

JAMAICA COLLEGE PTA GENERAL MEETING

MEETING NOTES

held September 16, 2019

at 4:00 p.m. in The Karl Hendrickson Auditorium, Jamaica College

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. by Chairperson Ms. Georgia Crossman - 1st Vice President, PTA.

Devotional exercise

This was conducted by JC's Chaplain Canon Allen who opened in prayer. Cannon Allen read verses from Romans 12 and commended the virtue of living peacefully with others. He went on to explain that JC's sole purpose was to prepare its College men to be leaders for the work burning in the fields.

While some persons have a natural tendency to lead more than others, every JC student is charged with being a leader in whatever situation he finds himself in life. He went on to add that leadership does not only connote position, title or wealth but that is best expressed in Romans 12:21 "*Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*" College men are groomed to be leaders and stand up for what is right always.

Cannon Allen also highlighted Romans 12:2 "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" as the only way to teach our College men to be leaders and not followers. Education at JC not only involves the teaching of subjects but the renewing of the mind as well.

To this end, 'The Fruit of the Spirit' - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control is taught to all students. If the opposite exists in a classroom, no learning will take place. Cannon Allen also pointed to JC's School Prayer which exemplifies Jesus Christ as the perfect man and the end goal for all College men.

Parents and guardians were encouraged to continue JC's 200+ years legacy of producing leaders. Cannon Allen closed his charge by asking all to join him in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Ms Chairperson thanked Canon Allen for leading the devotional exercise.

Passing of Ejay Riley, 5th former

Ms. Crossman advised of the passing of 5th form student Ejay Riley on September 12, 2019. The JC family is supporting Ejay's family during this difficult time.

Cannon Allen led a reflective exercise which included a moment of silence. Ejay was characterized as a shining example of bravery, gracefulness and gratefulness in adversity during his four impactful years at JC. Prayer was then offered for Ejay's family, classmates and the current 5th form student as they undergo this time of bereavement.

Chairperson Crossman advised that as a mark of respect for Ejay, there would be no raffle at the day's meeting. However, parents were encouraged to instead make a contribution to Ejay's family once official communique has been received from JC about doing same.

Welcome & Apologies for absence

A very special 'True Blue' welcome was given to parents of the new first form students. Parents of returning students were also welcomed back.

An apology for unavoidable absence was tendered for PTA President, Mrs. Jacqueline Robotham. An apology for lateness was also tendered for Principal Robinson who was offsite at another event. It was excepted however that Principal Robinson would join the meeting later to facilitate his usual Question & Answer (Q&A) session.

Ms. Crossman then introduced the current PTA Executive Team. Parents were encouraged to volunteer and make themselves available to serve on the PTA Executive Body when the current team demits office at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

PTA President's Welcome

Due to the unavoidable absence of the PTA President, her Welcome Message was read by Ms. Georgia Crossman, 1st Vice President.

Among the highlights were:

- ✓ A special welcome to all parents especially to those of 1st form students.
- ✓ A reminder to parents & guardians that are very important stakeholders in the education process and as such they were urged to continue to take this role seriously.
- ✓ Parents and guardians were thanked for their support during the last academic year. Without this support, the 1st year of the PTA Body would not be a success.

Their unwavering support during the 2019-2020 academic year is also looked forward to as the PTA Body enter the last year of its 2-year stint.

Special mention was made of parents Keisha Blackburn and Garfield Saulas who are hardworking members of the PTA's Fundraising Committee.

- ✓ Parents were urged not just to provide school supplies, tuition fees and lunch money for their sons but be active in school life. Parents were encouraged to help College men manage their time, prepare for classes ahead of time, complete all assignments on time and most importantly adhere to school rules.
- ✓ The school's Management Team was thanked for their support and guidance to the PTA Executive Team.
- ✓ Parents were also asked to keep abreast of the PTA's activities through its newsletter that is posted on RENWEB and communicate with the team via email at jcpta jc@gmail.com.

Reminder- Modes of communication

Ms. Crossman reminded parents of the communication modes available at JC. These include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pta email address: <i>jcpta jc@gmail.com</i>▪ Renweb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parent Rep. for each form▪ Parent Rep. for each year group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parent Teacher Conferences; Meetings with Form & Subject Teachers/Year Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meet with Principal before 7:30 a.m. in the morning
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Parents who have not been receiving emails from JC were asked to provide System Administrator, Mrs. Dawn MacGregor-Bromfield (who was present) with an updated email address to rectify this situation. Mrs. MacGregor-Bromfield can be contacted at ***dmacgregor-bromfield@jc.edu.jm***.

Presentations

- **NCB Quisk** - Mr. McCook, NCB Representative

NCB Quisk is a mobile money account that uses your phone number as an account number. NCB Quisk can be used to send & receive money and deposit & withdraw in real time. It can also be used at JC's canteen as a form of payment. Interested parents had the opportunity to sign up for their son's Quisk account with the assistance of the NCB team members present. A valid form of identification & TRN card is needed for signup which can also be done at any NCB branch islandwide.

- **Ms. Sheralda Small** – University of the West Indies, Mona Graduate student

Ms. Small is conducting a study of how parents' thoughts & behaviour contribute to their particular parenting style. She has received permission from JC to solicit responses to a questionnaire. Interested parents were urged to liaise with Ms. Small after the meeting.

Thank you - CSEC Workshops

Chairperson Crossman expressed a heartfelt 'Thank You' to parents for their tremendous support to the series of Saturday & Sunday CSEC workshops aimed at preparing students for external examinations. Marked improvement due to this measure has been seen in several subject areas.

Principal's Updates

Mr. Robinson was unavoidably absent due to an offsite commitment. Ms. Crossman asked parents however to differ to the current issue of the Principal's Log that was recently distributed for pertinent information.

It was learnt on stage that Principal Robinson was attending to a medical emergency involving footballers from JC and Wolmer's Boys at a Manning Cup match (please see note below).

Lightning Strike at JC/Wolmer's Boys Manning Cup Football Match

Unfortunate news was received that a lightning strike caused an abrupt end to the JC/Wolmer's Boys Manning football match at the Stadium East field. Preliminary reports indicated that players from both teams were struck by lightning and were rushed to hospital.

JC parent Lisa Stiebel offered prayer for all concerned. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

Adjournment

In closing, Mr. Errol Holmes, Immediate Past President encouraged parents to continue praying for the injured footballers and their families. The National Anthem was sung. Attendees were thanked for attending the day's meeting.

Prepared by:

Mrs. Yolanda Tennant-Barrett, PTA Secretary

Approved by:

Mrs. Jacqueline Robotham, PTA President