

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 24, 1988. Present were:

Abraham C. Bein
Marvin Bloom
Alvin P. Dobsevage
Victor Feingold
Lester Friesner
Irving Gerber, Presiding
Max Greenberg
Julius W. Graber
Saul Grossman
Eugene J. Heil
Herbert Kadison
Arthur Katz
Malcolm Largmann
Morton Lisser
Melvin Moore
Maurice Paprin
Ted Peck
Kenneth Shorter

Also present were Jules Kaufman of the PTA; Tom Sweeton, Senior Class Advisor at THHS; Bernice Horowitz, Assistant Principal at THHS; and Dan Wallach, Class of '38.

In the absence of Henry Shereff who has the flu but felt the call of duty strong enough to bring in the bagels, etc before going home, Irv Gerber presided. All wished Henry a speedy recovery and expressed appreciation for his concern re our Sunday Breakfast!

Mort Lisser reported on the Fiftieth reunion of the class of Jan '38 at the home of Gene Ehrlich. A great social affair. Henry Shereff was an invited guest and gave a brief talk on the

status of the school. Mort told us that funds are being accumulated for a naming gift.

Victor Feingold gave the report of the Awards Committee. The Awards convocation will take place on June 14th and Commencement on June 23rd, both at 7 PM. Alumni are invited to both occasions. Tom Sweeton requested funds to pay for the Faculty caps and gowns for an Academic Procession. There was considerable discussion on this point.

Mal Largmann who originally had some reservations about this told us that several other High Schools had Academic Processions with robed faculty. He also recommended robing the Fifty Year Class in gold and having them lead the procession. Marv Bloom added robing all classes fifty years and older. Maury Paprin questioned the use of gold robes but suggested a separate type garb for the older classes. Abe Bein found the gold robes gross. He wants the graduation to concentrate on the graduates. Mort Lisser, our Treasurer wants to know the costs!

Tom Sweeton estimated 70 faculty and guests would cost in the area of \$750-1000, adding another \$1000. if alumni are robed. Mort Lisser objects. \$4000. for books and similar things but not \$2000. for robes. Ted Peck remembered that we found a sponsor for the last academic procession. All agreed that would be an ideal solution, but in the absense therewith -- Saul Grossman suggested that the class of '38 pay for their own robes. Tom

Sweeton reminded us that a renting company needs 4-6 weeks notice and graduation is less than two months off.

Mort Lisser called a motion to pay for no robing at all. This was carried. Victor Feingold proposed that we pay the robing costs of the faculty only. This has been estimated at about \$500. this motion was approved.

In response to a question by Herb Kadison, Mal Largmann assured us that there will be appropriate facilities for the fifty year class and all interested Alumni at graduation. Irv said that he would check with Henry Shereff to get the costs of a crimson and gold sash for the fifty year class.

Tom Sweeton gave us the plans for the graduation. The awards ceremony will be followed by a reception for the awardees and their families at the Student Union in Queens College. There are only 2300 seats in Colden Auditorium and Tom suggested we get our reservations in early. Abe Bein thought it would be a good idea to have the entire student body present at the awards ceremony. Mal Largmann pointed out that with each graduate getting his/her diploma separately it was going to be a long ceremony. Also a separate awards evening was customary at this point. Marv Bloom thought it was presumptuous of us to try to impose our ideas on the school. Let them run their own graduation.

Mal Largmann said that to date graduates had been accepted at Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Stamford and many other "prestige

schools". One of our students has been awarded a scholarship worth \$50,000. at Boston Univ.. Maury Paprin wanted to know how many of the students were college bound? Mal said that 100%. Continuing his list of student achievements, Mal said that we had won or placed high in many academic competitions and college admission officers were giving our graduates a very high rating. The Harvard office has told him that our graduates rank with Stuyvesant, Bronx Science and the other exam schools. He noted that there had been no applicants for Eugene Lang's scholarships to the New School.

Maury Paprin proposed that we formally commend the students and faculty for a job well done. Passed unanimously. Ted Peck will do the honors in his impeccable style.

At a recent community meeting, Mal Largmann had to respond to the fears that people have regarding a new high school in the area. Mal believes that when he described the nature of the school he was able to relieve their concerns. Mal is most pleased at the proposed new site and is looking forward to a favorable vote by the Board of Education which will start the lengthy procedure to get the school built.

Julie Graber introduced Bernice Horowitz who has been looking into preparing a Who's Who type of publication for the alumni. Bernice still has no idea of the total time or costs involved and added she would not be in a position to start until the fall.

There was some discussion as to the nature of the directory. The consensus was that although Bernice may want some one to two hour interviews for her oral history the information for the publication would come primarily from mailed questionnaires. Marv Bloom pointed out that the alumni papers had already spotlighted many graduates and that would be a good start.

On a motion by Saul Grossman, Bernice was authorized to start work on the Questionnaire. Al Dobseavage questioned the purpose. Bernice replied that this was being done in academic circles to commemorate the ideals and values of our generation of alumni. She expects the result to be a document of great value to the current generation of students. She noted a recent interview with Henry Shereff who related how his Harris experience had helped him in his professional life. A motion to appoint a committee to work with Bernice in setting up the questionnaire was approved. Max Greenberg will chair and so far Saul Grossman is the only other member.

Jules Kaufman exhibited copies of the Crimson and Gold for the years 1934-36 which had been donated by the widow of Stanley Leeds. the books will be in the school library. Les Friesner proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Leeds. Moved and approved.

Referring to the Board discussion in the prior meeting, Jules Kaufman told us that the cost of printing additional copies of the Classic to mail to our membership would be around \$66 to \$144

per 1500 sets depending on the size of the issue. There was some cross discussion about the proliferation of publications. It was referred to a committee of Mort Lisser, Marv Bloom and Irv Gerber to come back with recommendations.

Jules Kaufman told us that a group at school is now editing hours of tape to come up with a history of the senior class. Anyone interested in a copy should see him.

Mal Largmann thanked the board for their help to the graduating class. He also thanked the PTA who had done a wonderful job raising \$2,500. for awards.

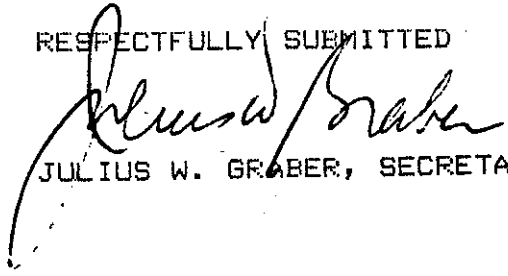
Irv Gerber gave the correspondance report. 1) Stan Zuckerman has organized a Northern California Chapter with an initial enrollment of 25. 2) Abbot Rosenfeld is not pleased with \$25. membership fee in view of the size of our treasury. 3) Lee Jaricky '38 is upset over Pres Harleston's rebuttal of Hal Spielman's article in the CCNY Alumni magazine.

This started a long discussion in which many of us agreed with the correspondent. Saner voices prevailed and we agreed that there would be no purpose in pursuing this matter at this time.

Dan Wallach inquired if there was an Alumni Recognition room at the school. There is not at this time but if there is financial support, there may be room at the new building.

The date for the next meeting was tentatively set for May 22nd.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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

JULIUS W. GRABER, SECRETARY