

DAYSPRING MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MINUTES OF PTA GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 2023 AT
THE SCHOOL PREMISES

1 OPENING PRAYER

Madam Suzzy said the opening prayer at 3:20 pm.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minute of the previous meeting was read, and in the absence of any correction, Mr. Chris Quist moved for the acceptance and adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Mr. Harry Anamoo.

The agenda for the meeting was approved for discussion.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Water Dispenser

According to the principal, in addition to the numerous discussions, the board has also taken up the matter of installing water dispensers in the school premises and is taking a critical look, considering the cost involved, where to strategically position the dispensers, among others. They also expressed great concern about the manner in which the facilities are used in the school.

Mr. Daniel Ofori (board chairperson) added his voice regarding positioning. He highlighted some critical issues including vandalism by students and cost of operation. In essence, the board did not approve of installing water dispensers in the school and said it will be much easier and cheaper if parents provide water for their children. The PTA chairman appealed to parents to ensure the provision of an adequate amount of water for their wards. He added that the PTA could consider purchasing the water dispensers in the future.

2.2 Transportation

As announced by the principal some time ago, a private transport company intends to provide transport services for the students. But no parent has shown interest so far. The

chairman, therefore, reiterated the matter and encouraged parents who may be interested to see the Principal.

2.3 Edves Platform/Website

The chairman informed the house that the Edves platform was working without any challenge. The new website for the school which was spoken about is still being developed. When done, parents will be informed accordingly.

2.4 Rules of Communication on Media Platform (WhatsApp)

In view of reports of offensive and abusive language usage on the various school WhatsApp platforms, the house decided to come out with the following rules to guide the use of the WhatsApp platform

2.5 Unfair Treatment of Private Schools during BECE

A formal report has been made to the appropriate GNAPS zonal and national divisions, and we will be duly informed of any progress received from the association.

3 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This is reproduced below.

3.1 Introduction

Mr. Chairman, distinguished parents, Board of Directors, colleague staff members here present, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. It is a great honour to stand before you today to report on happenings so far in this second term and to also draw your attention to some pertinent issues that all of us need to consider as we make progress in this relationship. This term began in earnest on Wednesday 12th April, 2023.

3.2 Apologies to Parents on Physical Health Screening

Mr. Chairman, I would like to first of all render our unqualified apologies once again to you our dear parents with children in KG 1 and Grade 1 and to the entire PTA for not seeking your consent before the 'physical health screening' exercise led by health officials from the Ablekuma West Municipal Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023 which involved the administration of Vitamin A drops to the children without prior notification to parent. We can assure you that from our

side we meant no harm at all and that, that will never reoccur since our usual protocol requires seeking the consent of parents first in such instances before the conduct of such an exercise. Once again, do accept our sincerest apologies.

3.3 The Interment of Owura Owusu

Mr. Chairman, the passing of one of our colleague teachers in the person of Mr. Martin Owusu was announced here during the last PTA meeting in my report. The final funeral rites for our dear brother and colleague were held in his hometown, Adasawase-Anyinam in the Eastern Region a week ago on Saturday 27th May. We were there in our numbers to say our final adios to our colleague and teacher. We would like to express our appreciation to the PTA, the Directors of the school, and the Staff Welfare for their immense support in such a difficult period. May the soul of Owura Martin rest in the bosom of his maker. Amen.

3.4 The New Academic Calendar

Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind our parents once again of the 4 terms that all basic schools have been directed to do by the Ghana Education Service (GES). This is so because the GES is envisaging returning to the old academic calendar that existed prior to the Covid 19 outbreak. With this new calendar, children are doing 4 terms before the close of this year. The 4th term will be the first term of the new 2023/2024 academic year. Thus, students will move from one grade to the next higher grade before the close of this year. Hopefully, by September of next year, the new calendar would have aligned with the old. We entreat all our parents and guardians to help our children cope effectively during this stressful period of spending more days in school coupled with short vacation breaks.

