



The Sierra Leone Grammar School
 Alumni Association of North America – Washington, DC Metro Chapter
 Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, May 16, 2009.
 8:00p.m – 9:30p.m.

Members Present: Radcliffe Thomas, Cyril French, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Billy Jones, Desmond Campbell, Alex Williams, Emile Duke Allen, and John Oliver Davies-Cole.

- Opening prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.
- Minutes of the last meeting (April, 2009) was distributed, read and accepted.

Matters Arising

- The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas requested the Assistant General Secretary, Mr. Desmond Campbell to draft a “thank you” letter to Dr. Alex Lewis for the gift of watches he sent for the executive members.
- Members present decided that Dr. Alex Lewis should be contacted to get information about the cost of purchasing more of the watches which can be sold to Regentonians as a fundraising activity. The decision on the quantity to be purchased was deferred until the cost is known.
- Mr. Billy Jones promised to reschedule the association’s appointment with the Jamaican ambassador in the USA for discussion about the educational exchange program.

President’s visit to the school

- The President distributed pictures of various ceremonies at the school which he attended and participated during his visit in April.
- In his presentation, the President informed members of the following:
 - a) As a source of income, the school has proposed to lease part of its land to two private companies in Freetown: Zain for \$40,000 and Sierranet for \$60,000 annually. Negotiations are in progress.
 - b) Aqua Sports Club has made some overdue payments to the school for the use of its land.
 - c) A detailed plan for the Laboratory Improvement Project initiated by this association has been developed by the school. The plan involves strengthening of security, redecoration, and provision of additional laboratory equipment and materials. (Copy of the plan is attached with this minutes)
 - d) Mr. Lasite will submit a list of recommended textbooks from which the association will select to purchase for the school’s library.
 - e) The Old Boys Union in Freetown is asking the association to send them car bumper stickers inscribed with the phrase “Proud to be a Regentonian” which can be sold to the old boys as a fundraising venture. They also requested for ideas to boost fundraising.

- f) The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas, on behalf of the association, purchased some cabinets in Freetown to be used in Mr. Lasite's Office. The total cost was \$350
- g) Tuition fees have been increased to \$385 for Junior Secondary School (JSS) and \$435 for Senior Secondary School (SSS) per school year. Members voted to maintain the fifteen (15) tuition scholarships awarded by the association but requested information from Mr. Lasite about the criteria used to award the scholarship to the students.
- The President proposed sending the scholarship money in July instead of November/December so as to meet the school's requirement of payment of fees for the beginning of the school year.
- The United Kingdom branch and the other chapters in USA will be informed about the needs of the school as demonstrated by Mr. Lasite and members of the Old Boys Union during Dr. Radcliffe Thomas' visit.

Website

- The President informed members that Mr. Emile Faux has added more important information on the association's new website but a few of the documents needs to be vetted. It was also decided that any document published on the website should be vetted/approved by the website committee.
- The President also informed members that a copy of the "Paying Back the Gift" financial report will be posted on the website.

Financial Statement

- The treasurer, Mr. Alex Williams distributed copies of April 2009 financial report showing an actual cash balance of \$64,516.83
- Closing prayer was said by Dr. John Oliver Davies-Cole.

Faithfully submitted,
Eben 'Solo' Collier