

FREINET MOVEMENT GHANA

ghanafreinetmovement@gmail.com

BRIEF HISTORY

Freinet Movement Ghana (FreinetGhana) was formed in Ghana in September, 2016. Mr John Mensah, a teacher at the Methodist Junior High School in Winneba was privileged to be invited to Benin to participate in ridef 2016 in Benin. He saw the conference as beneficial and an eye opener.

Upon his return from ridef 2016, he organized a small workshop for 14 teachers (colleagues) on the benefits and rationale behind Freinet pedagogy. He further spread the FREINET story to few other schools in the Winneba municipality. Most of the teachers who agreed with Mr. Mensah formed groups in their schools to use the Freinet ideas brought to them.

Since 2016 the movement has attracted twenty-five teachers from seven (7) different schools who now use democratic method of teaching as expounded by Celestine Freinet. This technique of teaching and learning is beneficial to both teachers and pupils.

Objectives of Freinet Movement Ghana

1. To bring together and establish a strong bond among teachers who subscribe to the ideals and methodology of Freinet
2. Discuss and adopts ways that inure to the benefits of teachers in the movement
3. Spread the ideas of Freinet pedagogy to other schools in the country
4. Ensure the use of Freinet pedagogy to the fullest benefit of learners in order for them to develop their full potential
5. Participate in activities of CAMEM and FIMEM across the world

Executives of Freinet Movement Ghana

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| 1. Mr. John Mensah | President |
| 2. Mr. Appiah Onwona-Agyemang | Vice President |
| 3. Ms. Esther Armah | Secretary |
| 4. Ms. Joyce Oduro | Treasurer |
| 5. Mr. Seth Emmanuel Panwum | Organizer |

These executives were elected at our first ever General Assembly meeting held on the 30th of September, 2017. Twenty-one out of the twenty-five members then were present. They are

1. John Mensah
2. Selma Abban
3. Emmanuel Seth Panwum
4. Linda Quaye
5. Millicent Abaidoo
6. Linda Annor
7. Esther Ossei
8. Theophilus Benti-Mensah
9. Evelyn Sakyiwaa Kusi
10. Appiah Onwona-Agyemang
11. Bernard Adams
12. Esther Armah

13. Thompson Owusu
14. Esther Wilson
15. Joyce Oduro
16. Frederick Oppey
17. Faustina Eshun
18. Doris Arhin
19. Juliana Botwe
20. Doreen Ashong
21. Grace Abedu

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING EXECUTIVES

Nominations were opened for members to file for interested positions in the movement. After filing for various positions, voting was done. Those who obtained the highest votes for the various positions were thus elected.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Ghanaian Freinet movement is now twenty-five and spread over seven different schools.

SCHOOL	NAME	DISTRICT	PHONE NO.
POTSIN DA PRIMARY	LINDA QUAYE	GOMOA EAST, CENTRAL REGION	0546547728
	MILLICENT ABAIDOO		0245712645
	APPIAH ONWONA-AGYEMANG		0242109854
	FRED ERICK OPPEY		0246593978
	EVELYN SAKYIWA KUSI		0541787942
	DORIS ARHIN		0246619596
METHODIST A/C JHS	SELMA ABBAN	EFFUTU MUNICIPAL, CENTRAL REGION	0244962130
	ESTHER OSSEI		0540699841
	ESTHER WILSON		
	THEOPHILUS B. MENSAH		0263291868
	BERNARD ADAMS		0541240196
	JOHN MENSAH		0208154783
	DOREEN ASHONG		0243859912
AJUMAKO BROFOYEDUR DA BASIC	THOMPSON OWUSU	AJUMAKO/ENYAN ESSIAM, CENTRAL REGION	0503769929
NEW WINNEBA MA BASIC SCHOOL	JOYCE ODURO EMMANUEL SETH PANWUM	WINNEBA DISTRICT,	0202020894

