



AGENDA

General Meeting - Jessie Ripoll Primary School PTA

Monday, 10th March 2014

1. Call to Order and Prayer

2. Welcome and Apologies

3. Review of Minutes of Meeting dated 10th February 2014

4. Update
 - ✓ Mr. Constantine Martin, PTA President

5. Speakers
 - Ms. Nordia Vassell, Health Promotion Coordinator, Ministry of Education
 - Mr. Trevor Myers, Eyelite Optical

6. Report
 - ✓ Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Acting Principal

7. Adjournment

MINUTES
GENERAL MEETING - Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Jessie Ripoll Primary
Monday, 10th February 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Constantine Martin, President at 5:20 p.m. with prayer by Ms. Lisa Bennett.

WELCOME AND REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. Martin welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes of meeting dated 13th January 2014 were confirmed without amendment by Ms. Michelle Eunis and seconded by Ms. Dawn Thompson. Parents interested in receiving a copy of the minutes of meetings were directed to forward an email request to jessiepta@yahoo.com.

PTA website: This is currently under construction. However, as soon as the process is complete parents would be advised.

Sports Day: Tuesday, 03 and 04 March 2014. Volunteers would be needed. Interested persons should speak to a PTA representative.

Culture Day: Friday, 28th February, 2014.

PRESENTATION

In recognition of Reggae Month and Culture Day, an invitation was extended to the team from the Programmes Coordination Division (Junior Centre), A Division of Institute of Jamaica (IOJ) which is an Agency of the Ministry of Youth and Culture. The primary mission of the Centre is to provide the facilities for young people to acquire knowledge, develop skills in the various art forms so as to foster their intellectual, aesthetic and cultural growth.

The Programme Outreach Manager, Mrs. Nicole Patrick Shaw informed that her role is to develop, implement and coordinate programmes at the centre, annual programmes/functions hosted by the IOJ as well as Community and Outreach Programmes. Locations: East Street Junior Centre, 10-16 East Street, Kingston and Greater Portmore Junior Centre, Beside Greater Portmore Post Office.

She shared that the Institute of Jamaica was established in 1879 and has developed as a significant cultural, artistic and scientific organization in the country. In 1940, a Junior Centre was opened at East Street and was the first lending library for children in Jamaica and an Exhibition Centre for Jamaica artists. Junior Centre (Unlocking Potential ... Transforming Lives) has become a safe place where children between the ages 6-18 can develop their creative skills and are exposed to cultural and moral values via various art forms.

Continuing, she reiterated that there are currently two centres that are accessible to the youth: Greater Portmore and East Street. At these centres, students have a chance to participate in Art and Craft, Speech and Drama, Dance, Music, Storytelling, Papermaking, Needlework, Reading, Sign Language, Heritage Fun Time, Computer Studies, Personal Development. Also, she added that students garner exposure by engaging the wider cultural hemisphere. The centre has submitted entries in various competitions such as the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) Visual and Performing Arts Competitions which allow the youths to not only display and be recognized for their talents and skills but also to view and appreciate the capabilities of others.

There are three programmes held at the Centres. Namely, After-school, Saturday and Summer Programmes. She highlighted that the summer workshop was generally held for three to four weeks annually in the month of July.

At this juncture, the Junior Centre Drummers and their Tutor, Mr. Milton Banner, shared several pieces. After such commanding and powerful pieces, parents were moved to applaud the group. Mr. Martin formally thanked the speaker and the group and encouraged parents to get their children involved in one of the named programmes.

UPDATE: Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah, Acting Principal

Mrs. Detry Fogah welcomed and thanked the parents for attending the meeting. She invited three (3) teachers to address parents on various topics centering on Discipline.

- *Mrs. Moodie-Benbow* focused on the issue of late arrivals whereas students were consistently showing up for school after 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. A number of parents appear to be tardy in overseeing the general preparation of their children for school. She pointed out that after 7:45 a.m., the names would be recorded and demerits given; two (2) demerits would be given per day.
- *Mr. Wright* read segments from The Education Act (1980), Part III – The Statutory System of Education which dealt with parent responsibility, student attendance, etc. He reminded parents of their responsibility in ensuring to the well-being of their children by close monitoring/supervision of the child and liaising with the school.
- *Mrs. Thompson* referred to the Parent Contract which all parents sign on entry to the school. It included a promise to adhere to the rules of the school, provide books and other necessary tools for education, support the school in all activities, pay contribution, highlights demerits and refers to the school handbook, and most importantly the parent also agree that if they find it difficult to adhere to the rules of the school, they will voluntarily withdraw their child from the institution. She reminded parents that they all signed this agreement. Mrs. Thompson also reminded parents that after dismissal teachers were mainly focused on completing the day's tasks, marking assignments, preparing for next day's lessons and would be unable to supervise students left on the compound way after end of extra lessons or extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Detry Fogah thanked the teachers for the information shared and expounded on Mrs. Thompson's point by adding that late passes are available if a child has an appointment. A parent requested clarity regarding if there were unforeseen circumstances which would result in the child being late. Mrs. Detry Fogah informed that the parent could call and speak to her directly if such situation arises.

Article in Jamaica Gleaner, 10th February, 2014: An analysis was done of the 2013 GSAT results which showed the top 100 schools; Jessie Ripoll held a significant place in that top 100 and this was so highlighted in the article.

Dismissal: When school ends, students still linger on the compound. She asked parents to put measures in place and make an effort to pick up children or make other arrangements or enroll the child in aftercare. She emphasized that the teachers had other work to address after school and cannot always supervise students after school dismisses.

Grade Meetings: Grade 4 - February 18 @ 7 a.m. and Grade 3 - February 20 @ 7 a.m.

Vehicular Traffic to Enter School: Parents were reminded to abide by the rules.

Online Registration for New Students: March 10 – April 11, 2014. As of 17th February, 2014 parents who would be registering a new student but who have children already attending Jessie would be facilitated. The requisite information must be logged in a specific book located in the main office. She however warned that this would not guarantee a place.

Photocopy of Text Books: Mrs. Detry Fogah warned parents about this practise of making copies of recommended texts. She cautioned that it is against the law and if found, persons could be fined.

School Information System (Password): If a parent is unable to access the system, kindly advise the office and it would be actioned. She informed that currently Grades 5 and 6 are being worked on.

School Calendar: Parents would be provided with a revised copy.

Speaker: Mr. Trevor Myers, Eyelite Optical was unable to attend, however Mrs. Marcia Detry Fogah shared information he would have provided regarding the upcoming Health FAIR. The planned Health FAIR would be Friday, 30th May, 2014 and volunteers would be needed. Parents should communicate their interest to serve by visiting the school's office.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was moved by Ms. Perleeta Rowe and seconded by Mr. Clive Rowe. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m. with the National Anthem.