

June 7, 2009

MINUTES OF THE BASSA HIGH SCHOOL TELECONFERENCE MAY 17, 2009

The teleconference began at 7:22 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, 2009 with a prayer by Ms. Ida Lloyd followed by welcome remarks by Mr. Wilmot Howard. The agenda was ready by the secretary and a motion was passed to adopt the agenda for discussion.

Update on the fence project

The president said that nothing has been accomplished on the fence project so far because he has not received a favorable result from his calls to the superintendent. Also, the superintendent is very busy with the running of the county and cannot be reached easily.

Also, he is afraid of the college project overshadowing the association's fence project. However he attended a briefing on the college project held by Dr. Levi Zangai Reeves and no particular decision has been reached as to the location of the college. He (Mr. Howard) suggested that the college be held at the Demonstration School and Dr Zangai Reeves took that in to consideration but said the college project is still in its infancy. Also, the fence will cost a lot of money and he Mr. Howard is not convinced that he can trust the link on the ground because of all the news going on about corruption in high and low places. The present means we plan to use will not yield the desired result so he proposed that we hire a contractor who will be accountable to the organization to implement the project. At that point Ms. Ida Lloyd suggested that we contact Cllr Charles Brumskine to get us a contactor to take on the project. Mr. Brumskine is an alumnus with legal mind and will be able to help us get a contact/contractor in place. The president said he will explore that possibility but needs the contact information for Cllr Brumskine. The secretary then promised to send him Cllr Brumskine's contact. (Update...the secretary emailed the contact information to the president via his email on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>)

Sis Alma Smith suggested that we need to change the way we are doing things, we need to change the project direction to getting

some school materials like copy books, books etc for the children. Also, we need to consider a scholarship program to assist the students. We need to stop the fence project for now and tackle other more viable project.

Mr. Victor King then explained that the fence project was approved during the New Jersey convention. He was in Buchanan and did not see anything done on the campus, he met with the superintendent and she promised to provide local materials and labor but did not get any response from the organization. We need to erect the fence; the campus needs the secure the buildings and the properties of the school. He further said that during his visit to Buchanan, he made a research on the cost of cement, the number of blocks/bag of cement and we can get a contractor to make our own blocks, get the labor from the county officials and go ahead with the fence project.

Mr. Joseph Sinyan added to the suggestion to get a contractor, sign a contact with him and build the fence.

In conclusion, Mr. Howard said that the Superintendent was never specific on what their contribution would be toward the project but he would keep the two views on the table: (a) contact Cllr Brumskine to get a contractor for the fence project or put the fence project on hold for now and work on the scholarship program.

Mr. Calvin Johnson suggested that we should spend our money wisely; we can go ahead with the fence project and (2) include the scholarship program and school materials project on the next convention's agenda so that the students can get some direct benefit from the organization. The president should appoint a scholarship committee to work out the modalities to be discussed at the next meeting. This suggestion was unanimously agreed upon and the following persons were appointed:

Mrs. Alma Smith, chairperson, Mr. Calvin Johnson,

Ms Ida J. Lloyd, and Mr. Victor King.

Sis Alma was empowered to add more people on the committee and make a report to the body during the next conference call meeting before the convention.

Mr. Calvin Johnson suggested that the treasurer should send the financial report to the secretary to email to the body before the next meeting.

Other business

The president welcomed and thanked Mr. William Hares, our professor, for attending the meeting.

Mr. Emmanuel Nuku reeves could not attend the meeting but has got pledges to the tone of \$10,000 for the organization of which \$5500 has been collected and \$4500 is still to be collected.

A guest speaker has not yet been chosen for the upcoming convention. The president urged the Maryland members to choose one as soon as possible for approval.

Victor king suggested that the hosts for the convention should submit a budget for the convention to avoid over or under spending. Ms Ida Lloyd suggested that we should chard something for every activity, the food and drinks should be sold to raise sufficient funds for our projects.

Roll Call: The following persons called in to the conference:

Ida J. Lloyd

Wilmot N. Howard

Calvin R. Johnson

Alma Harris Smith

Frances Potter

William J. Hares

Edward Hall

Joseph D. Sinyan

Victor King

Tommy Logan

The treasurer and other members of the Maryland were not available to give the update on the convention preparation.