

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc. held at the offices of Shereff, Friedman, Hoffman, and Goodman at 919 Third Ave., New York City on April 20, 1986. Present were:

Abraham C. Bein  
Victor Feingold  
Lester Friesner  
Julius W. Graber  
Max Greenberg  
Saul Grossman  
Gerald P. Halpern  
Eugene J. Heil  
Arthur Katz  
Malcolm Largmann  
Morton Lederman  
Morton S. Lisser  
Jack Matusow  
Melvin Moore  
Maurice Paprin  
Henry D. Shereff, Presiding  
Sidney Silverman  
Kenneth Shorter  
Harold S. Spielman

Also present was Boris Kastelanetz, Class of '25, and Robert Haan of Queens College.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Mort Lisser gave the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is attached

Henry Shereff wrote a letter to the New York Times calling attention to an error they made in referring to THHS as a defunct school. He received a reply in which the Times claims that the present school is not the same. Henry is responding to this.

Irv Gerber reported on some correspondence from members. Henry Hauptman who recently won a Nobel Prize will be unable to attend our annual luncheon. Fred Canter, now living in South Florida, wrote of efforts being made to replicate THHS in that area. He is presently working with Florida Atlantic U.

Les Friesner told us that we had 145 reservations for the annual luncheon. This was somewhat behind last year's status. Les asked for our cooperation in calling in new reservations since time was short. Sol Chaiken and Eugene Lang will be at the luncheon. Dr. Kenney sent her regrets, she cannot make it.

Mal Lagrman spoke of Gene Lang's visit to the school. He spent approximately two and a half hours at the school and Mal believes he was impressed with what he saw. Mal also told us that half of the students taking the first year national exam in Latin received recognition and two THHS students have won honors in the recent science fair. Maurice Paprin met with Gene Lang this past week and was told that we should not expect any substantial gifts in the near term.

Gerry Halpern asked if Gene Lang had discussed the possibility of scholarships to Swathmore College. Mal Lagrman said that he has been in touch with that school as recommended by Gene Lang.

Bob Haan noted that Gene Lang appeared to be predisposed to find fault with THHS but was pleasantly surprised.

Henry informed us that we have hired a Public Relations firm and we were waiting to have a suggested program presented to us. A staff member of the PR firm was to visit THHS to get background material but ran into difficulties.

Bob Haan said he tried to reach Dr. Kenney about this but could not get to her at this time. Dr. Pflaum who is Bob's superior at the School of Education has questioned the use of PR people working for the Alumni. Bob said that other Queens College faculty have misgivings about the project and also don't believe that Livingstone St. will sanction the use of PR activities. Bob also questioned the need for PR work. We appear to be getting ample favorable press and can be assured that we are getting top students since we have a pool of three thousand to choose 250 at the most.

Mal Largmann agreed with Bob and Dr. Pflaum. Mal also said that he did not believe the Superintendent of High Schools would approve the use of PR activities. Henry Shereff said he was meeting with Dr. Pflaum and the Queens Supt. of H.S.'s to explain our views and to get their input in the question.

Maurice paprin understands the concerns of the educators but thinks that our prime purpose in engaging PR was to lay the foundation for an Alumni fund which would be needed for the new building. We also need advice in handling the transportation problems which a better mix of students will create.

Mal Largmann is also concerned about getting students from the other boroughs. We get applications from qualified students, but many of them choose Science or Styvesant because of the transportation involved.

Henry Shereff said that this problem would be solved in time but we needed funds. A PR program would start us in this direction.

Abe Bein noted that we set aside \$30M for PR work. This was disproportionately high considering our total assets but we were told that this was necessary for fund raising purposes.

Henry said that the firm we had engaged was politically sophisticated and could work with the Bd of Ed. and City authorities.

Al Dobseavage would like to see the school under the aegis of the Board of Higher Education. Al also doubts that the students can read or write Latin as they do under the European system.

Ken Shorter suggested that we get together with the President of Queens College and resolve this issue of PR. Henry Shereff said he would do that.

Mort Lisser emphasized that the PR work was primarily an Alumni process and also some publicity to Junior High School counsellors.

Gene Heil noted the prejudice against schools like THHS and wanted some work done on ways to respond to this problem.