3.5 Early Morning and After School Classes for JHS 2 Pupils

Mr. Chairman, as a result of the changes made by the Ghana Education Service with regard to the academic calendar, the instructional time in a term has been reduced. However, topics that pupils are supposed to learn in the curriculum have not been reduced. Management together with teachers, decided to organize extra classes for our current JHS 2 pupils before they get into the terminal class, by which time, they would have fully covered all the strands in the curriculum to prepare them adequately for the maiden standards-based BECE exams. Looking further ahead, we are also considering introducing early morning and after-school classes for our JHS 1 pupils as well by the

start of the next academic year. This is to ensure that, once pupils get to the JHS, they quickly become conscious of the fact that they will soon be exiting the school and that a lot more seriousness and preparation as well as a high sense of discipline is expected of them.

3.6 Class-Specific WhatsApp Platforms

Mr. Chairman, the concept of class-specific WhatsApp platforms in our school has been one of the innovations introduced to help parents track pieces of assignments, projects, and other relevant information relating to a specific class or the school in general. We thought of it as one of the ways of empowering parents to effectively be part of what goes on in their child's class. It is our firm belief that, since educating these young ones is a shared responsibility, the school has to take conscious steps to bring the parents virtually into the classrooms through such avenues offered by the class-specific WhatsApp platforms. With these platforms, children will no longer go home and give wrong information about homework to their parents or guardians since parents are already on the class platforms. We appeal to our dear parents to freely contact teachers via these platforms or privately through decorous conversations to resolve classroom-related issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Let us see ourselves, both teachers and parents, as key partners who need to work closely together to nurture the desired and relevant values and competencies, we require in our children in this 21st century. On these platforms, parents are not supposed to be asking teachers to provide answers to assignments given to children, likewise, teachers are not to supply answers to assignment questions. Clarification of questions could be sought but not demanding answers to those questions.

3.7 Homework

Mr. Chairman, giving assignments in the form of pieces of homework is an integral part of our teaching and learning process as it constitutes a critical feedback mechanism for us. In Dayspring, we take the giving of homework very seriously and indeed, it is one of the foremost reasons why the class-specific WhatsApp platforms were introduced. Parents are to offer the right help to their children so as to deliver excellent work. Do make time to interact with the children when doing their homework. You are also expected to append your signature at the bottom of your child's work to indicate that you have actually checked the work and it has been thoroughly done to the best of your child's knowledge and ability. It's unfortunate that sometimes children bring their

homework books to school with homework undone. Sometimes a parent's signature is there but the work has not been done. In spite of your busy schedules, dear parents, we are appealing to you to kindly make some quality time with your child in this area of homework.

3.8 A Plea for Decorum on PTA Platforms

Mr. Chairman, we have noted, with grave concern, how occasionally heated discussions on the PTA platforms on a particular matter led some parents to resort to the use of very harsh, strong language and insinuations. We think this unfortunate trend needs to be addressed with urgency and the platforms regulated so that order could be quickly restored in such instances. Such situations, directly or indirectly affect the image of the school greatly since these platforms were formed because of the school. We believe that we can all agree to disagree on issues without recourse to harsh and offensive language. Parents, let us engage in discussions without the use of direct or indirect insults, threats, abusive language, etc. As a school, we believe that decorum, patience, and respect for the views of others even in instances of disagreement should define our interactions. We think we can do much better than what happens occasionally in such instances.

3.9 The Internet, Social Media, Smartphones, and Adult-Content Reading Materials

Mr. Chairman, as a school, we do agree that children must be given access to explore new technologies because of the demands of 21st-century education. Having said that, we are also of the firm opinion that parents must ensure that supervision of their children when using such devices should be taken more seriously. Children of today are exposed to a plethora of child-unfriendly and age-inappropriate content all the time. Without proper supervision, as inquisitive as these young minds are, they are easily driven to follow their sense of curiosity when exposed to such content and this can be morally disturbing. About a week ago, a class teacher intercepted a child in upper primary reading a book titled "Sextasy", a purely adult-content reading material. Upon interrogations, it was found out that the child picked the book at home and after exploring the content, the child decided to bring it to school to share the explicit content with the friends. Parents, let us be extra cautious about how we keep adult-related things at home. Indeed, let us keep them out of the reach of these curious minds.

