

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association
Sunday, March 1, 1998
10:00 A.M.
Florence Nightingale Nursing Home

- I. Call to Order: Mr. Peck chaired the meeting.
- II. Attendance: Abraham Bein, Norman Bernstein, Jerome Chazen, Brendan Curran⁵ (A.P. Science), Dan Dwyer, Megan Dwyer¹, Joyce Freeling⁴, Lester Friesner, Irving Gerber, Julius Graber, Mara Gruber-Hochhauser², Eileen Gunn³, Gerald Halpern, Jonathan Isler², Kevin Kim², Marvin Leiner, Samuel Malkin, Gerald Maslon, George Motakis³, Tara Patterson¹, Ted Peck, Charles Puglisi, Tom Sweetin, Pamala Yamamoto².
- III. Minutes: Mr. Peck asked the members to read copies of the Minutes. Upon a motion to accept the Minutes by Mr. Halpern and seconded by Mr. Gerber, the Minutes were unanimously approved.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Slutzkin was not present at the meeting.
- V. Queens College Liaison: Dr. Leiner reported that joint ventures between the College and the High School are progressing well. He updated the Board on the status of the Newsday Political Simulation Grant and the Imagination Workshop.
- VI. Westinghouse Semi-Finalists: Megan and Tara present a brief summary of the research that earned them semi-finalist status in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search. The third semi-finalist Jamie Tong was unable to attend the meeting.
- VII. P.T.A. Report: Mr. Dwyer reported:
 - A. The PTA has raised over \$32,000 through its first Phonathon.
 - B. It has purchased several anatomical models for the science department.
 - C. It has purchased a computerized infant ("Ready or Not Tot").
 - D. It has committed to pay the salary of a dance teacher (three hours per week).
- VIII. Recent Graduates: Mara and Kevin stated that they are part of the planning group for the Tenth Anniversary of the graduation of the class of 1988, the first class to graduate from the reopened THHS. They asked the THAA for support in setting up the event. Mr. Graber told them that the organization's practice is to underwrite the cost of preparing and mailing invitations.
- IX. Mr. Curran, the new A.P. (Science) introduced himself and spoke of his (extremely positive) reactions to Townsend Harris and its students. He comes to Townsend Harris from The Bronx High School of Science and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise. He mentioned his ongoing contact with the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and its Global Warming Project and the fact that its first President, Robert Jastrow, is a THHS alumnus.
- X. Correspondence: Mr. Gerber read several letters that support seeking "test school" status and one letter from an alumnus (Class of 1938) who would like someone (else) to plan a reunion for that class.
- XI. Fund Raising:
 - A. Mr. Peck mentioned that his latest effort, to seek alumni to establish charitable remainder trusts (CRT), is continuing. Eileen Gunn stated that she has written an explanatory piece on C.R.T.s for Fortune. She said that she would seek reprint permission from Fortune so that Mr. Peck could include it in future fund-raising mailings.
 - B. Mr. Peck mentioned a needs-based scholarship program established by Leonard Polonsky to help needy students make a smooth transition to college campus life by enabling them to get used to the new school culture by attending summer session at college.
- XII. Old Business: None.
- XIII. New Business:
 - A. A discussion of the issue of "test school status" followed Mr. Gerber's suggestion that the Board seek a resolution of the NYC Board of Education protecting Townsend Harris' admission process from outside intrusion.
 - B. Tom Sweetin reported that he is doing well in his retirement and that he has not slowed down at all. He continues to volunteer at the school as well as serving as an occasional substitute teacher.
 - C. Mr. Halpern reported:
 1. That the Board's D&O Liability insurance has been tentatively renewed.
 2. That it is time to begin planning for the Annual Meeting.
 3. That nominations for Board Membership should be made to him as soon as possible.
 - D. The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 21, 1998. A committee composed of Mr. Halpern, Ms. Gunn, Mr. Friesner, Mr. Maslon, and Mr. Sweetin, Mr. Peck, and Mr. Puglisi will work on planning the details of the Annual Meeting.
- XIV. **Adjournment: Agreeing to meet again on April 19, 1998, the Board adjourned at 12:01 P.M.**

Note:

- ¹ Westinghouse Talent Search Semifinalist
- ² Alumnus/Alumna Attending for first time
- ³ Non-Voting Frequent Attendee
- ⁴ Invited Guest
- ⁵ THHS Faculty Member