

**DINTHILL PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION - AGM 2023**

***Dinthill Technical High School Alumni Association***

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held at the Tom Redcam Library Auditorium on  
Saturday October 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.*

**Present were:** List of attendees appended.

Cons #	MATTERS	DISCUSSIONS
1.	<b>Call to Order</b>	Chairperson, Mr. Donovan Betancourt, called the Meeting to order at approximately 5:45 p.m.
2.	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	<p>The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the Dinthill Alumni members in attendance both physically and online at the Annual General Meeting for 2023. He highlighted that, where Dinthill past students are gathered you can feel the spirit of ‘<b>One Maroon</b>’. We look forward to share the accomplishments over the last year or two years for the Administration.</p> <p>The Chairman continued by adding that we look forward to electing a new Executive to lead us over the next two years. He said, we may all have our differences but when we come together under the “One Maroon” banner, we are all friends, past students, and colleagues. The Chairman then outlined his expectations of good discussions, feedback, and members putting themselves up to serve and contribute to our institution on the 137.5 acres of land in Linstead that has made us who we are today.</p>
3.	<b>National Anthem Prayer</b>	The National Anthem was then played then former Treasurer & 2nd Vice President, Ms. Sandra Johnson offered prayer.
4.	<b>Quorum</b>	It was announced by the Chairman that a quorum of at least 15 paid up members has been properly constituted hence the meeting was officially commenced. A total of thirty nine (39) members attended the meeting; twenty three (23) attended physically and sixteen (16) online. <i>(see Appendix A)</i>
5.	<b>Apologies for Absence/late</b>	Apologies were tendered for the following person: Mr. Noel Johnson (Absent) – apologies by Mr. Howard Simmonds Ms. Joan Francis (Absent) – Apologies by Deandra Young Knight
6.	<b>Chairman Betancourt Remarks</b>	<p>Chairman Betancourt asked the current board to stand, as the audience give them a round of applause. He continues by saying, the board for the last two years have been led by President Mr. Joseph Small, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ms. Grace McLean, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mr. Alexander Morgan, Treasurer Ms. Renee, Mr. Julius Thompson Director of Public Relations, and Ms. Anna Edwards our Director of Welfare, our Director for IT and School Affairs Mr. Cornel Bent and last but by no means least, our Secretary Mr. Howard Simmonds, and Secretariat staff Mrs. Deandra Young Knight who just joined us.</p> <p>The Chairman then used the opportunity to thank our outgoing Secretariat staff member Mr. Noel Johnson, who has moved on. He stated that Noel has given yeoman service to this Association and we thank him. We wish him well in his endeavors, and that he will come back and serve.</p>
7.	<b>Opening Remarks: President Joseph Small</b>	<p>The president greeted everyone in attendance including those online. In his remarks, he reflected on the tremendous year we had despite the COVID pandemic which affected our school population, our nation Jamaica, and the wider world in previous years. He noted that in spite of the issues and challenges of the pandemic, the Past Students Association, its affiliates and chapters did well in ensuring that the school and its students, ancillary, and staff were taken care of in the best way possible.</p> <p>He stated the importance of us being gathered as a body to look at what will happen in the next 2 years. He extended thanks to the outgoing board and said he looks forward to us constituting a new board that will hopefully outshine what has happened over the last two years. He added that we have collaborated very</p>

