

**Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.**  
**533 Pontiac Road, East Meadow, NY 11554**  
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Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City September 13, 1992.

Present were:

Maurice Paprin (Chair), Irving Gerber, Julius Graber, Julie Chan, Alvin Dobsevage, Lester Friesner, Gerry Halpern, Malcolm Rossman, Tom Sweetin, Henry Shereff, Ted Peck, Norman Bernstein, Charles Puglisi, Jennifer Puglisi.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Mr. Halpern requested that the reading of the minutes be deferred until copies are available.

Treasurer's Report:

Julius Graber read the audit report dated March 31, 1992. He stated that he has \$6500 in bills on hand and \$4500 allocated to pay the music teacher. There was a question about the number of members paying dues. The report was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Award Scholarships, NIAS, and Name Grants:

Letters of correspondence from NIAS recipients Jane Cirigliano and Ivan Bilaniuk and the mother of Ani Fleisig were read.

Gerry Halpern reported that when he requested from the NIAS foundation an increase in the yearly supplement he was told that the foundation was in the process of changing priorities and that the future of the NIAS scholarships was doubtful. He stated that a decision about the continuation of the scholarship was expected from the foundation on September 30th.

Fund Raising:

Mr. Shereff stated that he met with Eugene Lang to discuss possible philanthropy for the school. He stated that Mr. Lang is in the process of starting the "I Have a Dream" program in Queens. He also stated that he has been meeting with Claire Schulman. Gerry Halpern suggested that Mr. Lang be approached for funding for the drama program. Mr. Lang's son Steven is an actor. Mr. Sweetin stated that this may not be a good idea in light of poor turn out for the Hamlet production.

Maurice Paprin discussed the Fund for New Priorities in America.

School Liaison:

Mr. Rossman called the Board's attention to a photographic history of the new school's progress. He agreed to prepare a list of facts about THHS to all members of the Board, including the amounts of money awarded to recent graduates. Lester Friesner volunteered to be on the public relations committee and to deliver the fact sheets to the media.

Minutes (Adopted):

Gerry Halpern moved that the previous minutes (which had been distributed) be accepted and Ted Peck seconded the motion. The Chair moved the question and the motion was unanimously accepted.

Dan Lew Resignation:

Dan Lew's letter of resignation from the Board was read and unanimously accepted.

Mr. Halpern announced the nomination of Jennifer Puglisi to assume the position of Secretary, which was vacated by Dan Lew's resignation. Irving Gerber seconded the nomination. Henry Shereff raised the issue of a quorum. The Chair directed that Miss Puglisi be accepted for the position by acclamation and that the issue of quorum be brought up at the next meeting.

P.T.A. Liaison:

Mr. Puglisi, Co-President of the PTA, spoke on behalf of the parents. He reiterated the gratefulness of the parents to the Alumni Association for the continuing support of the school. He stated that by using the generosity of the Alumni Association as an example the PTA has doubled its fundraising for the school from \$4000 (1990-1991) to over \$8000 (1991-1992).

Maurice Paprin asked the Board to consider amending the by-laws of the Association to permit Mr. Puglisi to be a permanent member of the Board. Mr. Dobseavage suggested that Mr. Puglisi commit his remarks to print so that copies can be made available to alumni members.

Out of Town Chapters:

Norman Bernstein told the Board of the large number of alumni who currently reside in Florida, and that over 200 live in south Florida. He stated that the chapter has accumulated over \$1500 in a fund for a gift to a worthy student. Mr. Bernstein asked about the status of the committee of three liaisons. He was told that Mort Lisser is the Florida chapter liaison.

It was reported that the southern California chapter will have a luncheon on November 7th.

Mr. Shereff announced the death of Albert Nerkin. Gerry Halpern stated that this would be included in the necrology section of the next newsletter.

A suggestion was made that the by-laws be amended to allow members of the Townsend Harris faculty to become members of the Alumni Association. This issue was postponed until the next meeting so that the by-laws can be checked.

Hall of Fame Committee:

The Chairs of the Committee are Ted Peck and Maurice Paprin. They agreed that the committee needs to meet. Lester Friesner and Alvin Dobseavage agreed to join the committee.

Correspondence:

Mr. Gerber read a selection of letters from various alumni including a donation of \$1000 from the M. & G. Weissman Philanthropic Fund; a letter from Dan Lew about law school; a resignation from Seymour Berman, who can no longer afford the dues; and a letter from David Allen ('41) nominating Paul McFarland for the Hall of Fame.

New Business:

A request for an increase in the funds for the music department was made by Dr. Largmann. Mr. Graber stated that the \$12,000 additional was not available. Mr. Shereff stated that the Board of Education funds for the school are tied up. Mr. Paprin suggested that he would speak to Mr. McCall and Bob Wagner to try to unsnarl the red tape. Mr. Rossman stated that the school receives \$475,000 in Board of Education funds that are deposited at Queens College, which controls how the money is spent. Mr. Graber stated that \$6,000 is budgeted for the the music position. Mr. Paprin stated that the Association should not take the responsibility for breaching the budget gap. Mr. Gerber said that the Association should try to meet the gap if we can. Mr. Paprin summarized the discussion and suggested that the topic be taken up at the next meeting.

Mr. Sweetin discussed the need to pay the insurance on the van. He was informed by the Treasurer that that money is in the budget. He also requested that the Association select an alumnus to be the Commencement speaker for the June 1993 graduation.

Motion to Adjourn to November 8th, 1992:

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. by unanimous assent and agreed to meet on November 8th.