

MINUTES OF THE 6TH BASSA HIGH SCHOOL CONVENTION

HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA ON AUGUST 15, 2008

The meeting began at 4:30 pm with opening prayer by Mrs. Mildred Howard Karpeh. The president, Mr. Wilmot N. Howard called the convention to order and welcome remarks were made by Mr. Calvin R. Johnson who welcomed us to his home on behalf of him and his family. The agenda for the convention of 2007 was not read by the secretary. A motion was made to adopt the agenda as the document guiding the conduct of the meeting. However the secretary could not present the minutes of convention 2007 because she forgot to prepare copies for this meeting/gathering. It was then decided that the minutes for that convention as well as the present one will be presented at the meeting on Saturday, August 16th before the picnic.

Next, the treasurer presented his report, emphasizing that as of August 31 2008, there is a balance of \$12,591.87 of which \$10,000 is earmarked for the fence project. Credits for the account t for the period is \$46,656.87, expenditures amounted to \$2,483.84. Net available balance is \$2,173.03. A motion was made to adopt the financial report was made by Dr. Samuel O. Butscher and seconded by Mr. Calvin R. Johnson. Everyone accepted the report as presented by the treasurer.

The financial report was followed by introduction of each attendant (the president apologized for not doing that earlier). The state of affairs of the organization was presented by the president, followed by a motion by Mr. Charles Nagbe to accept the report for discussion. The discussion of the report was presided over by Mrs. Lucinda. Mr. Oscar Barnard asked why the principal was not mentioned in the report. The president answered that it is because we are dealing directly with the superintendent and the alumni association in Buchanan as they were ones who presented the proposal to construct a fence around the school. Mr. Stephen Joe wanted to know what percentage of the cost of the fence project would be covered by the local branch of the alumni association since we are contributing allocating \$10,000 toward the project. The president replied that they will raise their portion of the cost locally, for now there is nothing being done due to the raining season. However, due to the lack of money in Liberia, we might need to help them to complete the project in the future if they need us. Mr. Stephen Joe also suggested the need for us to have someone involved to monitor the project. Mr., Howard answered that that is already in place that is why we requested video documentation to show the status of the project. The superintendent is involved in the monitoring aspect etc, and we also proposed the use of the students to do the work to further reduce the cost of production. They could also use some of the government employees in Bass who are not very busy and be compensated. However, since we made these suggestions, no paper work has been presented to the body to substantiate what is being done about the project, hence no money disbursed so far.

At this juncture, Mr. Emmanuel Reeves elaborate on the reason for not giving the funds for the fence to the principal. That is because he was not impressed with the principal's activities when he visited the school. He would support the idea of not giving the funds directly to the principal; he could serve in a supervisory role. Mr. Oscar Barnard asked if the alumni association supersedes the school's administration? The president answered "no", we are just not dealing directly with school administration on the project. At this point Mr. Alma Harris-Smith asked that since things are going on smoothly thru the alumni association, why we don't contact the principal directly? Mr. Howard answered that is possible as far as it is on the basis of connecting the principal and alumni association.

Mr. Joseph Sinyan then added that one of the reason we started working with the alumni association is because the estimate given by the principal was too exorbitant. Ms Hawa Kpaka suggested that notwithstanding all of the above, we should get the principal involved in the project. Mr. Nuke Reeves agreed that we have to find other means of involving the principal at some point to some extent. Dr Butscher added that the principal should only play a supervisory role, no fund disbursement.

CONCLUSION: it was generally agreed upon that the fence project will continue, the principal will be involved and the funds be disbursed to the alumni association upon receipt of the documents requested as proof a blueprint for monitoring and for our records.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nagbe suggested that in addition to getting a band as proposed by the president, we should consider getting them some sporting materials, including jerseys, football and other things. The president, Mr. Howard explained the benefit of a marching band to the school and community as a source of fund raising and entertainment for everyone. We need to think about ways to obtain one through donation or purchase by putting some documentation together soon.

Mr. Stephen Joe thanked the secretary and Tommy Logan for encouraging him and others to participate in this convention.

Mrs. Alma Harris Smith suggested that we look into other ways to raise funds for the organization besides payment of due and convention activities. We need to get a 501C for the association, but since it involves a lot of steps/procedures, we could use one under the umbrella of a bigger organization while we get our own.

Mr. Nuku Reeves said that he has shared the views of the organization with the new American Ambassador to Liberia. Hopefully, he will be ending his responsibility with the Liberian government at the end of the year and will assist in getting the financial documents in better shape to apply for a 501C for the organization.