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		well with our various chapters, teams and year groups over the last two years, and look forward to the new board ensuring that the collaboration is deepened. In addition, what he deems noteworthy is the yeoman service given by individuals and groups while we performed over the period. He ends his opening remarks by stating that this and any AGM is a matter of serious and important significant, as we elect, a new board to lead the mantra forward for the school. He thanked everyone.
8.	<b>Chairman's Response</b>	Chairman Betancourt thanked the President for his opening comments. He then advised that everyone is free to ask questions, however they are to raise a hand, be identified and the audience microphone will be used. As for persons online, they should use the electronic hand raise.
9.	<b>Reading of the last Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Alexander Morgan</b>  <b>Amendment and Confirmation of the Last Minutes</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Mr. Morgan greeted the AGM and proceeded to read the minutes of the last AGM which was inadvertently circulated late. The Minutes containing 14 pages were then taken as read and the Chairman thanked 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Morgan for his effort.  One omission on page 4, line 3 was noted by Secretary Simmonds. There were no other corrections.  The Minutes were confirmed on a motion moved by Mr. Julius Thompson, seconded by 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Morgan.
10.	<b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>	Former President Mr. Orett Parker expressed disappointed that the minutes were not sent out prior to the AGM. He states that normally, the minutes are sent out at least two weeks before instead of presenting it at the AGM. The Chairman agrees with Mr. Parker, and accepted his position on the matter.  Sandra Johnson asked what was done re the feeding programme because there has been no update, having tables at the last AGM. She also wants an update on the calves/cows. She was advised that those matters would be covered in the President's report.
11.	<b>Acknowledging Sponsors and Congratulatory Comments</b>	The Chairman noted that a number of persons have joined us in house and online while the minutes were being read, He welcomes them to the meeting. He acknowledged our sponsors with special thanks for their continued support in our endeavours.  Mr. Betancourt moved on to congratulate a Past Student and member of the Association Superintendent Richard Hylton, who received a National Award: Medal of Honor for Long and Meritorious Service to the Jamaica Constabulary Force. He further noted that our own Secretary Simmonds had also received a similar award last year.
12.	<b>Introduction of Guest Speaker</b>	Secretary Mr. Howard Simmonds introduced the Guest Speaker Mr. Victor Lowe, CD in his absence and mentioned the following accolades.  Mr. Victor Lowe is a past student of the Manning's High School in Westmoreland and created the first STEM facility in the parish, at that school. Mr. Victor Lowe was one of 125 persons who were recognized for their stellar contributions various fields. He excelled in the fields of entrepreneur, science, and philanthropy; and he received the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD) for his service in telecommunications.  Mr. Lowe held Senior Positions in a number of companies, namely: M&M, Mars, Philbury Cooperation, Coronation, and Nestle. He also held executive positions at Cool Car Cooperation, resulting in a cover and feature stories in Business Age, Black Enterprize, and Ebony Magazines. In Jamaica, he established pathways to technology, state of the art call center in Kingston; providing training, and employment for youth. Currently, Mr. Lowe helms Global Capital Limited,

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		<p>providing financial options to consumers and MSME sectors, all while continuing to provide aide and community development.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p><b>Guest Speaker's Representative</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Donovan Betancourt announced that the Guest Speaker was ill and was unable to attend and gave his blessing for Mr. Betancourt to represent him.</b></p> <p>Mr. Betancourt greets everyone and explained that the team contemplated getting a replacement guest speaker; however, they thought the message and the symbolism of Victor Lowe and of what he represents was so important that they should continue with the program with Victor as the guest speaker. Although Mr. Lowe took ill; he was very insistent that he would be better and he would be at the meeting. He flew into the Island earlier in the week; however, this morning he said that he just cannot make it, he had to call the doctor. He then charged Mr. Betancourt to represent him and speak his heart; he also said Mr. Lowe made another commitment to the DPS Association and confirmed that it still stands. In his address, Mr. Betancourt reminded the audience that Victor Lowe attended Mannings High School and not Dinthill but there is something bigger than someone who just supports Mannings. He said that what he knows of Victor is what he would like to speak to all of us about; <b>It Is the act of giving back.</b></p> <p>He then emphasized - That act of recognizing that having lived a life, having passed through an institution we have a responsibility to ensure that the next generation survives. Over the years that he have known Victor, and he knows him personally, he has contributed to Manning's immensely. However, he contributed a lot to others including Dinthill. Mr. Betancourt recalled that during his tenure as DPSA President, Mr. Low supported him. He further recalled, when those boys got struck by lightning at Charlemont, he was in a meeting with Victor who alerted him of the incident and enquired if the boys were ok.</p> <p>Mr. Betancourt recalls this incident because he believes it was important to Victor to follow up and to ensure that the next generation survives. He highlighted the STEM Center initiated by Victor at Mannings and he is conduction restoration to other areas. Some people suggested that because he is wealthy he can do these things; the truth is, he has choices as well and he can decide were his money goes, and he can decide what he does with it. Mr. Betancourt says the reality is; Victor did not start giving back when he reached whatever his age is/whatever his accomplishments are, he started small. He goes on to explain that when you reach out to past students for support, they will tell you they are coming or they will call back, but they never do. He says support is; you do not have to be a millionaire to give, give what you can. Moreover, if you think about it, if one person only gives \$100, but 100 persons gave \$1.00, then you end up at the same place. Therefore, he says this to us from Victor's heart because he knows this is what Victor would say.</p> <p>He then highlighted the various individuals and groups including year groups who are contributing to the School; Orett and his 1972 group, 1973 group, Grace and Sandra with their 82, and 83 groups, and a group of 90's student. He mentions these groups as he shares the story a specific year group; where he reached out to the group so they can do something for the 40th anniversary since they have yet to do anything meaningful for the school, he recalled that the group went silent on him for about 3 weeks. However, when all was said and done they decided to meet and have discussions, only 2 persons showed up.</p> <p>Mr. Betancourt says the truth is it will never be convenient; it has to be a choice. However, he knows the reason why many of us are here; it is because of Dinthill Technical High School and the quality of education or the opportunities we got there. He reiterated, "I stand here on behalf of Victor to say to you, we have a responsibility, all of us". We do not have to give money, we can give our time, I have a living example of this; Cornel Bent have served in all kinds of capacity in this organization. Cornel joined this organization as a young student out of school, he has served in a number of capacities, and he has never said no. Cornel doesn't have any money to give his school but the reality is, he gives his time and</p>

