

**MINUTES OF DAYSPRING MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT-
TEACHER ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 26TH
NOVEMBER, 2023**

Starting time: 3:30 pm **Opening prayer:** Mr. Harry Anamoo

Total attendance is 145

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Chairman reviewed the minutes with the house and in the absence of any corrections Mr. Mathew Bonsie moved for the adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Michael Aggrey.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- The Chairman briefed the house on deliberations on the WhatsApp platforms and noted that though a few inappropriate posts had been deleted, submissions had been decorous and encouraged the house to keep to the standard.
- He also reminded the house about the revised reward system which only awarded teachers for grade 1 in the BECE per subject.
- The Chairman also informed the house about the full representation by the PTA at the funeral of the late Gertrude Blankson. He also expressed appreciation to the parents who showed up to mourn with the family. He also informed the house of the donation made to the family and that the treasurer would give account at the right time.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The painful demise of Aunty Gertrude Attuah Blankson

The Principal expressed his deepest appreciation to the entirety of the PTA and to the executive members for the outpouring of sympathies and various forms of support given to the family of Aunty Gertrude Attuah Blankson during her final funeral rites on Saturday 7th October, 2023.

Return to the old academic calendar

The Principal informed the house of the return to the pre-covid academic calendar which started in October 2023. He noted that consequently the learners would have enough vacation periods and the resumption of Summer School.

Across-the-board reduction in school fees

The Principal announced that before the start of this new academic year, the Board of Directors took a unanimous decision to offer a reduction of 200 cedis on school fees for all learners from pre-school to ease the financial burden on parents during the difficult time of paying school fees four times within a calendar year.

Montessori demonstration for new pre-school parents

The Principal announced the successful organization of the yearly Montessori Demonstration on Saturday the 21st of October, 2023 aimed at introducing the Montessori teaching approach to new parents. This was to ensure that they had a deeper understanding of the approach in order to offer the right assistance to the learners at home.

Extra classes for all JHS learners

The Principal informed the house that all JHS learners and especially the final year learners had begun morning and afternoon classes to take care of the challenges of the new curriculum and also properly prepare the final year learners in advance for the maiden BECE scheduled for July 2024. In addition, he also informed the house that the students in JHS 3 would also attend Saturday classes from 8:30am to 1pm.

He therefore entreated parents to ensure that the students are punctual at all times for the early morning classes as well as the Saturday classes so as to fully realize significant gains from them as envisaged.

Plans towards expansion

The Principal also announced plans for the construction of an ultramodern facility to house the Pre-school Department starting next year after which the Primary Department would undergo a major facelift as part of the expansion of infrastructure of the entire school.

EDVES platform

The principal stressed how the EDVES platform had become an integral part of report generation and online assessment by the teaching staff. He therefore urged new parents who have not yet been added on the platform to do so on dms.edves.net through their already provided login details.

Class specific WhatsApp platforms

The Principal continued to stress the importance of the class specific WhatsApp platforms and appealed to parents to freely contact teachers via these platforms or privately through decorous conversations to resolve classroom related issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

The internet, social media, smartphones, etc.

The Principal cautioned parents about the exposure of children to a barrage of child-unfriendly and age-inappropriate content on the internet through the use of the phones. He therefore appealed to parents to discourage the children from creating accounts on social media sites until such a time that they are matured enough. Also, that Parents should avoid giving children unfettered, unrestricted and unsupervised access modern technological gadgets.

Projects as a key component of the new curriculum

The Principal informed the house that giving and scoring projects had become an essential part of learner assessment under the dispensation of the new curriculum. He further indicated that the projects for the current term are to be submitted by Friday 24th November, 2023. He encouraged parents to support their children meet the deadlines set for submission.

In-service training for staff through PLCs and Peer teaching

The Principal updated the house on Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions designed to equip the staff to be more professional and effective in the teaching profession. He indicated a good number of the PLC sessions had been dedicated to sharing ideas on effective classroom management strategies and also reviewing the school rules and regulations as a way of ensuring learner discipline and compliance to rules and regulations.

Disciplinary issues and behavior management

The Principal emphasized the need for discipline among learners as a key to academic excellence. He therefore pleaded with parents to regularly engage their children in conversations on proper conduct outside home concerning the efficient use of resources in order to avoid waste, respect for others, proper use of toilet facilities (sitting on the seats instead of squatting on them) and other school facilities and also not picking items belonging to others without their consent.