Please discourage our children from creating accounts on social media sites until such a time that they are matured and responsible enough because these sites invariably steal their studies time. The kinds of conversations and chats that these young ones sometimes have on such platforms will baffle you so let us not give them fertile grounds to operate in that regard. You bought the devices for them so you need to control how they use them.

3.10 School Canteen and Free Lunch for All Staff Members

Mr. Chairman, indeed, the school has taken over the running of its canteen. As it is with any new endeavour, we have faced some challenges but gradually things are getting better and better. As a result, I am glad to announce to our dear parents that, the Directors decided to motivate the entire staff of the school that is both teaching and non-teaching staff of the school by offering them free lunch every day of the week. We are grateful to our directors knowing that, that significant act will go a long way to motivate the staff to give off their best.

3.11 In-Service Training for Staff through PLCs and Peer Teaching

Mr. Chairman, in-service training is a crucial part of our work as a school in our relentless efforts at enhancing the quality of our professional conduct and output. Every week, we dedicate one day in the week after school to Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions. These sessions are meant to update and to further equip the staff to be more knowledgeable and effective in the teaching profession through classroom experience-sharing and brainstorming sessions in order to promote cross-learning. Teachers teach their peers like they will do in a typical classroom situation and then peers critique the approach the peer teacher adopted. Important points are noted to serve as improvements in classroom practices. Also, presentations on education-related topics are also offered during such sessions in order to keep the staff abreast of information in the educational sector.

3.12 Disciplinary Issues, Sanctions, and Behaviour Management

Mr. Chairman, we are in the process of reviewing our disciplinary sanctions in the school so that we will bring more uniformity in the application of sanctions when learners do what is academically or behaviourally unacceptable as we seek to guide them to consistently exhibit acceptable behavioural patterns.

Some of the acts of misconduct among children lately involve picking other learners' books when those books have been submitted, throwing spoons meant for eating lunch into toilet bowls or into rubbish bins, and putting whole bundles of toilet papers into toilet bowls thus clogging the sewage system, blocking water drainage system with pens, pencils, broken rulers, squatting on toilet seats and thus breaking them, pouring bottles of liquid soap into sink, using cake/tablet soap to write on the toilet walls, etc. etc. Such negative conduct has called for the review of our disciplinary sanctions. As the use of the timeless biblical rod fades away, the school system is called upon to introduce a variety of measures to sanction inappropriate behaviour or misconduct as we seek to manage student behaviour in the 21st century. Parents do have a huge role as well in making sure that children exhibit the appropriate behaviour patterns not only at home but also in school. We would like to appeal to our dear parents to regularly inspect their child's bags to ensure that they are not carrying anything that doesn't belong to them.

3.13 Robotics

Mr. Chairman, robotics lessons are ongoing for our children from KG to JHS 1. Specially dedicated classrooms have been created and furnished with various teaching and learning resources at both the primary and JHS sections of the school to ensure easy delivery of lessons and learning. These lessons aim at equipping our children with the requisite competencies and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics also known as STEM to be able to function well in this 21st century. During this term's Open Day, the school once again, partnered with the Robotics department to have our third Robotics fair in the school. We intend to grow this fair to become one of the most important events on our termly calendar.

3.14 Health Issues

Mr. Chairman, we would like to strongly appeal to parents to keep their children at home when they are unwell until the right treatment is sought for them. This is to avoid cross-infections in cases of infections. It is sometimes unbelievably sad to observe that children are brought from home to school ill knowing very well that they cannot cope with school activities in that state. Let us seek the appropriate medical assistance instead of simply denying what we are not sure of. Also, when children have any special health conditions that school authorities need to be aware of, kindly come and discuss that with us so we will know what to do in terms of its management in case the unexpected happens. This is

very important to us so we can act on time and act right in an emergency situation. Our school nurse is always available to assist.