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		<p>effort. How many of us do that? Victor would ask this same question to you”. In his closing remarks he stated, if you think about it, we don’t have to be a millionaire, billionaire or zillionaire to give back, because by the time we reach there an entire generation of Dinthill students would have passed and we would not have helped them. He states that you do not have to be a senior manager to give back; you can give your time. He asks how many of us leverage our jobs. Go to the bosses and say can you help, can you give a token, can you give a car tyre, or can you give something, anything? How many of us do that? He says we would be surprised if we would make a little effort, and it is what Victor would do.</p> <p>He concluded his address by saying, “when I asked Victor to be the Guest Speaker and he said to me, all right Maas B, I will do it, so what must I do? I said, well come and do what you can. Mr. Betancourt went on to say that today he is happy to announce that Mr. Victor Lowe has committed to the Association \$1 million to support a project that we can decide on. He says, Victor is not a past student of Dinthill, but he is a past student of history, he is a past student of integrity, and he is a past student of making sure that when he is gone there are other Victor Lowe’s that will be around. On behalf of Mr. Lowe, Chairman Betancourt thanks everyone for their attention.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><b>Trust Fund Report: Chairman Mr. Derrick Thompson — Presented by Linval Freeman</b></p>	<p>Mr. Freeman represented the Chairman Mr. Derrick Thompson who he said was unavoidably absent. He stated that the Dinthill trust fund, which have been formed since 1996 holds funds which have accumulated over a period of time from fundraising activities, contributions from various chapters around the world, and from donations from past and present students.</p> <p>Firstly, the trustees over the last year have been trying to solicit monies from past students. The trustees have targeted certain individuals who they think will be able to give the trust \$1000 U.S. dollars. Letters have been written to those persons who they are targeting; to some extent, it has been successful. Secondly, they are trying to accumulate funds from the current students; A couple of years ago through engaging the school the Trust was able to do vouchers and ask parents of current students to give a voluntary contribution of \$1000 JMD each and that has proven to be quite successful in raising additional funds overtime.</p> <p>In recent time the contribution from various chapters has fallen off and this year in particular. Mr. Freeman stated that the trustees believe the impact of COVID had taken a toll on the chapters themselves and their fundraising activities and so they have not gotten back to the level where we are getting any substantial amounts from the Chapters. Last year the trustees took a decision, not to dispense any monies until the balance had gotten to a certain level. Mr. Freeman states that they have an objective of \$20 million before they start dispensing again, and thinks they are on track. They are still on a marketing thrust and as stated before; part of the marketing is soliciting bigger amounts from past students who are able to afford it.</p> <p>Mr. Freeman then delved into the investments that the Trust Fund is currently holding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trust Fund has investments of about \$10.9 million JMD and that is roughly \$1.7 million above the figure that was reported at last year’s AGM.</li> <li>• During the period January to September 2023, the Trust collected contributions of over \$1.6 million, that is:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$456,000 from current students, and \$1.2 million, which they were able to realize from, targeted past students, making a total of \$1.63 million in contributions. The net income for the year is \$63,000.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mr. Freeman reiterated the aggressive efforts to increase the trust fund and hopes to reach the \$20 million target next year.</p>

