



CARIBBEAN SCHOOL

Board of Directors

REPORT TO CORPORATE MEMBERS

August-October 2017

This report to Corporate Members was about to be sent to Parents when Hurricane Maria passed over the island, changing our living conditions without regards to anyone's intentions and expectations. As Lennon put it, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." We started a new school year and before getting the semester going full swing, Maria made us start over, while rethinking our priorities and revising our schemes and proposals. Maria also gave us a chance to get to know each other a little better, usually showing the best of those that surround us.

The Board wishes to thank all those staff and faculty members who have helped the School carry on and come out stronger through a trying period. Students and parents have been there as well. There are many that have given their time and effort for the simple reason that they feel like part of a bigger family, because they feel a sense of duty, or simply because they know enough to do the right thing. So, *THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE!* We are grateful.

Starting a new year at Caribbean School, your kids may have already noted some of the changes the school is going through in terms of operations and facilities. Our revised administrative structure is in place with our new deans working hard in tandem with Comptroller Rebecca Diaz. Dean of Students John Carpenter and Dean of Academics Blake Wilson have a lot on their shoulders and the Board is glad to count on their knowledge, experience and sheer will to bring about a little change to the way we do some things at Caribbean School. Change is sometimes harder to deal with than we would like to admit, but Caribbean's role as one of the top college preparatory school in the island requires constant attention and a proactive attitude from those that lead the institution.

Some physical changes have taken place in order to accommodate this structure and take advantage of the changes. For example, Art and Computer Classes for Lower School are now conducted at the Lower School, and the little kids don't have to cross the campus anymore to reach the art studio or computer lab. Other improvements have been completed, and yet others are on their way.

At the end of last semester the Board was able to approve a long overdue revision of our By-Laws, and the efforts of the Governance Committee are now directed towards the comprehensive policy book revision. Chapters 1 and 7 have been revised and approved, Chapters 2 and 8 are almost complete, and others will be revised as well. As indicated in previous occasions, your input regarding these revisions is important and welcomed. Please let us know if there are any revisions that you think are necessary.

During our July Regular Meeting, the officers were chosen and new members Ms. Zaira Mendoza and Mr. Emilio Venegas were appointed. During our August meeting, Ms. Nancy Ramirez was appointed as well. Ms. Ramirez is the first Director who is not a Corporate Parent to join the Board in some time. The Board of Directors lineup for the 2017-18 school year is as follows:

Michelle Rovira:	President, Education Com
Melissa Medina:	Vice-President, Sports Chair, Legal Chair
Ricardo Pou:	Treasurer, Finance Chair
Luis Ayala:	Secretary, Governance Chair, Buildings & Grounds Com
Francisco De Armas:	Asst. Treasurer, Development Chair, Trust Fund Chair, Finance/Sports/Legal Com
Jim Orta:	Buildings & Grounds Chair
Carlos Santana:	Governance/Development Com
Heralda Cortes:	Food and Cafeteria Services Chair
Emilio Venegas:	Strategic Planning Chair, Buildings & Grounds Com
Zaira Mendoza:	Education Chair
Nancy Ramirez:	Education Committee



CARIBBEAN SCHOOL

Board of Directors

This year the Board will concentrate efforts on fundraising, physical improvements, improving the sports curriculum, improving work conditions for our teachers, and assisting the administration in developing a cohesive working plan that is well adapted to the needs of our kids. However, our first priority is supporting and evaluating all efforts of the administration to improve the quality of education offered by the school, harnessing the momentum that a specialized administration brings to the effort. Understanding the Board's responsibility to plan ahead and evaluate results, as opposed to administering the school, will permit us to accomplish things that up until now have seemed too difficult.

A special note about the Classroom A/C Implementation Plan:

We all share the common goal of making Caribbean School facilities top-notch. As Directors, we are the guardians of the school's budget. We donate from our free time to strategically plan ahead for the school to be able to reach all of its goals - in education, facilities, professional development, student and faculty opportunities, and establish priorities according to our fiscal reality. For years, different Directors have worked to overcome difficult circumstances to prepare the school for a number of projects, including the A/C project. For the past two years the BOD has reached out to corporate members, staff, faculty, and students to listen to their ideas and concerns prior to establishing priorities that affect our decisions. That said, if our school community wants the A/C project to be treated as an immediate priority, *we must all cooperate with the Board of Directors to make it happen.*

At the moment the Board is working with this project in two fronts: Funding and Implementation. Our development team will be announcing upcoming funding activities and donation opportunities; meanwhile, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is (1) analyzing the capacity of our existing electrical substation to determine the viability of installing inverter type systems in all classrooms, (2) developing an installation plan based on phases which will depend on funding and physical viability; (3) reaching out to A/C contractors to obtain quotes for the totality of the project, even if it is organized in phases. This project entails not only installing a/c systems, but also improving existing window systems with strategies that are energy efficient in terms of thermal insulation and natural lighting, replacing fluorescent lighting in each room with energy efficient LED fixtures, and eventually, installing a solar power system that will help us control the expected rise of our monthly electricity bill. In addition, there are other issues that affect specific classrooms that will be corrected through this initiative. Keep in mind that we need to do all these things without affecting our capital budget, which means that the project is no small feat. If you can cooperate with the Board in any way to make this effort come to fruition, please let us know. The Board will be asking for your help in specific ways soon enough, and there is always a plenty to do.

If you have ideas or comments that can help the betterment of our school, please don't hesitate to communicate with the Board. We can make Caribbean School an even better place to learn if we put our minds and hearts to it. ***Acting in positive, proactive, constructive ways is the only solution, and the best example we can give our kids.***

Have a great 2017-2018 School Year!

Caribbean School Board of Directors