Revised rules and regulations as a key disciplinary measure

The Principal informed the house about the revision of the school rules which would be published before the end of the first term and its implementation in the subsequent term. He also indicated that the rules would be strictly applied and entreated all parents to familiarize themselves with the revised edition when published. He highlighted some of the rules and sanctions as follows:

	<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>
1a	Cheating during Examination (Bringing/Possessing foreign materials in exams hall and using it to your advantage)	Cancel the entire paper and inform parents immediately for a discussion and be suspended for one week.
1b	Cheating during Examination (engaging in exams malpractices such as; communicating with other students, copying from one another, copying either on table, thighs/hands, walls, script swapping etc.)	20% deduction of marks. Sweep and empty bins for one week.
2.	Defaulting in Homework without a tangible reason or permission	Detention either during snack/lunch break or after school to do it. (Parents will be informed especially if the child has to be detained after closing to finish a task)

Robotics

The Principal informed the house that the Robotics lessons were still ongoing for children from KG to JHS 2 in specially dedicated Robotics labs equipped with modern gadgets. He also

indicated that during the term's Open Day, the school will partner with the Robotics Department to have the termly Robotics fair.

Health issues

The Principal admonished parents to as much as possible keep children at home when they are unwell until the right treatment is sought for them and also, when children have any special health conditions that school authorities must know of; parents should gladly inform the school authorities.

Co-curricular activities

The Principal informed the house that on Saturday 18th November, some learners in Upper primary and JHS took part in the annual Japanese Week celebrations which had become an annual event on the school's calendar since 2014.

Entry into our classrooms is disallowed

The Principal informed the house that the school does not encourage parents entering the classrooms whenever they bring their children to school especially in the mornings. He pleaded with parents to leave their children at the gates once they had entered the compound for the children will find their way into their classrooms.

School fees

The Principal urged parents to try as much as possible to pay up school fees on time. He urged parents to take advantage of all flexible payment opportunities offered by the school through the filling of forms at the Accounts Office.

How our 2023 BECE candidates were prepared

The Principal enumerated the numerous steps that had been taken in preparing the candidates for the recently conducted BECE. Some of which included;

- Early morning, late afternoon and Saturday classes,
- Six mock exams
- Numerous internal tests organized by the teachers.
- Interactions with parents on performance of their wards and the expectations of the school
- BECE examiners in all the subject areas invited to have subject by subject interaction sessions with the candidates and their teachers on how best to answer BECE questions.
- Examiners contracted to set mock questions, mark and discuss the performance with the candidates.
- Further interactions with examiners based on the core subjects at STEM center at Accra High Secondary School.
- Subject interaction sections organized by the Ablekuma West Municipal Education Directorate which the candidates participated fully.

The principal proceeded to read out the results of the recently held BECE as follows:

SUBJECT BY SUBJECT GRADE ANALYSES OF THE 2023 BECE

GRAD E	ENGLIS H	MATH S	SOCIAL STUDIE S	INTEGRATE D SCIENCE	BD T	RM E	IC T	FRENC H	GHANAIAN LANGUAGE GA TWI	
1	18	4	5	-	-	-	23	3	-	-
2	12	9	20	5	-	6	5	13	5	1
3	2	10	4	9	12	16	2	10	4	-
4	-	7	2	14	17	8	1	5	2	-
5	-	-	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	11
6	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	5
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

***2 candidates (Asante Twi) results pending**

TOTAL AGGREGATE = 448

AVERAGE AGGREGATE = 448/32

NUMBER OF STUDENTS = 32

= 14

AGGREGAT E	NUMBER OF CANDIDATE S
08	1
09	2
10	3
11	2
12	3
13	6
14	3
15	5
16	2
17	1
18	1
20	1
24	1
28	1

The Principal indicated that school was in the process of requesting for remarking for a selected sample of the candidates based on the questionable nature of some of the grades obtained by the children.

The educational dilemma of our country

The Principal took the opportunity to highlight certain happenings in the educational sector that he believes are inimical to the learners in particular and the future of the country as a whole. Some issues he stressed on included;

- Children being taught the unpatriotic lesson that hard work no longer pays, thus exposing the children to the canker of corruption at a very young age
- Marks being concocted and awarded to undeserving students akin to an auction sale where the highest bidder gets the greatest marks
- Former pupils of the school successfully writing the BECE in other schools without a request for their continuous assessment marks bringing into question how the marks were obtained for them to sit the BECE.

He lamented how such scenarios would ultimately be discouraging to hardworking teachers and students alike. He however noted that the school had long ago chosen the right path for the children encouraging hard work and discouraging all forms of examination malpractices.

He finally urged parents whose wards had successfully completed the BECE to encourage their children to stay strong under extremely difficult circumstances.