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<p>15.</p>	<p><b>Trust Fund Q &amp;A</b></p>	<p>Chairman Betancourt thanked former President Freeman for the report on the trust fund. Former President Parker then asked whether the voluntary contribution of \$100 US from past students is being realized. This was initiated when the Trust Fund was established in 1996. He also queried when was the last time the Association or any of the Chapters made any contributions to the fund.</p> <p>President Freeman responded that the initial \$100 US is still in effect but not being paid; he asserts that the Trust Fund is targeting specific Past Students for a contribution of \$1000 US in order to get the Trust Fund where they want it to be. As for the contributions from DPSA Jamaica and the Chapters; the last contribution was received from the New York chapter, however, he believes the Fund have not gotten anything substantial because of the reduction of fundraising events since COVID 19 over the last 3 years.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report: Ms. Renee Panton</b></p> <p><b>Presented by Director Julius Thompson.</b></p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Director Julius Thompson greeted everyone online and in house; he apologized for Treasurer Panton being unavoidably absent. He advised the meeting that for the past 5 years the Association has been registered as a Charitable Organization in Jamaica, with its principal activity being to raise funds via donations and fundraising events to finance charity related endeavors regarding the Dinthill Technical High School. He then advised that the audited financial statements for the period January 2022 to December 2022 has been published to the members and made it clear that his presentation will include a management financial report for the period January 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.</p> <p><b><u>The report from our auditor Mr. Richard Ranger, of Ranger and Associates as presented by the auditors.</u></b></p> <p>The auditor in his absence has submitted his report to be read to the members of Dinthill Technical High School Alumni Association Limited. The report begins with this declaration: We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Dinthill Past Students Association limited set out on pages one through 14, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. As well as the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.</p> <p>“We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards and financial reporting. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022, and the financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Jamaica Companies Act.”</p> <p><b><u>The Audited Financial Statements For The Period January 2022 to December 2022</u></b></p> <p>Key aspects of our financial position: <i>Current and non-current assets</i> - Our non-current assets for 2022 amounts to \$63,790 current assets amounts to \$3,180,000, the majority of this happens to be cash and cash equivalents. Compared to the previous period 2021; 2022 actually grew by approximately 40% because in 2021 we had around \$2 million in cash and cash equivalents and in 2022 it amounts to \$2,812,000. The amount is reflected in our various bank accounts and two long-term investments that we have at BPM financial company.</p> <p><i>Receivables</i> - Of significance is our receivables, we have seen a 50% reduction from the amount for 2022 amounting to \$330,000 compared to the previous year 2021 where our receivables amounted to \$600,000. This is good in the sense that we would have been collecting some of the sums that are outstanding.</p> <p><i>comprehensive income</i> - In terms of our comprehensive income, our revenue remains consistent with that of 2021 where we took in approximately \$4 million, and the corresponding 2022 is a little over \$4 million. As it pertains to the</p>

comprehensive income, the expenses are rather significant in that in 2021, we had a deficit and the deficit before taxation was approximately \$2 million. I am happy to report here tonight that we have a surplus in 2022 of approximately \$419,000; this is a major significant turnaround of the deficit of over \$2 million in 2021 to now a surplus of over 400,000 in 2022.

*Expenses* - Our expenses based on our financial statements that are audited the expenses that jump out at us are for memorabilia. We spent a little over \$1 million for those memorabilia to include mask T-shirts and other paraphernalia. I want to take the opportunity to implore members to ensure that you get your one maroon memorabilia to ensure that you turned expense into a venture that is already bearing fruit. Another expense that is over half a million dollars happens to be that of the Mediathon in 2022 that cost the association \$660,000 this was consistent with the period of 2021 also which amounted to \$692,000. Our Secretariat expense saw an increase of approximately 20% to \$722,000 compared to \$600,000 for the previous period.

*Financial Statements Notes* - In terms of notes for the financial statements:

- Cash and cash equivalence at the bank is approximately 1.6 million
- Cash in hand as at the end of the financial period was \$47,335
- The fixed term deposit held at BPM financial totals \$1.1 million
- Our accruals - the only one of significance to report is that of our auditors' fee, which is approximately \$200,000.

Here ends the summary of the audited financial report for the period of January to December 2022.

3.

**The Unaudited Financial Management Report for the period January 2023 to September 30 2023.**

Director Thompson says, in 2023 we are growing and we are growing significantly as far as our financial position is concerned.

- *Our Non-current assets*; furniture and equipment have remained somewhat the same.
- *Our current assets* for the period ending 2022 have risen significantly to include cash and cash equivalents of over \$4.3 million. This sum is not inclusive of our long-term deposits investment. If we are to add both cash and long-term, we are looking at over \$5.5 million.
- *Our payables* for the period ending September 30 is approximately \$208,000.
- Director Thompson adds that based on our statement of comprehensive income, significant amounts as far as our income is concerned for this year surrounds contributions:
- We have had *contributions* of \$1.3 million compared to \$100,000 for the previous period unaudited in 2022.
- The *gala banquet brought in an income* of approximately \$2.18 million. From an expense perspective, we would have paid out a little over \$900,000 for the services rendered. At this time we should recognize the success of the event yielding approximately a little under \$1.3 million.
- The other significant income that we have here is the sales of memorabilia, which is a little under \$500,000. This in itself knowing that the expense was just under \$1,000,000, we have sold less than \$500,000 to date.
- Our last *significant expense* of note is our website maintenance cost of a little under \$100,000. Last year we would not have had an expense for our website.