3.15 Co-Curricular Activities

Mr. Chairman, the significance of co-curricular activities such as social club activities, academic club activities, and excursions among others cannot be overemphasized especially in 21st-century education as they offer avenues for the inculcation and development of equally important soft skills within the broad school curriculum experience. We encourage all students to join one academic club and one social club. Club activities take place every Thursday during the last period. For this second term, the major co-curricular activity on our calendar is Career Day, which is scheduled to take place next week Friday. Career Day is to help guide the children in the choice of a career path and to help them appreciate the need to work hard in school to become what they aspire to be in the future. As a school, we use some of these platforms to hone the skills and aspirations of our children. Next term, we are planning to interlace our club activities with quizzes in order to boost the level of confidence of our children, one area that we think we need to work on a lot.

3.16 Unannounced Entry into our Classrooms is Not Allowed

Mr. Chairman, we do not encourage parents to enter our classrooms whenever they bring their children to school. We encourage such parents to leave their children at the gates and the children will find their way into their classrooms. Kindly give them the independence to find their classrooms themselves; that is part of learning too. You can come into the classrooms during Open Days to observe your child's performance and interact with the teachers.

3.17 School Fees

Mr. Chairman, we urge our dear parents to make it a priority to pay up school fees on time because that is our main source of income in running the school. It is a source of great worry when we have to turn some children away because school fees have not been fully paid. Parents are given the opportunity to pay at least 75% of the amount before or on the day of reopening. You are also given one month within which to make the rest of the payment. Kindly take advantage of some of the opportunities the school has made available for easy and convenient payment of school fees through the filling of forms

among others at the Accounts office to arrange for a more suitable and convenient payment plan.

3.18 Preparations towards BECE 2023

Mr. Chairman, this year's Basic Education Certificate Examination will take place from Monday 7th to Friday 11th August 2023. Preparations for this year's exams started when the candidates were in the second year. So far, our current batch of BECE candidates have taken 4 Mock exams with the 3rd one organized by external examiners. From Monday 22nd to Friday 26th May, BECE subject examiners were invited to the school to educate our candidates and interact with the teachers as well on some of the key things the examiners look out for when marking the BECE scripts. Very important techniques for answering questions were discussed in all subject areas. Also, on Thursday 1st June, the candidates were taken to the STEM Centre at Accra High where examiners led them to engage in various learning and preparatory activities in the core subjects. Over there, students had the opportunity of performing hands-on activities in Science, Mathematics, ICT, etc. All these activities are meant to get the candidates fully prepared for the 2023 BECE. We entreat all our parents with children in the terminal class, to ensure discipline, punctuality, and a sense of urgency in our candidates for all lessons and at all times as the days close in on us.

3.19 The Stanine System in BECE

Mr. Chairman, the stanine or standard nine system is the system adopted by the examination body, WAEC for grading BECE candidates. This system involves the scaling of BECE scores using a standard nine-point scale. It divides the normal distribution curve into nine segments, representing fixed percentages under the curve which are used to determine the grades of all candidates. This means that scores achieved in a particular subject in the BECE are scaled and put under any of the units ranging from 1 to 9. A score (grade) of 1 is assigned to scores that fall within the highest 4%, a score of 2 is assigned to the next highest 7% and a score of 3 to the next highest 12%, and so on. This system makes it a bit of a challenge when comparing the performance of a previous batch with a current batch because the general performance of candidates in a particular subject during a particular year determines those that fall within a particular score range. For example, in a particular year, those who qualified for grade 1 in a subject like French were those candidates that scored between 93% - 100% and those who had grade 2

scored between 83% - 92%. The overall score in the BECE is computed by using the statistically moderated 30% from the school and 70% of the BECE scores.

1	4%
2	7%
3	12%
4	17%
5	20%
6	17%
7	12%
8	7%
9	4%

3.20 National Juniors Challenge Qualification

Mr. Chairman, on Thursday 17th May, our student contestants in the National Juniors Challenge, made us proud by qualifying at the Greater Accra regional level to represent us in the 2023 National Championship which will start from this coming Tuesday 6th June. Do remember our team in your prayers so they can make the expected impact at the national level.

3.21 Bus transit system for students

Mr. Chairman, the school commenced discussions with a transport company named Transit Car Rentals to offer bussing of students to and from school every week. Interested parents can contact Management for further inquiries on that.

