



MINUTES
GENERAL MEETING - Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Jessie Ripoll Primary
Monday, May 11, 2015

Present were: 226 Parents (Please see attendance register)

Grade One	41
Grade Two	38
Grade Three	36
Grade Four	34
Grade Five`	36
Grade Six	41

CHILD'S MONTH celebrated under the theme, "Children's Safety and Security - Our Priority".

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by Mr. Constantine Martin, President. He led the devotion with songs that focused mainly on the children. Prayer was offered by Mr. Lesbourn Domas, a parent of Jessie.

Welcome & Apology:

Mr. Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed gratitude to the parents for making the time to come out to meetings. He apologized to the parents for the technical issues with the P.A system and advised that they were working to correct same shortly. He also used the opportunity to urge the parents to support the tag drive being conducted to purchase a new P.A. system. He said the present situation does not look good on the P.T.A and the school.

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no correction or observation hence the minutes were confirmed by Ms. Kadian Pryce and seconded by Ms. Michelle Cunningham.

PRESENTATION

There were two dance presentations from both The Jessie Ripoll Dancers and The Alpha Infant Dancers. Both items were well received by parents and visitors that were present.

- **Digicel**

Ms. Sandra Thomas, a Sale Representative from Digicel, made a presentation to the meeting on the Internet modem being offered by Digicel. She told the meeting that if they visited her table at the end of the meeting they could capitalize on specials that were being offered to parents.

- **Guardian Life**

Mrs. Detry Fogah was asked to introduce Mr. Kenneth Dacosta, a Sales Advisor of Guardian Life. She said he was asked to come and speak to the parents on the matter of insurance at the school. She urged parents to ask him the necessary questions as from time to time persons visit her office to make queries and she might not be able to provide the appropriate answers.

Mr. Dacosta spoke to parents about the student personal accident plan available at Guardian Life. He outlined the benefits of the plan and how one can access these benefits where possible. He said the plan is available to all students at the school and benefits are payable to beneficiaries for the loss of or serious injuries to limbs caused by accidents. He said an amount of approximately three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) will be paid for death caused by accident. He continued to state that if the child loses a limb or limbs then a percentage will be paid out. He said a schedule is set in the policy for payment of losses occurring by accident. He stressed that the losses must be as a result of an accident. He told the meeting the policy also covers optical and dental. He spoke to a deductible amount that must be covered by the parent. He then invited questions from the parents. Some of the questions fielded were:

1. "What are the places that the policy covers the child?"
 - The plan does not only cover the child at school.
2. "What is the deductible amount?"
 - The present deductible amount is twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).

He reminded the parents that for any claim to be honored by the company the injuries must be as a result of an accident. He told the meeting that the policy gives a definition for what is termed as an 'accident'.

Mr. Dacosta ended by giving his contact details, which are: 779-3054 or 577-6161.

- A presentation was done by the Speech and Drama Group. They did a piece entitled 'Youths' that was written by Ms. Yanique Berlin, Dance Teacher at the school. This item was also well received by the parents. Ms. Berlin was then introduced to the parents by Mr. Martin who informed them that Ms. Berlin was the one responsible for both the dance and speech pieces done by the Jessie students.

- **Guest Speaker - CISOCA**

Mr. Martin apologized for the absence of Superintendent Enid Ross-Stewart, Head of The *Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA)*, who was to have been the Guest Speaker. In the Superintendent's absence, Inspector Elaine Jeffrey Henderson, also from CISOCA, was introduced. She gave an overview of the responsibilities of CISOCA. She told the meeting that CISOCA was formerly called the Rape Unit. This unit is a branch of The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). She reminded parents of their responsibility to keep their children safe and free from abuse. She urged parents to report any known cases of abuse. She also highlighted to parents

how they can know when a child is being physically or sexually abused. She also invited questions from the parents. Parents showed keen interest and were very receptive.

The vote of thanks, in the form of a presentation of an appreciation gift basket, to Insp. Elaine Jeffery Henderson was done by Mrs. Alicia Nelson Patterson, also a parent of Jessie.

UPDATE – Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Principal

Mrs. Detry Fogah told the meeting that last week was a very hectic week for the staff. She said that on Monday, May 04, they accommodated a team visiting from Canada. The team came to renovate the library. They were accompanied by the Canadian High Commission along with Member of Parliament, the Honorable Julian Robinson. She said the team spent the entire week working on the library.

She continued by stating that on Tuesday, May 05, which was Read Across Jamaica Day, the school was visited by the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic. He came and read to the students.

She said on Wednesday, May 06, Teachers' Day, the teachers were treated to a luncheon courtesy of the P.T.A.

On Thursday, May 07 the school welcomed thirty visitors from Latin America.

She thanked the volunteers who assisted the visitors who were doing the renovation work on the library.

She told the meeting that the process for the selection of new students was complete. She reminded parents that there are only three (3) Grade Ones and therefore not all application can be accepted.

Mrs. Detry Fogah told the meeting that twenty (20) students and two (2) teachers attended the May Day function at the Alpha Boys School.

She also told the meeting that the school was presented with a cheque of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) by the Jamaica Constabulary Force's Community Safety and Security Unit. The money will be used for the establishment of a Computer Lab. This Lab will be mainly for students with behavioural challenges.

Mrs. Detry Fogah informed the parents that the date for graduation has been changed to June 24, 2015. She said that this is because the date for the Grade Four Literacy Test has been changed.

She told parents that the Math Expo is on Friday, May 29, 2015. She urged parents to come out and view the exhibits.

The principal also informed parents that they can come in tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12, to pick up their children's report, between 8:00am and 2:00pm

Mr. Leo Byfield, a parent, asked a question of the Principal. He asked about the selection of student for the Science Expo that Mrs. Detry Fogah spoke of earlier.

Mrs. Detry Fogah explained the process of selecting the students. She also informed him that this was not the first time that Jessie entered the Science Expo, but the first for this age group.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was moved by Mrs. Sharon Brown Hamilton. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m. followed by the National Anthem.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2015.