The Report on our non-current assets reads; depreciation of 10% for furniture and

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		<p>equipment, 30% for computer and other items within the office. These depreciation totals are keeping within the accounting standards and are sufficient to be mentioned here. We do not have a bank overdraft, also are payables for the period ending September 30, 2023 is \$280,000 which represents four items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$40,000 for auditors</li> <li>2. \$6,000 for dues to executive members</li> <li>3. \$70,000 for LMF payments to Pegasus</li> <li>4. \$92,000 for accounts payables, which has to do with internal office business.</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Thompson finished his report on our financial position for the unaudited accounts for the period ending September 30, 2023. On behalf of our Treasure, he thanked the members who made these reports a success, and to the Secretariat's office for providing in a timely manner decent information via receipts and transactions.</p> <p>During his report, Director Thompson gave kudos to the Planning Grand Gala team and said more ventures like these will take us to where we want to be in terms of income generating through fundraising activities. He also, implored each of us to ensure that we can move the memorabilia items by way of sale as to improve our position and cash in on some of these memorabilia as the year progresses. As far as it relates to fulfilling some of the responsibilities that we have to our school. Even though, the figures might sound a lot, it is by no means, where we want it to be.</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Q &amp; A</b> <b>Orett Parker</b></p> <p><b>Dir. Thompson</b></p> <p><b>Mr. F. Moodie</b></p> <p><b>Chairman Betancourt</b></p> <p><b>Sandra Johnson</b></p>	<p>Former President Parker questioned whether the executive of the Association was presented with this financial report prior to the AGM, seeing that the Treasurer is not present and this report came in Friday.</p> <p>Director Thompson responded that, the audited financials was perused by the Finance Committee of this organization, which is the authority on financial matters. The financial details as presented here have been verified by the members of the finance team and signed by the President. In order for it to be presented to the membership today, it required two signatures one of the Finance Committee Chairman and that of the President. As for the management accounts, there is a finance committee that the treasurer reports to in that regard. I am a member of the committee and I am aware of what is happening as far as the financials are concerned.</p> <p>Committee Chairman Mr. Moodie also had a question; his concerns were similar to what has been mentioned by former President Parker. He wanted to know when the audited financials was submitted to the board, because he has not seen any record to suggest that has happened and therefore he is questioning that position.</p> <p>Chairman Betancourt responded that he has been advised that the committee did that review and based on the recommendation of the committee it was signed. Mr. Moodie comments that if the committee meets and they have agreed that the financials are in order, it needs to go to the board, to be rectified by the board. IPP Betancourt asks Ms. Sandra Johnson for guidance and clarity in relation to the financials, because he wants to make sure that there is proper closure on it. Ms. Johnson stated that in the past, it was sent to the board, and signed off by the Treasurer and the President. It could have been that the Executive took a decision that a Finance Committee is to review and make recommendations to the board to be adopted. She says usually that is how it would work, but as Director Julius said it is not in the Constitution, so maybe since it is not in the Constitution it is something we could look at.</p> <p>Ms. Johnson commented that she heard our cash position, and it is very good, but the purpose of our association is to help the school. She recalled that fundraisers were done in 2022 and 2023; to assist with the feeding program. She enquired whether anything was done for the feeding program in 2022 and 2023 because</p>



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	<p><b>President J. Small</b></p>	<p>that was something agreed on; and if we have changed our minds, is there another project that the funds are earmarked for?</p> <p>President Small responded that, it was agreed on by the Board to contribute \$300,000 to the school for the feeding programme. However, coming out of COVID there were some challenges that prevented us from executing that and I did speak with the school bursar and say that we intend to give them \$300.000 for their breakfast programme which will be done soon after the AGM as we are now in a better financial position.</p> <p>President Small then clarified the point about the financial reports being submitted to the Board. He stated that since has been a member of the Board he has not seen the process that was described done that way. He however suggested if that is necessary for transparency, the new Board can peruse that going forward.</p> <p>One member suggested that comments that Mr. Parker's point be noted for a possible amendment in the constitution to speak clearly to how the financials are handled and approved.</p>
<p>18.</p>	<p><b>President's Report: Mr. Joseph Small</b></p>	<p>President, Mr. Joseph Small having greeted the members in the audience and those online, reports that the year January 2023 so far, have had, in his opinion, a significant impact on the school. He stated that the method over the last couple of years was to ensure that our various committees are diversified. As we try to change and grow in the organization, over the last few years, it has been quite deliberate that we try to get on the various committees, a mixture of members from the 1970s, the 1980s, the 1990s and from the 2000s to include past presidents, and person's domiciled outside of Jamaica to serve.</p> <p><b>Events and Fundraising</b> President Small advised that recently stated cash position and revenue stream indicated in the Treasury's report, is a testament to a number of significant events all led by our events and fundraising team. While we never had a director for events and fundraising it was the jurisdiction of the president to ensure that someone on the board oversees that task, and our very abled 1<sup>st</sup> VP Grace Maclean was asked to do so since that's the position from whence she came and he believes she did a sterling job throughout the period with her team in that regard; of note was the Grand Gala Banquet which was well conceptualized, planned and executed. President Small saw joy in the faces of so many at the event and that spoke to the efforts which were put into its execution and the outcome was fantastic. Additionally, an organization cannot exist without events and fundraising as it is essentially the lifeblood of the organization. He then encouraged every member to facilitate, encourage and participate.</p> <p><b>Membership</b> President Small shared that membership has not been at the level he would personally have liked; nonetheless, he believes the membership team has showed significant initiatives to try to get members in the organization. He stated that he sees many familiar faces but what he would like to see is more new faces. He adds that with all the efforts ; the membership drives that were done, the various online parties, and the various events, including face to face like backyard for example were very significant efforts by the membership team to try to get more of us as paid up, current, committed to the task, and executing as we ought to. He then charged the next Board as a body, to get more members registered, active and participating.</p> <p><b>Public Relation (PR)</b> President Small reports that efforts in PR this year have been quite good as we build on what was done last year. He noted that the efforts in PR compliment the activities in both the Membership Committee and the Events &amp; Fundraising Committee. Additionally, there are instances when we were not doing so well; and an idea was brought to the board by our second VP Mr. Morgan to get a very able consultant to complement our efforts with the help of our Director Bent, who</p>