3.22 What Dayspring Stands for

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, it is our unwavering desire to build Dayspring Montessori International School into a school that continuously supports life-long learning and not just an institution preparing learners for examinations. We intend to give our learners the opportunity to explore in a very collaborative learning atmosphere where they can ask questions and satisfy their curiosity in an academically stimulating and safe learning environment. We want to contribute to raising learners who have such 21st-century competencies as critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, creativity, and such

values as respect for others, assertiveness, resilience, curiosity, and a high sense of moral fortitude and integrity among others. When learners pass through our walls, it is our hope that they step out there confidently, with a strong moral foundation, and exhibit such competencies and values acquired and not just the aggregate they got.

We invite all our parents to join hands with us to build and grow Dayspring Montessori International School into a school of the future that is effectively positioned to equip our learners with the requisite and relevant 21st-century skills to make our children respond appropriately to the challenges of today and that of tomorrow. This can only happen if we both, parents and school, work together for it is indeed, a shared responsibility.

3.23 Upcoming events

Career Day	Friday, 9th June
Revision Week	13th -19th June
Exams/ Mock 5	20th-26th June
Worship/ Sports Day	Tuesday, 27th June
Vacation/ Our Day	Wednesday, 28th June

Thank you, and may God bless us all.

REACTIONS TO THE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

➤ National Quiz Challenge

Mr. Christian Diaba enquired about the year or grade of students who were eligible to represent the school in the National Junior’s Challenge.

The principal responded that the JHS 3 students represented the school. He also announced that as a result of certain observations during the quiz with regards to the confidence level of the students, plans were far advanced to incorporate quiz competitions as part of the co-curricular activities to help build the confidence of the pupils and also build a more solid team.

RULES FOR THE WHATSAPP PLATFORM

The Chairman announced to the house that the executives have drawn up a few proposals to regulate discourse on the PTA WhatsApp platforms and wanted the house to debate the proposals for adoption and implementation.

Permissible posts

The first category he indicated, was the category of information that can be posted on the platform. He informed the house that the executives had agreed that the only permissible pieces of information that can be posted are educationally related and child safety issues. He then asked the house to make submissions for final adoption.

Mr. Christian Diaba suggested that since it was a parent-teacher's WhatsApp platform allowance should be made for parenting issues.

Mr. Solomon Atindama dissented on the issue of adding parental issues suggesting that it may be stretching the scope a bit too wide. And that since all the parents are on the platform because of their wards, it would be easier to limit it to just educational and child safety issues.

Mr. David Aryee also submitted that he was of the view that the scope of parenting was too wide and that everybody held a different view to what is parenting but there is a more general consensus about educational and child safety. He added that there is a danger of reinventing what the house is trying to prevent.

Mr. Christian Diaba urged the house to be conscious more about the spirit rather than the letter of the conversation and that even with a narrow scope certain information that the house may generally consider as unwholesome can be disguised under the notion of being educational or child safety and reposted back on the platform.

The Chairman based on the discussion decided to put the issues to a vote or acclamation.

1. Educational and child safety issues – Unanimously approved
2. Parenting issues
 - In support – 10
 - Not in support – 15
 - Abstention - 2

The Chairman per the vote announced that henceforth posts that are permissible on the platform are limited to educational-related and child safety issues.

Impermissible posts

The Chairman informed the House that the second category of issues had to do with posts that are not permitted on the platform. On this issue, he announced that the house had outlined three main issues that should not be permitted on the platform:

1. Partisan-related information or issues related to party politics.
2. Religious issues
3. Intemperate language, insults, or personal attacks.

He also informed the house that whenever an issue of such nature came up the executives would discuss among themselves and if by the judgment of five of the executives a post flouts the

agreed upon guidelines it would be deleted. And that on the issue of intemperate language, insults, or personal attacks, the administrators be allowed to take the person off the platforms for two weeks.

Dr. Chris Quist queried that on the issue of deleting the parent, what if during the time of the person's deletion, there is essential information that the person needs to act on and the person uses the excuse of not having received that information.

