having a representative on every committee within the school. She pointed out that the Alumni had in a previous year made a timely presentation of a book voucher to student who got news afterwards that fire blazed her home.

During the week 04 – 11 March, an Inspector from the Public Health Department visited the school. The bathrooms were inspected and the newly renovated Grade 1 bathrooms were stated to be in need of repairs and as a consequence the school was marked down. It was noted that the newly installed seats from the toilets were torn off and were used to play football. It was pointed out to the Inspector that the tank tops were changed to wooden tops. The inspector questioned the reason and was told that students would stand on the tanks as well as pass faeces and also passed urine in the shower. The final mark as given by the Public Health Department was 89/100. Mrs. Detry Fogah asked for assistance from the parents to curtail such behaviours.

Class Meetings – Meetings began with the GSAT students and parents were reminded that repeat would be facilitated. Parents who were spoken to directly did follow instructions and took action; therefore, the necessary provisions were made for those students. She also met with parents of grade 4 in particular students who failed the supplemental and would be required to redo the exam. If the students fail the exam again, he/she would not be able to sit the GSAT.

Disciplinary Issues - The teacher of 5S has been experiencing problems with students and as a consequence parents were called in to a meeting in the presence of the Community

Police. An incident occurred in which the teacher left the desk to check individual classwork and on return, money from a pouch was missing. The Community Police will be returning on Wednesday, 13 March to continue the talk with the class.

Mrs. Detry Fogah recalled an owner of a bike who sent a message for the return of items stolen from his bike or else action might be taken. She asked that parents teach children to be aware of the company they keep and check the school bags regularly. Another incident involved students who beat up other students because they requested money and did not receive it. These students however were suspended and referred to the Behavior Modification Programme.

Sports Day - She thanked parents who supported the event and sponsored individual races.

Gibson Relays – Students of Jessie Ripoll participated in the Gibson Relays and performed commendably.

Tennis Jamaica – As part of Tennis Jamaica’s development programme they aim to get tennis back in schools and are eager to add Jessie to that programme. For a period they carried out a number of sessions at Jessie. They are currently seeking sponsors to pay an individual who will be at the school to execute the programme. Further updates will be provided.

The Jamaica Golf Association – A representative visited and is interested in instituting a programme at Jessie. Involvement in the programme requires that the behavior and academics of student be good so that the child would already be disciplined/equipped to participate in events.

Container for Visual Arts Department – The City Engineer, Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation visited the school to inspect the site to house the container. The project has received the final approval. The area will be leveled and the plinth built to accommodate the container. She asked for parents to be patient with the process.

Movie -- ‘Chrissy’ – This is an inspirational movie about bullying, which was filmed in Barbados and directed by a Jamaican. The movie she shared would be helpful as bullies are in Jessie Ripoll -- even in Grade 1. Further details would be provided on confirmation with the movie theater, transportation company etc.

Sports Fiesta – Tentatively set for April 2013. There will be competitions for students, parents and teachers; namely, netball, football, etc. The event culminates with a Family Games Night.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Prince Benbow and seconded by Mr. Christopher Samuels. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. with prayer by Mr. Tyrone Edwards.