is our IT guru.

**Welfare**

President Joseph Small believes that welfare is something that schools in Jamaica and our own school is in extremely high demand for. He highlighted a socioeconomic issue on seeing some of the requests we received.

However despite the challenges around welfare, Director Anna Edwards and her team has done a sterling job in ensuring that whatever comes to us is treated, which sometimes requires the input of other past students. He opined that Welfare based on what our socioeconomic condition, will continue to be an issue and a significant pull on demand for the organization. He thanked Director Edwards and her team, and then appealed to members to continue to assist because it is very important.

**Secretariat**

President Small noted, as did Chairman Betancourt the transition of from that office. However, Mr. Johnson is still a paid up member and he still willing to work behind the scenes, hopefully he might work even better with the opportunities afforded him; but nonetheless, he believes we have found a rising star in Mrs. Deandra Young-Knight.

In addition to the transition in staff, President Small exuded his confidence in the work that was done by Secretary Simmonds's in trying to streamline the secretariat. He then appealed to members both in house and online to help move memorabilia and paraphernalia sales at a greater speed so that we can help our alumni brothers and sisters who require our help. He also encouraged all members to assist the school with the various projects and initiatives. He congratulated the secretary once again.

**Projects**

President Small reported on a number of projects the Association has earmarked and others a work in progress, these include:

1. Imagination Farms
2. Dairy Animals
3. Linval Freeman Gymnasium expansion
4. Broiler Production Upgrade

➤ ***Imagination Farms***

President Small reminded the meeting that at the last AGM they had spoken about a partnership with imagination farms. He reports that imagination farms in the form it existed then, no longer exists in that form. Hence, the crop projects that were planned fell by the way because that partnership was not materialized. Due to the fact that the company changed its own strategy, if they were implemented, they would have to find a different market which would have been difficult, so they have to rethink that from a project perspective.

➤ ***Dairy Animals***

President Small gave an update on the dairy animals' project that was implemented a couple years ago. He said much work took place to get animals on the ground but they have had many struggles, and even before they actually got on the ground, they had some struggles.

Firstly, the animals that we ended up with were not 100% what we wanted to purchase, but the circumstances at the time prohibit that and put us on the back foot.

Secondly, he says that we have lost multiple animals to different events and activities over the period; in fact, nine of the 20 animals were lost due to a major attack by dogs that killed a few in one go; moreover, different things have happened along the way.

Lastly, President Small commented that, having evaluated what was happening on the ground, the Association, took it to the Dairy Board to initiate a feeding program of the animals. The board gave permission to expend some money to get concentrate and help to grow the animals. He noted that the livestock enterprise is a higher risk than in the crops enterprise and having lost as many animals as we have we now have to get rest to a stage to breed and they can multiply, and still get a good herd over time. We committed to work with the school and the Dairy