Mr. Gordon Saah noted that on the issue of penalty for offenders, the administrators should act on it instantly instead of referring it to the entire executive. He was of the opinion that the process of taking a decision would allow the posts to be read by many more people by which time the damage would have been done. On the issue of deleting a member, he was of the view that the child should not suffer the consequences of the actions of the parent and that any information that needs to get to the parent should not be impeded.

Mr. David Aryee was also of the view that there is no point deleting a member for two weeks because if the person comes back to the platform he might go back to the same attitudes and it becomes an ongoing cycle. He believes that the discourse alone should inform the parents that they are not being decorous enough. He pleaded with parents to be guided going forward by the way they spoke to each other.

He suggested that as an alternative to deleting a member anytime a member makes an insulting statement the administrator should be quick to delete the post and quickly apologize to whoever was affected on behalf of the executives. In some situations, the one who is insulted can be contacted and briefed about the guidelines and his future actions.

Mrs. Esther Toboh lamented two unfortunate incidents on the platforms in relation to two parents exchanging insults and a parent enquiring at the very last minute if the meeting can be held via Zoom. He believed that deleting parents from the platform would not solve the issue but rather the right things should. He believed that as adults, parents should learn how to communicate with each other and respect each other.

Mr. Christian Diabah in conclusion wanted the record to reflect his view which might not be adopted anyway. He stated that even as a Christian institution, religious issues were stated as one of the things not to be allowed on the platform. He noted that a large number of parents hardly comment or post anything on the platform so, a lot of the rules and guidelines being discussed surround a few people who actually are deviant.

He gave an example where the principal would make an announcement regarding payment of school fees with a set deadline and subsequent to the passing of the deadline would continue making the same announcement. He noted that even though the school knows the exact parents who are defaulting majority of parents are been inundated with the same posts which might take cover over other pieces of information that may be more relevant to them.

He believes that laws must be made such that it's not convenient to break for instance in the case of fees announcement after the deadline. He believed that it was a result of a few people's deviant behaviours becoming a reason why precious time is being spent discussing something

that we should be able to connect backstage and notify offenders that their post was unacceptable for a great majority of the members and that the person should take a decision whether going forward they would still want to continue making such posts.

He also explained that insulting is relative and that we could easily vote on the issues and move on, and that until we get to the point where the rubber hits the road the house would realize that they have sanctioned themselves into a corner and that the people who have been misbehaving anyway would still continue to misbehave.

He pleaded with the house to look and be specific with people because that's the only way the association can grow. The house should find a way that is less confrontational or direct and that the issues should be dealt with head-on.

The Chairman recounted a few issues that the executives have had to come in to intervene only for the arguments and banter to resume a few weeks later.

Mr. Christian Diabah suggested that in such cases the administrator should announce to the house what steps the executives have taken.

The Chairman also noted that generally rules are made for the minority or the few people that may be at a default of such rules. So, he believed that in as much as we might need to get in contact with members who are at fault it may be prudent to also set some rules and work from both angles to ensure a sanitized platform for the PTA.

The Chairman finally put the motion before the house and was unanimously adopted in relation to the posts that were not allowed on the platform. He also announced that deleting of members would not be implemented and that all pieces of posts that flout the guidelines would subsequently be deleted.

BECE REWARD SYSTEM

The Chairman informed the House about a decision by the Executives to review the reward system for teachers on BECE candidates. He announced that the new proposal was to pay a flat rate of GH¢30.00 for every Grade 1 in every subject to replace the previous system of paying GH¢20.00 for Grade 1 and GH¢10.00 for Grade 2. He opened the floor for discussion for adoption or rejection.

Mr. Harry Anamoo expressed disagreement with the proposal highlighting the unfair and inconsistent grading system for the BECE where in some years the marks for a grade 1 would be the same for a grade 2 in another year. He also highlighted the different attitudes of pupils towards certain subjects which is to the disadvantage of those subject teachers.

Mr. David Aryee was also of the view that excellence is the ultimate and that it should be rewarded as such but if there was a way of verifying the raw scores on a subject-by-subject basis then the house can look into it. However, he believed that if it's not a 1 it's not a 1 and that only grade 1 should be rewarded.