	LINDA ANNOR	CENTRAL REGION	0242830169
UNIPRA SOUTH JHS	GRACE ABEDU FAUSTINA ESHUN RUTH MENSAH	EFFUTU MUNICIPAL, CENTRAL REGION	0240564390 0244091145
A.M.E ZION BASIC	MABEL QUARTEY ESTHER ARMAH JULIANA BOTWE	EFFUTU MUNICIPAL, CENTRAL REGION	0245644923
NSUAEM DA BASIC	ERIC GYASI VIDA ARTHUR	GOMOA CENTRAL, CENTRAL REGION	0249972515 0244621756
ST. JOHNS BASIC SCHOOL, SEKONDI	MERCY POBEE- ORLEANS	SEKONDI- TAKORADI METRO., WESTERN REGION	0244593208
TWIN CITY SPECIAL SCHOOL, INCHABAN	CRESCENTIA MENSAH	SEKONDI- TAKORADI METRO., WESTERN REGION	0208258956
AGORMENYA CATHOLIC BASIC SCHOOL	EMMANUEL TAYWARD	UPPER MANYA DISTRICT, EASTERN REGION	0246114694
NKAWIE DA BASIC SCHOOL, NKAWIE ASHANTI	FRANK OTCHERE	ATWIMA NWABIAGYA DISTRICT, ASHANTI REGION	0541728593

MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the various member schools every fortnight. General meetings are held every month on the last Saturday of the month. Resource persons are invited to share ideas at the meeting.

At the last Annual General Meeting at which executives were elected, members of the movement agreed to fix our General Assembly (AG) meetings in September every year.

On the 26th of January, 2018 a training workshop was held at Potsin DA Primary School for teachers at the school.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY DUES:

At the first annual general meeting, it was agreed that payment of dues will be done by members when the movement is two years old. As a result of this, we started the collection of dues from the beginning of 2018. Each member pays monthly dues of Ten Ghana Cedis (Ghs 10.00)

Training and Collaboration:

By the practice of FIMEM, a new movement starting in a country needs an old movement from another country to help them with organization and contacts and be introduced into FIMEM. As a result of this, the Swedish Freinet Movement has taken up this task for the movement in Ghana. The Ghanaian Freinet movement is, therefore, under the training and collaboration of the Freinet Movement in Sweden. So far the movement in Sweden has donated screen projector, books on Freinet pedagogy, three programmed computers and English story books to the movement in Ghana. They also decided to pay for the total cost (flight, accommodation and feeding) for two members of the Freinet Movement Ghana to attend ridef 2018 which could not materialize due to visa acquisition challenges. The Swedish Freinet Movement invited three members from Ghana to Sweden for twenty days for training and further collaboration.

Current Executives:

Due to the inactiveness of some of the executive members, the movement upon consultation decided to appoint or make changes to the executive positions. The composition of the current executive is as follows;

Mr. John Mensah.....President

Mr. Appiah Onwona-Agyemang.....Vice President

Mr. Emmanuel Seth Panwum.....Secretary

Ms. Mabel Benedicta Quartey.....Treasurer

Mr. Theophilus Benti-Mensah.....Organiser

REGISTRATION OF THE MOVEMENT WITH GHANA GOVERNMENT

As part of measures to ensure that the movement in Ghana fulfills all the legal and procedural obligations with respect to the formation and existence of such movements and bodies in the country, steps were taken to have FREINET MOVEMENT GHANA duly registered with the government of Ghana. Therefore, FREINET MOVEMENT GHANA now exists as a legal entity in Ghana.

PARTICIPATION IN RAEF 2019

The 5^e Rencontre Africaine Des Educateurs Freinet (RAEF 5- 2019) OUAGA, took place in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou from the 23rd 30th of March, 2019. The movement in Ghana actively participated. Three members represented the movement in Ghana.

VISIT TO SWEDEN

Article 3 of the Purposes and Composition of the Association of the statutes of FIMEM (Composition and Affiliation) states in part that “To be a member, you must be presented to the Board by a movement belonging to the FIMEM. The CA presents the candidacy to the General Assembly which accepts or rejects it”. For Freinet Movement Ghana to be accepted into FIMEM, there was the need to be mentored and presented to FIMEM by a member belonging to FIMEM.

The Swedish Freinet Movement which had accepted to mentor, sponsor and train the Freinet Movement Ghana in its formative stages invited three members of the executives, John Mensah (President), Appiah Onwona-Agyemang (Vice President) and Benedicta Mabel Quartey (Treasurer) for twenty days’ training visit to Sweden. The purpose of the visit was for the exchange of ideas and experiences in methods of Freinet Pedagogy. The Swedish Freinet Movement, thus, sought to further train members of the Ghana Freinet Movement in organizational skills, democratic leadership skills, techniques of integrating Freinet pedagogy into ordinary school work in Ghana and deepening of contacts and friendship between the Swedish Freinet Movement and the Ghana Freinet Movement.

