

YCHS Past Students Association- Jamaica Chapter
Minutes of Meeting
held on
February 17, 2007
at
York Castle High School, Brown's Town, St. Ann

Present were

Carol Alexander
Lawrence Alexander
Evet Linton-Walters, ***Assistant Secretary***
Patrick Russell, ***Vice President***
Geraldine Sinclair, ***President***
Joy Speare, ***Treasurer***
Trevor Radway, ***Assistant Treasurer***
Wendell "Suga" Marsh
Neketo Lynch
Victor Rose
Rey Smith
Beverley Sutherland-Lewis

Apologies for absence

Vannette Brown, ***Secretary***
Roosevelt Richards
Jennifer Clare
Isaac McNaughton
Evrod Nam
Milton Brady

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by President Geraldine Sinclair at 11:30am and who also offered a prayer.

In her welcome, the President extended a welcome to all attendees and requested an introduction by all in the usual warm YCHS spirit.

Special apology was made on behalf of Jen Clare for not attending this meeting as she had a death in her family, her aunt. YCHS Past Students Association conveyed their sympathy during this time to Jen and family.

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Corrections

On Page 3, "On another note, Beverley Sutherland-Lewis suggested that the money in the First Caribbean International Bank account be placed in another financial institution that would give higher interest returns. However, the meeting attendees disagreed and stated that the preference should be given to FCIB for any other investment instrument. "

This should now read: On another note, Beverley Sutherland-Lewis suggested that the money in the First Caribbean International Bank account be placed in a high yielding account.

Also on Page 3, the **last line should read:** J\$1,000.00 minimum towards the school bus drive.

The minutes were confirmed.

Financial - Report

The Chapter's financial report as at January 29, 2007 was presented by Treasurer Joy Speare. Attached is the report. Joy indicated that the contribution received from the Toronto Chapter (J\$422,331.54) for the bus drive will be transferred from the National Commercial Bank account into the FCIB account to satisfy the School Bus Challenge to match J\$1,000,000. Once the Toronto Chapter contribution is deposited into the account, the FCIB account should then have a balance of J\$1,281,981.98.

Joy noted that this transaction will be completed ahead of the March 1st FCIB Challenge target date.

School Bus Drive

The target date for hand over of the school bus is slated for September 2007, the beginning of the new school year. However, an outstanding amount of J\$700,000 is still required for:

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- Completing the purchase of the bus at a cost discounted to the chapter of J\$2,700,000.00
- Certificate of Fitness from the Motor Vehicle Department
- Licensing of the proposed 29-seater "Coaster" bus
- Insurance of the "Coaster" bus

As a reminder, funds raised by the YCHS PTA towards the Bus Drive should be used to maintain the bus. The alumni will not have responsibility for the following costs after the first year:

- Certificate of Fitness
- Motor vehicle licensing
- Motor vehicle insurance

Reminder: contributions can be made to either of the following two financial institutions of which the alumni chapter has accounts:

Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited, Scotiacentre Branch

Current Account # 3678-18

First Caribbean International Bank, Ocho Rios Branch

Savings Account # 1001572923

Fundraising - Report

Fish Fry

Due to the unavailability of the proposed venue, the Police Officers Club (on Hope Road, in New Kingston) for April 27th, a further postponement has occurred.

A post Labour-Day date, Saturday, May 26th, is proposed. The venue is to be determined. Locations in the vicinity of New Kingston (e.g. NCB Sports Club) are to be identified for a selection to be made.

Bumper Sticker for 50th Anniversary Celebration

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Quotations are yet to be obtained. To expedite this effort, Beverley Sutherland-Lewis, Clement "Jimmy" Lawrence will be assisting Vice President Patrick Russell as this seen as urgently needed by the next monthly meeting.

It was agreed that the following should be included on the bumper sticker:

- 50th Anniversary 2008
- YCHS Crest
- The background should be gold in colour
- The letters should be in black

Communications - Report

Website

It was indicated that the new proposed completion date, given by the developer Deon Mitchell-Watson, is April 2007.

Website, TUCK SHOP

The website's classified advertisement page was highlighted to be encouraged by all YCites as a means of showcasing alumni businesses and services on the Internet.

Sports - Report

Track & Field

Sports Committee Chairperson Rey Smith indicated that he will begin a campaign to solicit donations for track and field gears for the school.

50th Anniversary Celebration

President Geraldine Sinclair is requesting a report from the Anniversary Celebration Committee by the Chapter's next monthly meeting. This report should indicate any committee meetings held and activity plans made so far.

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Labour Day Project at YCHS

Alumni toured the YCHS premises and listed the following needs to be done on Labour Day, May 23rd 2007:

- Painting and cleaning of the front of the school
- Making signs and installing them on classroom doors, auditorium, etc.
- Replacing and/or repairing lattice work and broken window panes
- Landscaping/plating of trees
- Painting garden benches on the school campus

Below are recommended YCites "must have" and "must do" for Labour Day:

- Hat or cap
- Gloves (garden or plastic)
- Dust masks
- Garbage bags
- Paint and brushes
- Food (a cook) for "running a boat" during the day
- T-shirts
- Towel
- Contact the garbage collection agency to be on hand to remove garbage being accumulated during that day

It was agreed that the YCHS Labour Day Project should include the following:

- Alumni
- Existing Student Council members
- The Prefect body
- Two students representing each class/grade

An agreed YCHS "Maintenance Project" is to be recommended to the school administration following the Labour Day project. This is to ensure a

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continuation of the school "clean up" campaign. It will be suggested that this be carried out by the existing students. As an added incentive for this campaign, the alumni will offer prizes to motivate the existing students to maintain YCHS as a "clean school".

Matters Arising

Wendell Marsh expressed a desire to obtain the list of YCites which was given upon request to FCIB Managing Director & YCite Milton Brady. This list Wendell said would enable members of the chapter to contact these YCites to solicit their help in contributing to the YCHS bus drive. Vice President Patrick Russell suggested that perhaps 20 core members of the Chapter be engaged in this effort of canvassing YCites on the list.

He compared the contributions of the Jamaica Chapter against that of the New York/Florida and Toronto Chapters. Wendell stated that the Jamaica Chapter should begin calling YCites resident in Jamaica with the aim of obtaining more funds still needed to purchase the bus. He also expressed the need to get the more recent YCHS past students involved in the Chapter's activities.

On this note, Wendell donated J\$5,000 and opened the floor for other donations during the meeting.

Up Coming Events

March 17th – Monthly Meeting – at JUS CHEERS, in St. Ann's Bay

April 21st – Monthly Meeting – St. Ann venue to be announced

May 23rd – Labour Day project at YCHS, Brown's Town

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. followed by refreshments which included salt fish fritters.