

To: Major Desmon Brown - President, COBA Jamaica Chapter

From: Sian M. Wilson - Principal

Date: October 10, 2024

Subject: Infrastructure and other Immediate Needs for Calabar High School.

For Calabar to be a beacon of educational excellence I envision an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning, holistic, empowering, supportive, safe, competitive, collaborative child friendly and student centered. I envision a core of professionals or workers who are inspired to embrace their roles as change agent and a leadership that uses an accountability framework embedded in data driven decision making.

This report brings to your attention several critical needs; infrastructural and otherwise, at Calabar, that are essential for providing our students with a safe, modern, and effective learning environment. As our school continues to grow and adapt to the evolving educational landscape, addressing these needs has become increasingly urgent.

1) Classroom Modernization

Many of our classrooms are in need of modernization to support contemporary teaching methods and technologies. This may include the installation of smartboards, smart tvs, or mounted projectors with retractable screens. Some classroom spaces need updated furniture that can accommodate flexible learning arrangements.

- 2) Support for Academic programs.** We need to create a supportive and responsive environment that helps underperforming students thrive academically and to encourage those who are doing well. Support comes in the form of human resource, printing, refreshments at marathons and monetary incentives for teachers as well as rewards for student motivation. Programs are to be designed to address specific skill gaps in subjects like math and reading. These classes often focus on foundational skills and provide intensive support.

3) Library Upgrades: Research and Resource Center

Our library space should be equipped with vital resources for student research and learning. We need to update the technology and resources available, including more computers with high-speed internet access, interactive learning tools, and a wider selection of digital and print materials. A redesign of the space to encourage collaborative and e-learning would also be beneficial. In this space, students should also be able to complete or have assignments printed and or bounded.

4) Safety and Security Improvements

Ensuring the safety and security of our school is a top priority. We need to address several issues, including the installation of and upgrading to more modern security systems as well as improved lighting around the campus and up the drive way. Enhancing emergency preparedness infrastructure and procedures is also crucial. A working school bell is needed as well as an outdoor PA System

5) Maintenance and Repairs

Ongoing maintenance and repairs are essential to keep our facilities in good working order. It is my intention to employ a systematic approach to address issues such as plumbing, electrical, and structural repairs, as well as routine upkeep of school grounds and facilities. It would be beneficial to leverage the expertise of the members of COBA to serve on a maintenance team or to access their service to improve the school's infrastructure. Areas that need urgent attention included:

- i. Music room (roof and windows)**
- ii. Drama & Junior Art rooms (roof)**
- iii. Classroom Windows Grade 10 & 11**
- iv. Roof and Ceiling of Grade 7, 8 and 9**
- v. The Chapel (windows, roof and audio visual system)**
- vi. Ceiling Fans for class rooms**

6) Sports and Recreation Facilities

To support our students' physical education and extracurricular activities, our sports and recreation facilities require significant upgrades. This includes repainting the gym walls, upgrading the weight room equipment, and improving the maintenance of outdoor fields and courts. These improvements will not only enhance student engagement but also promote overall health and wellness.

7) Staff Recognition and Appreciation

Implement formal and informal recognition programs to celebrate achievements and contributions the teachers make. Foster a culture of appreciation where staff members feel valued and their efforts are acknowledged regularly. As best as possible, provide access to counselling services and stress management workshops

School Pride

We are proud of our school's legacy and the achievements of our students and alumni. However, some negative comments about the school are being shared within our community. While we understand that everyone is entitled to their opinions, we believe that such remarks can have a detrimental impact on our school spirit and the overall morale of our current students and staff.

School spirit thrives on positivity, encouragement, and a shared vision for the future. Constructive feedback is always welcome, and we are eager to hear the thoughts of the association here and in the diaspora on how we can improve. However, we ask that members of the association consider the influence their words have on current students who look up to them and on the dedicated staff working tirelessly for their success.

We encourage the members to engage in conversations that uplift and inspire. Their experiences and successes can serve as powerful examples for our students. Together, we can create an environment that fosters pride and enthusiasm for our school.

The Calabar school leadership looks forward to working together to cultivate a positive atmosphere that reflects the values we all hold dear. We are committed to providing our students with the best possible educational environment and believe that addressing these infrastructural needs and other stated issues will significantly contribute to their success and well-being.

We kindly request your assistance and support in securing the necessary funding and resources to make these improvements a reality. Thank you for your attention to these matters. I would be happy to discuss these needs in more detail and explore potential solutions.

Here Sir!

Sian M Wilson
Principal