

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 December 18 1988. Present were:

Abraham Bein  
Norman Bernstein  
Alvin Dobsevage  
Victor Feingold  
Lester Friesner  
Irving Gerber  
Arthur Graham  
Julius Graber  
Max Greenberg  
Saul Grossman  
Gerald Halpern  
Eugene Heil  
Herbert Kadison  
Kenneth Kaufman  
Morton Lederman  
Morton Lisser  
Melvin Moore  
Maurice Paprin  
Ted Peck  
Henry Shereff, Presiding  
Kenneth Shorter  
Harold Spielman  
Dan Wallach

Also present was Mike Frujansky Class of '45 and the THHS PTA representative.

The Yearbooks of the 1988 graduating class were distributed to members of the Board (who had paid for them). There were many favorable comments. The class and the faculty advisors were commended for a job well done.

Mort Lisser gave the treasurer's report. We have about \$56,000. in investments and \$2,300. in our current funds.

Current funds should be augmented by the recent dues billing. Maurice Paprin suggested that next year we send a clear simple dues bill instead of the letter notice now used.

Henry Shereff reported on the status of the new building. There has been a setback. Mr Schwergin of the Board of Education has left his position with the Board and contrary to everyone's understanding, he did not file for approval of the ten million dollar enlargement of the Queens College parking facilities. Since this is essential to obtaining the college's approval for an on site location for the proposed new THHS building, all negotiations are now at a stand still until this hurdle can be overcome. Claire Shulman's office was also unaware of this situation and is working to get the necessary approvals.

With regard to the 19 students who were placed in THHS by the Board of Education outside the regular admission procedure Henry has been told that they are having a most difficult time at the school in spite of special tutorial assistance being provided to them. Henry has received a copy of a directive from Victor Herbert, Superintendent of N.Y.C. High Schools, to the effect that the regular THHS waiting lists will be used to assign students in the future.

Maurice Paprin has spoken to Governor Cuomo who has agreed to speak with Henry and Claire Shulman about the problems concerning the new building. Henry will also extend our invitation to

address our Hall of Fame dinner this fall at that time.

Henry and Ted Peck discussed the award to be given Claire Shulman at the dinner and the advisability of inviting representatives from other Collandra schools to the dinner. Decision was not to issue any special invitations but anyone interested could certainly purchase tickets or even tables.

Al Dobseavage would like to request the Governor to open a classic lycee in New York State.

Ted Peck renewed his request that we honor ten living alumni at this first Hall of Fame Dinner. Ted would like this affair to be a major media event and believes that more honorees will enhance the status of the school, the honorees and the event itself. Ted requested that we recind the proposal limiting the number of honorees which we adopted at the last meeting and give the committee a free hand to decide the number of alumni to be honored. Abe Bein and Maury Paprin spoke in favor of Ted's proposal. Ken Shorter, who had sponsored the limiting rule, was so moved by Ted's eloquent appeal that he agreed to the requested revision asking only that the committee try to keep the number of awards within reason. It was then unanimously decided that the number of honorees would be at the committee's discretion.

Arthur Graham reported on his site selection search. If we want a Fall dinner for approximately 500 people we must commit within one month since desirable space is limited. Prices range

from \$65. at the Vista to \$135. at the Plaza. Most directors would prefer the Plaza but considering other costs the initial cost there puts it outside our \$150. target. Maury will speak to Donald Trump to see if there is any leeway in this quoted price. The final arrangements are being left to the committee with the date still being kept open to accommodate the Governor.

Saul Grossman will work with the committee to see if the '39 class reunion could be worked into the program.

Ken Shorter informed us that THHS is one of four finalists in the Newsday High School of the Year competition.

Max Greenberg distributed a proposed questionnaire for use in preparing a Who's Who among the old THHS alumni. Maury Paprin suggested using a vanity press which has a standard form for this sort of publication. Arthur Graham knows of an organization which does this kind of work. A committee of Henry Shereff, Mort Lisser, Arthur Graham and Maury Paprin will meet on January 3rd and sort this out and come back with a recommendation.

Henry, Maury and Gerry Halpern spoke on the need to expedite the work on the new THHS building. It is rumored that Robert Wagner intends to leave the Board and that would mean starting at scratch with a new President at the Board.

Gerry Halpern reported that the response to the Nominating Committtee has been "underwhelming", but they are ready to put up

a slate when Henry decides to move up to the Chairman of the Board. A motion to amend the Bylaws to provide for such an office was made by Gerry, seconded by Maury, called by Victor Feingold and unanimously passed.

Henry asked Mike Prujansky to look into a rumor that students had been admitted to THHS on the basis of political pressure. Mike said the PTA would investigate this. He invited alumni to attend future PTA meetings.

Irv Gerber read some of his correspondence of the previous month. 1) Joel Canter '40 died suddenly of a heart attack. 2) Acknowledged contributions from board members Julie Graber and Max Greenberg. 3) Abbott Rosenberg of the California Chapter needs more money. Irv will follow up. 4) The Chicago Tribune reports that Herb Sohn is being considered for the Republican nominee for Mayor of Chicago. The political pundits on the Board did not consider Herb's chances (nor any Republican) good. 5) Morris Schappes had a rather good write up in the Daily News. 6) Theodore Bennett '39 applauds the changes in the new THHS and voices support for the Alumni. 7) J. Gordon '41 a Senior Partner at Philips, Nizer... wants to know why Joe Flom lists himself as '40 when he graduated with Gordon in Jan '41? 8) Earl Kurtz a former Principal of P.S.192 wants THHS to be an exam school again. 9) John Morris notes the death of Lewis Schachter and Avran Cooper.

On that happy note there being no further business other than setting the next meeting for Jan 15th, the meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

*Julius W. Graber*

JULIUS W. GRABER, SECRETARY