Our stay in Sweden was divided into two sessions. The Gothenburg session and the Stockholm session.

Programme of activities we undertook during our visit to Sweden is attached as appendix 1.

Challenges:

- Most of our members do not attend meetings regularly
- Lack of resources for training and workshop.
- Most of the resource materials online are in French.

The way forward:

- We need a visit by the Executive of CAMEM.
- Strengthen the bond between the movement in Ghana and other countries in Africa (CAMEM).

Appendix 1. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN GOTHENBURG

FRIDAY, 19 TH APRIL, 2019	SATURDAY, 20 TH APRIL, 2019	SUNDAY, 21 ST APRIL, 2019	MONDAY, 22 ND APRIL, 2019	TUESDAY, 23 RD APRIL, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of the school and classrooms and orientation of how things work in the school. • Visit to Masthuggsskyrkan and sightseeing in Gothenburg with David. • Time with David at the Boatyard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the Island of Bjorkor. Sightseeing with Lena Alexandersson and husband. • Time with Lena Alexandersson who told us the story of the Swedish Freinet Movement. • Experience the Island's Bonfire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurrection Sunday service at Masthuggsskyrkan • Sightseeing in Gothenburg with David • Dinner with Margarata Svenungsson and family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the Botaniska • Time with Osmond Cunnings on how to contact teachers in the Gambia to accept Freinet ideas • Sightseeing in Gothenburg 	<p>➤ FREINETSKOLAN BILD OCH FORM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson observation and interactions with teachers and pupils. • Presentation on Ghana by John • Time with Osmond at Pedagogiska • Dinner with Staffan Mellin in his apartment
W'DAY, 24 TH APRIL, 2019	THURS, 25 TH APRIL 2019	FRIDAY, 26 TH APRIL, 2019	SAT., 26 TH APRIL, 2019	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREINETSKOLAN • Classrooms visit, Lesson observation and interactions with teachers and pupils • Art lessons observation • Presentation on Ghana Freinet Movement by John 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions with staff and pupils of DRAHBERGSKOLAN • Time with the Priest at Masthuggsskyrkan • Time with Jessica Blixt at the Local Parliament • Dinner with Ulf Pahlsson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREINETSKOLAN BILD OCH FORM • Lesson observation and interactions with teachers and pupils in class • Observation of sports lessons • PRESCHOOL VISIT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A visit to Universeum (the museum) • A visit to the Art Gallery (Ulf Pahlsson) • Farewell (Ulf, Margerata, David) • Fast train from Gothenburg to Stockholm 	

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN STOCKHOLM

SAT., 27 TH APRIL, 2019	Sunday, 28 April, 2019	MONDAY, 29 TH APRIL, 2019	TUESDAY, 30 TH APRIL, 2019	WED., 1 ST MAY, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met at the train station by Mia • Driven to Tullinge and Dinner with Anna-Uttama and Mia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sightseeing in Stockholm with Mia • Dinner with Mia at her apartment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREINETSKOLAN KASTANJEN • Lesson observation at the PRESCHOOL • Presentation on the work of Ghana Freinet Movement by John to the Swedish Freinet Movement. • Visit to Botkyrka 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREINETSKOLAN KASTANJEN • Lesson observation at the 7th Grade • Presentation on Ghana to the 7th Graders • Time at Skansen experiencing the bonfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIGHTSEEING IN STOCKHOLM
THURSDAY, 2 ND MAY, 2019	FRIDAY, 3 RD MAY, 2019	SAT., 4 TH APRIL, 2019	SUNDAY, 5 TH MAY, 2019	MONDAY, 6 TH MAY, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUGIN FREINETSKOLA IN NORRTALJE • Interactions with teachers and pupils • Sightseeing in Norrtalje • Dinner with Marita and husband • Watched performance by Freinetskolan Mimer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATURSKOLA • Briefing by Mia on what their work entails at the naturskola • Excursion at Tom Tits Experiments • Dinner with Mia at her Apartment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VISIT TO THE ISLAND OF ORNO WITH EVA ANDERBERG AND HUSBAND • Experience with the SAUNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIGHTSEEING IN STOCKHOLM • FAREWELL DINNER AT INGER NORDHEDEN'S HOUSE • Farewell Messages and Appreciations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRIVEN TO THE ARLANDER AIRPORT BY INGER NORDHEDEN • FLIGHT TO GHANA