The future Dayspring Montessori International School

The Principal stressed the desire of the school to build an institution that continuously supports life-long learning and not just an institution preparing learners for examinations and also contribute to raising learners who have such strong competencies as critical thinking, problem solving, digital literacy, creativity and such values as respect for others, assertiveness, resilience, curiosity and a high sense of integrity among others.

He urged parents to support the school as it works hard to achieve these competencies in the children.

Upcoming events and notices

EMT 3/CAT 3/CLASS TEST 3	27 th – 30 th November
FARMERS' DAY HOLIDAY	1 st December
BOOK FAIR	4 th – 8 th December
OPEN DAY/ROBOTICS FAIR	8 th December
REVISION WEEK	6 th – 12 th December
EXAMS WEEK	13 th – 19 th December
CAROLS SERVICE	20 th December

REACTIONS TO PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**BECE Results**

Mr. Tony Baah expressed shock and disappointment at the results read and could not understand how students who were good could not perform or get the right grades. He was also of the view that it was not normal that not a single student from Dayspring scored aggregate 06.

He urged the school to conduct an investigation into the issue and be ready to take the system on to address any form of injustice or unfairness that they believe that may have suffered.

He further enquired if the results had been benchmarked against those of other schools as part of the investigation to establish if the problem was internal.

He also suggested that with new curriculum which encouraged facilitation was not practical as the children are too young and urged teachers to teach rather than facilitate.

He also indicated that the school must also begin to find out internally whether the teachers are doing well and that if results come and it is so poor the school and teachers must change strategies.

The Principal acknowledged the frustration of Mr. Baah but indicated that the rights steps were being taken some of which included.

- Asking for remarking and setting up a meeting with WAEC which was led by one of the Directors.
- Benchmarking results with sister school especially those within the Dansoman enclave.
- Thorough internal assessment including meetings with subject teachers and analysis of mock results and engaging parents of current final year students to re-strategize for the next year.

He also indicated that facilitation was just a term that had replaced teaching and that teaching itself took place with all its techniques.

Revised rules and Regulations

The Chairman suggested that the sanction systems being introduced should as much as possible be specific in terms of each offence carrying a specific punishment. He cautioned that discretionary powers may lead to unfair treatment and sometimes abuse.

The Principal responded that the punishment regime was specific and that there was a conscious effort to ensure there is precision as far as the sanctions are concerned.

Financial Summary

The PTA Treasurer expressed appreciation to parents for their kind donations to support the family of the late Getrude Attuah Blankson.

Total amount realized was Ten Thousand, Eight Hundred And Forty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,845) and amount of Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢200) was donated to the family and then Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000) to the widower.

The Treasurer reported that, he received dues for 1st and 2nd term of the current academic year totaling Twenty One Thousand, One Hundred and Eighteen (GH¢21,118.00). The current balance is Twenty Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Nine Ghana Cedis, Forty Nine Pesewes (**GH¢28,139.49**).

One week celebration = 10 packs of water, GH¢200 cash donation.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Harry Anamoo advised parents to as much as possible educate their wards on the effects of bullying and also report all cases of bullying to the authorities as soon as possible.

Madam Sarah Acquah complained about inadequate space at the primary section and also that the volume of homework is on the high side.

Mr. Kwesi Bentum complained about the frequent reports of bullying and he also lamented the poor facilities at the primary section in terms of the environment.

Madam Grace Ogenebu was not happy that despite having reported to the school about her daughter's medical condition the school had refused to call her on two occasions when her daughter experienced a medical emergency.

The Principal reiterated that the school did not condone bullying of any kind and he pleaded with parents to report any such incidents for immediate action. He also indicated that he had earlier mentioned that the primary school was going to undergo a facelift very soon and that parent should bear with the school.

In response to Madam Grace Ogenebu concern raised, the Principal apologized and promised to investigate into the matter.

LAND ISSUES IN GHANA

Mr. Thomas Addai Nketiah Esq had a presentation on land acquisition in Ghana and some of the highlights included:

- Ownership of land in Ghana is mostly by the stool or the skin
- In acquiring a land go to someone who has the right capacity to transfer his or her interest to you
- Always go behind the person and conduct your own independent investigation
- If you buy a land from a chief ensure that the principal elders of the chief are witnesses
- Ensure by conducting a search that government has no interest in the land or it has not been earmarked for a project
- Always use a lawyer as much as possible in your land acquisition process
- If your land document is missing you can always retrieve with the right proof
- If you register your land, it cannot be taken over by anyone except the government

Closing time 6pm

Closing prayer Dr. Innocent Adzamli.

Signed

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Dr. Innocent Adzamli.