Mr. Kojo Nyame also added to the view that the PTA should look into rewarding the students with various packages based on their performance in the BECE. He believed such incentives would motivate parents to put pressure on their children to strive for excellence.

Mr. Nii Ayite Hammond also supported the proposal stating that a 1 is a 1 and there was nothing like if it had been this year the grade would have been different. He indicated that everybody's target should be 1 irrespective of various factors. He also suggested the suggestions about the recommendation the teacher made should go to the school board because the performance of the children benefits the school more directly and it's actually their responsibility. If it became necessary the PTA can support it.

Mrs. Afankwah supported the reward system that has been developed in the school for various items like tests exams etc. on a subject-by-subject basis. She also believed that the rewards system for the candidates should start from the school board.

Mr. Daniel Ofori informed the house that there is currently a scholarship system for brilliant students at the end of every academic year and he also said he would look into the suggestions for rewarding the BECE candidates and pleaded with the PTA to join forces to make it more attractive.

Mr. David Aryee urged the house to be mindful of sustainability if the PTA decides to take on any additional project and initiative including the scholarship scheme without a corresponding increase in PTA dues. He encouraged parents to start motivating their wards using incentives or reward systems at home without waiting on PTA and assured the house of its effectiveness.

The Chairman requested a ballot be cast for;

The move of the new rate to GH¢30.00 for every Grade 1 = 25 votes

Maintaining GH¢20.00 for every Grade 1 and GH¢10.00 for every Grade 2 = 3 votes

Abstention was null. The new rate of GH¢30.00 for every Grade 1 was therefore unanimously adopted by the house.

AOB

Mr. Harry Anamoo appealed to parents to continue educating their wards on maintenance culture and good ways of handling school property.

Dr. Chris Quist observed some issues of threats to safety and risk of injury on the premises of the PTA and drew the attention of the authorities.

The Chairman also pleaded with authorities to publish the reviewed sanctioning system so parents would be informed about punishments for various offenses before they are applied. He believed that it would help reduce misunderstandings with the application.

Mr. Solomon Atindama pleaded with Ghanaian Language teachers to try to use English Language to explain homework instructions to pupils before given out to them. This he believed

would make it easier for parents to help their wards. He expressed concern that the language used to teach the subject might be unfamiliar and foreign to the students, which could lead to a loss of interest in the topic.

He also pleaded with the school to contact parents in cases where the child is ignorant or not culpable in terms of the offense. He gave an example of hair extensions which are not allowed but then it is the parent that is more responsible for the flouting of the rule. He believes punishing the children for such offenses makes no sense and it also confuses the children so the parent should be made to bear the sanctions by the school.

Mr. Alex Danquah had issues with fellow parents who attacked their fellow parents anytime they put something on the platform because they do not agree on the mode of transmission or content of the post. He believed that it was not fair and appropriate. He pleaded with the executives and administrators to work on the issues.

The Chairman indicated that the issue had been discussed and that to him personally, the PTA platform is one of several platforms offered by the school for the transmission of concerns and queries and that he did not have any problem with whichever mode one chooses to use.

Mr. David Aryee expressed excitement about the coming into force of the new sanctions regime but pleaded with school authorities to ensure that the sanctions are applied fairly to all manner of persons. He expressed strong reservations about some instances where in trying to correct her daughter about some school rules she retorts back about similar offenses being committed with impunity. He explained that such situations make it difficult for a parent to help in enforcing the school rules.

He also raised an issue with communication where he noted that there had been several instances where information had been given to the children but the parents never received them. He pleaded with the authorities to expand their mode of communication to help parents to be current with relevant school information.

Mr. Gordon Saah was not happy about finding a very important piece of information about his ward when he had come in to report on a different matter. He urged teachers and authorities to be vigilant and report all unusual and abnormal behavior of pupils to authorities and by extension to the parents for immediate action.

Mr. Alex Danquah also added his voice and urged the implementation of the notice shared.

The PTA executives present introduced themselves to the house.

Mr. Christian Diabah moved for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:10 pm seconded by Mr. David Aryee.

Madam Yvonne offered the closing prayer.

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Chairman

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Secretary