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		<p>Board, BPM and FCIBC, who assisted us with those processes to get the animals on the ground.</p> <p>➤ <b>Linval Freeman Gymnasium Expansion</b></p> <p>President Small reported that the most recent Gala Banquet event was earmarked as a fundraiser, to assist with the expansion of the Linval Freeman gymnasium. He says, now that we have had a reconciliation of the accounts, as IPP Betancourt mentioned that VP Morgan is waiting for the go ahead to make some steps in that regard. He suggested that the next board will have to continue that process.</p> <p>➤ <b>Broiler Production System Upgrade</b></p> <p>President Small shares that when he came to this body one idea he had was to get the boiler production system converted to a very modern system. They engaged the CB Group of Companies; had meetings, and talked and looked at some of the numbers. He said at that time it would take \$150,000,000 to finance that project and believes it would take something special, some kind of specialized financing arrangement will have to be utilized to get a project like that rolled out.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>	<p>Chairman Betancourt expressed that he was impressed with the details and transparency in the President’s report, especially concerning the dairy animals, seeing that he was president when the project was initiated. He still thinks that it is a very good project and believes it will still bear fruit in the long run. He said we have lost, but there is nobody who does livestock that you don’t have a mortality rate that is calculated in, but the truth is, this is higher than expected, because, the school nor they themselves were prepared for the sustenance of dairy animals. He said it has been a learning process but he thinks the 11 animals remaining have the potential to multiply.</p> <p>He then thanked President Small and his team for the work being done and singled out Director Anna Edwards for the tremendous work she does in Welfare, and thanked her. Additionally, he says this is something that Derek Thompson said to him a couple years ago, it has stood with him, and he has been called to action. The point Mr. Thompson made was that the reason Georges and KC are so rich is that every past student who dies, leaves something for the school. Mr. Betancourt asks; how many of us have ever really thought about adding Dinthill Technical High School to our will? He adds, I have actioned it and I am aware Derek Thompson has actioned it. He stated that if anybody has any questions concerning the Presidents report the floor was now open.</p> <p>There were no questions for the president but 1st VP Grace McLean had a few points to share, as well as President Orett Parker.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> VP Grace McLean points out that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any business you are in there is some amount of risk, so if you are going to raise cows expect some to die. This is a long-term business venture, so you have to think long term and put the measures and resources in place.</li> <li>2. We cannot continue to rely on fundraisers, as we have been doing it is labor intensive, and few are committed to this cause. Also it is not sustainable, based on the needs of the school we need to have more sustainable projects.</li> <li>3. Last year Professor Neville Ying was invited to speak with us about Social Sector Management. The Jamaica Stock Exchange Social Sector programme, prepares a group like the past student association, trains you to raise funds on the social stock exchange. This provides a platform to attract donors with the resources to fund a project like the broiler upgrade. Once your project gets off the ground and the next stage is to buy shares in that entity.</li> <li>4. Regarding adding the school to your will; I say, people need to have the will to give now; she suggested giving what you have even your time.</li> </ol> <p>President Parker suggested that members of the current Executives have not been supporting the President, and thinks that needs to be fixed. He also pointed out that the Public Relations department needs to be ramped up and suggested that the AGM should be better attended.</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p><b>Election for</b></p>	<p><b>President</b></p>

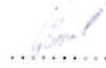

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	<p><b>Vacant Executive Positions</b></p>	<p>There was one nominee, Mr. Joseph Small; Presiding Officer asked if there were any other nominations for President (3 times) but none was submitted hence Nominations were closed and Mr. Joseph Small was re-elected as President.</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> There was one nominee, Mr. Howard Simmonds; Presiding Officer asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary (3 times) but none was submitted hence Nominations were closed and Mr. Howard Simmonds was re-elected as Secretary</p> <p><b>Director of Membership</b> There was one nominee, Ms. Anna Edwards; Presiding Officer asked if there were any other nominations for Director of Membership (3 times) but none was submitted hence Nominations were closed and Ms. Anna Edwards was elected as Director of Membership.</p> <p><b>Director of School Affairs and IT operations</b> There was one nominee, Mr. Clinton Phillips; The Presiding Officer asked if there were any other nominations for President (3 times) but none was submitted hence Nominations were closed and Mr. Clinton Phillips was elected as Director of School Affairs and IT operations</p> <p><b>Director of Welfare and Mentorship</b> Lincoln Russell nominated Anna Edwards for the post. However, VP Morgan explained that Ms. Edwards is not eligible for the position as she has already served two terms, someone else would have to be the director of that post. There were no other nominations for the post.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> IPP Betancourt nominated Mr. Julius Thompson for the position; Mrs. Carol Russell seconded it. There was no other nomination for the position of Treasurer hence Nomination was closed and Mr. Julius Thompson was elected as Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Director of Events and Fundraising</b> Mr. Joseph Small nominated Mr. Donovan Edwards for the position; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Alexander Morgan seconded the nomination. There was no other nomination for the position of Director of Events and Fundraiser hence Nomination was closed and Mr. Donovan Edwards was elected as Director of Events and Fundraising.</p> <p>There was no nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Welfare so Presiding Officer Dunkley advised that we have come to the end of the election/voting process.</p>
<p>21.</p>	<p><b>Question for from Ms. Sandra Johnson</b></p>	<p><b>How will those two positions be filled?</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> VP Morgan</b> It was then responded that, to fill those positions, a special meeting may be called and an election held for 1<sup>st</sup> VP; regarding welfare, the President can select a Chairman for a Welfare Committee and Director Anna Edwards can serve if she is willing to.</p> <p>Presiding Officer Marlene Dunkley then invited the newly elected Executive members for period January 2024- December 2026 to take the Oath of Office and the election process was closed.</p> <p>Everyone extended congratulations to the newly elected Executive Members of the Board.</p>
<p>22.</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>O. Parker</b></p>	<p>Chairman Betancourt enquired if there were any other business and advised the attendees that refreshment was available after the meeting.</p> <p>Former President Parker reiterated his position that the previous board had only half its members really working, so the President needs to ensure that this new board put in the work. He admonished elected members who are unable to participate fully to step down.</p>