Saul Grossman questioned the need for geographic diversity in the THHS student body. Mal Largmann pointed out that we are limited to 20 students from each high school district. Since there are only 7 such districts in Queens we must get students from the other boroughs.

Mort Lisser asked if we could get a mini bus to pick up Bronx students?

There was a general discussion as to areas we wanted the PR firm to plan for, including- Fund Raising, transportation, publicity for academic type competitions etc. It was pointed out by Max Greenberg that this was a repetition of work done at our last meeting.

Mal Largmann said he understood our position on PR better at this point but he still had some reservations. He was assured that if the school authorities permitted the PR work, the firm would work closely with Mal in the areas he considered sensitive.

Gerry Halpern said we didn't need an endowment fund to get started on the transportation problem. A committee could get costs and needs established now. Henry Shereff immediately appointed Gerry as chairman of such a committee with Mort Lisser,

Ken Shorter and Saul Grossman. The committee was also charged to determine if we could work with other high schools facing a similar problem.

Maurice Paprin reported on the status of the proposed new building. His recent meetings with Deputy Mayor Esnard and Boro President Shulman were encouraging. Henry has met with Dr. Kenney wh assured him that she committed to having THHS on campus. Meetings with Bob Wagner and representatives from the Dormatory Authority indicate that they favor the project.

Henry Shereff reviewed some of the legal problems of this project. When the land was given to Queens College by the City there was a proviso in the deed that any property not used for college educational purposes would revert to the City. The Board of Education is aware of this and will use this clause if a building devoted solrly to THHS is constructed on the QC campus. A meeting is scheduled on April 30, in Dep. Mayor Esnard's office at which time representatives from all interested parties, THHS, Bd of ED, Boro President, Queens College and CUNY, will try to resolve many of the problems still open.

Henry Shereff asked for a report from the Nominating Committee. Gerry Halpern recommended the election of Sidney Silverman to the Alumni Board of Directors.

Henry is going to review our By-Laws to permit a larger Board to serve and will come back with an appropriate amendment.

Sid Silverman volunteered to chair a Fund Raising committee with his wife. Henry made the necessary appointment and suggested that they meet with Maurice Paprin and others who are working in this area.

Ken Shorter reported for the Grant Committee (we pay this time). He made several suggestions as to criteria for making funds available to the school. It was decided to refer this back to the committee for a formal recommendation.

Henry told us that QC is still writing a grant proposal to the Carnegie Foundation (6 months in work) to fund a study on the effectiveness of computers in High School education. This study was requested by IBM at the time they made their gift of computers to the school.

Mal Largmann discussed the use of computers at THHS. All ninth graders are taught word processing. Thereafter computer courses were elective but all other departments integrate computers in their courses.

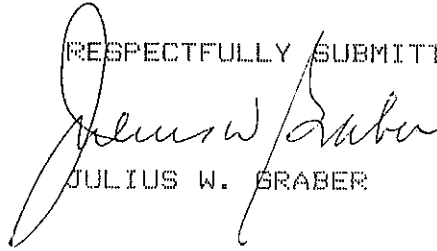
Bob Haan reported that the school has received a \$12,000. grant from the Matsushita Foundation to fund the planning for the fourth year program at THHS.

Julie Graber reported on the intern program at school. It is going well but we are looking for more placements from Alumni.

The next meeting was set for May 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julius W. Graber". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned over the typed name below it.

JULIUS W. GRABER



Memo from

M. S. LISSER

THHS ACCOUNTS 4/17/86  
 CITY BANK. REG. 1896.  
 ✓ - SPEC 689.  
 ✓ - M/MKT 15433  
 SUB-T 18008  
 C/DEPOSIT 50000  
 68008  
 I.G. IMPREST ± 1006  
 Total 69008

Memo from

M. S. LISSER

4/17/86  
 THHS  
 MARKET 1986  
 PROFITS -  
 SUES - NET 1857.  
 INTEREST -  
 M/MKT 80.  
 Total 1902  
 JSB (THHS 4/17)  
 N.Y. Co. FOR THHS 170.  
 SUMMER  
 H.J. JENSEN ASSOC  
 INC. PR REPAIRS 1667.  
 Total 1937