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	<b>Chairman Moodie</b>	Chairman Franklyn Moodie, who attended online, expressed sincere gratitude to 1 <sup>st</sup> VP Grace McLean for her contribution, service, and dedication to her school and the PSA. He says she has shown remarkable, expertise, professionalism and courage during her tenure. She has decided to decline any nomination to be the next president, which he respects and understands. However, he wants her to know she has his support and admiration. He believes she has been the most influential executive of the Dinthill Past Student Association. He thanked Ms. McLean for everything she has done.
	<b>Chairman Betancourt</b>	Chairman Betancourt thanked and agreed with Chairman Moodie, and said he believes in cycles and so he believes that Ms. McLean will return to serve once again. He also hopes that at some point the President, will formally recognize her for the contribution she has made.
	<b>Veronica Fitzgerald</b>	Ms. Veronica Fitzgerald commended 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Grace McLean for all she has done for the school, and implores the board to do more than what was done last year. She enquired about the <b>One Maroon</b> brand being copyrighted because persons online are selling one maroon paraphernalia and benefiting from it when we should be. She reminded that when IPP Betancourt was President the issue of copyright for the one maroon brand was tabled but she got no update on the current status.
	<b>Carol Russell</b>	Miss Carol Russell extended a big thank you to Ms. Veronica Fitzgerald for outfitting the new Home Economics Food and nutrition junior lab. IPP Betancourt added that “Ms. Fitzgerald is one of those unsung heroes of Dinthill Technical High School Past Student Association, she gives and she gives some more. She will fly down here from Canada just to give, and one of the things she will always tell you is “don’t tell anyone that it was me”.
	<b>Chairman Betancourt</b>	Mr. Betancourt noted her point on the One Maroon brand. He explained that attempts were made to get it registered and the financial details of 2021/2022 will show expenditure for legal fees. This was in an attempt to register the <b>One Maroon</b> brand; however the word <b>Maroon</b> is an indigenous word, and once you mention the word <b>Maroon</b> it cannot be register without the agreement of a Maroon group. He expressed the DPSA efforts in reaching out to the Maroon Chiefs but they have been unsuccessful. The truth is if it is not registered by us, we cannot stop someone from using it, but the other side of it is; we can overwhelm the market so that we can maximize the benefit from it.
	<b>Mr. Livingston</b>	Chairman thanked Ms. Fitzgerald for her point, and then thank the AGM Main Sponsor, COK Sodality. He invited the COK representative Mr. Morris Livingston to say a few words.  Mr. Livingston in his comment that he is a manager at COK, but he is also a past student of Dinthill Technical High School, who this evening became a member of the Alumni Association. He explained their Depositor Max account, which has a 7% interest and says it’s a three year investment, and \$50,000 is the minimum deposit. Contact for COK include all social media platforms at <a href="http://www.cokcu.com">www.cokcu.com</a> The general contact number is 876-960-4226; Mr. Livingston’s contact is 876-406-5742 or email at <a href="mailto:mlivingston@cokcu.com">mlivingston@cokcu.com</a> .
	<b>Lincoln Russell</b>	Mr. Lincoln Russell informed members that the <b>back in time party</b> is coming up on <b>December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023</b> . The venue this year it will be at <b>Our Place On The Oasis</b> , on 11 Oxford Road. This venue has a garden setting, ample parking and areas that we can display or memorabilia. He emphasized that he wants us to make this a big success and all we have to do is sell tickets. He wants everyone present to sell tickets, and he has the tickets here for persons to collect tonight.
23.	<b>Termination Of Meeting</b>	Chairman Betancourt expresses thanks to persons for the provision of food and assistance in setting up the venue. He thanked the technicians, the photographers and videographers, and the Jamaica Library Service for hosting the AGM. He

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		<p>then announced end of the 2023 AGM. He requested a motion for the adjournment of the meeting.</p> <p>He wished everyone a wonderful night, a pleasant weekend and looks forward to seeing our continued support for Dinthill Technical High School.</p> <p>Mr. Donovan Edwards moved the motion for the meeting to be adjourned, Ms. Sandra Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting was terminated at 9:37p.m.</p> <p>Signed by:  .....</p> <p>Joseph Small - President</p> <p>Signed by:  .....</p> <p>Howard Simmonds - Secretary</p>
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