

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on May 4, 2003)
March 2, 2003
Location: Florence Nightingale Health Center

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Julie Chan, Irving Gerber, Julius Graber, Gerald P. Halpern, David Herszenhorn, Alicia Hughes, Herbert Kadison, Malcolm Largmann, Marvin Leiner, Samuel Malkin, Neil Manis, Maurice Paprin, Craig Slutzkin, Venessa Tan

Guest in attendance: Renata Kobetts-Miller
Craig L. Slutzkin acted as secretary of the meeting.

- I. David Herszenhorn called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and called for a moment of silence in memory of Malcolm Rossman, Assistant Principal of Townsend Harris High School from its reopening in 1984 until his recent death.
- II. Maurice Paprin introduced a motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2003 Board of Directors minutes. Herbert Kadison seconded this motion, which was passed unanimously.
- III. At this time, Irving Gerber called a point of order, and requested that the President impose time limits on today's reports. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Herszenhorn would exercise judgment in allowing time for each of today's reports.
- IV. Executive Committee Report. Mr. Herszenhorn reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. However, he had several items to report:
 - a. Staff Person. The ad-hoc search committee narrowed down the field of candidates to two, one of which has gone through the second round of interviews. Gerald Halpern and Thomas Cunningham plan to meet with the other finalist over the next week.
 - b. Publications. The Executive Committee was considering a proposal to incorporate *THAM* and the newsletter into one uniform Alumni publication produced four times a year.
 - c. Malcolm Rossman Memorial. Several members of the Board represented the Alumni Association at Mr. Rossman's funeral. There have been a number of donations made to the Association in Mr. Rossman's name. Possible uses of those donations include a Wall of Fame Monument, scholarships, faculty enrichment programs and archivist programs.
 - d. Dues Participation. The on-line dues system recently went live. Several alumni have already paid 2003 dues, and in addition, added donations. In response to an inquiry, Craig Slutzkin noted that all donations are acknowledged with a formal letter.
- V. School Report. Mr. Cunningham was not present; Mr. Herszenhorn gave a brief report in his place.
 - a. Mr. Herszenhorn gave a brief overview of the structural reorganization within the NYC Department of Education. Townsend Harris High School was included in a district which encompassed Northeast Queens, which included many top schools of the city. Judith Chen has been named regional superintendent.
 - b. Malcolm Largmann noted that former Queens High Schools Superintendent John Lee has been named to lead the department overseeing high school admissions, which should bode well for the high school.
- VI. PTA Report. Neil Manis reported the following:
 - a. At a recent PTA meeting, the parents of current students were given a presentation on research. As such, Mr. Manis recommended that there should be a discussion of research.
 - b. Dr. Largmann noted that the PTA could be useful in reinforcing the concept of the Alumni Association. The Board discussed several ways in which the Alumni Association could participate in promoting itself to the high school student body, including the sponsorship of the development of a book of essays by teachers, the building of a Wall of Fame and archiving of memorabilia.

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- c. Mr. Manis noted that he was still investigating the possibility of a college tour program.
- VII. College Liaison Report. Dr. Leiner noted the following:
- a. He recently met with Nancy Laing of the Petri Foundation. The Petri Foundation is considering sponsorship of the Election Simulation Program.
 - b. With Mr. Rossman's passing, Wanda Nix, Dean of Students, is assisting with the administrative duties of the high school.
- VIII. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Slutzkin presented the report of the treasurer from September 1, 2002 through February 28, 2003. He presented an overview of the financial performance and cash position of the Association.
- IX. At this time, Mr. Herszenhorn formally introduced Renata Kobetts-Miller '89. Ms. Kobetts-Miller is a professor of English literature at City College.
- X. Special Requested Agenda Item. At this time, Irving Gerber requested to lead to a "discussion of frugality." Mr. Gerber noted that the original Board of Directors had two goals – the reestablishment of the high school and the building of camaraderie. He felt that two actions of the Board hurt that level of camaraderie – the focus of the Board on having an on-line directory vs. printing a hard copy on a continuous basis, and the lateness in the publication of the last newsletter.
- a. Mr. Gerber noted that if rising costs were the reasons behind either action, that dues should be raised to \$25 per annum.
 - b. Mr. Herszenhorn noted that an increase in \$10 per annum of dues to \$25 would not cover the financial requirements of continuously printing hard copies of the directory, and that financial constraints in no way caused the delay in the publication of the newsletter.
 - c. At this time, Mr. Paprin motioned to table the issue and remand to committees the two separate issues of (1) dues structure and (2) questions regarding publications, and the proposal to combine *THAM* and the newsletter. Mr. Graber seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-6 (PRO: Chan, Graber, Halpern, Hughes, Kadison, Leiner, Paprin, Slutzkin; CON: Gerber, Herszenhorn, Largmann, Malkin, Manis, Tan).
- XI. THF! Report. Mr. Herszenhorn discussed Ted Pecks plans to aggressively pursue bequests.
- XII. Old Business. The following items were discussed:
- a. Mr. Herszenhorn noted that the Executive Committee is still revisiting the proposed by-laws change regarding meeting attendance and the establishment of a *Director Emeritus* position. Mr. Halpern noted that such a change should be voted on at a general membership meeting.
 - b. Reunions are underway for several classes. The Class of 1988's 15th year reunion is scheduled for June 7.
 - c. The Executive Committee is still waiting for additional information about the proposed orientation program. Mr. Paprin introduced a motion to designate Dr. Largmann as the informal advisor and representative of the Board in this matter, then amended his motion to include Mr. Herszenhorn and Dr. Leiner to work with Dr. Largmann and report to the Executive Committee. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Slutzkin. Motion failed 12-2 (PRO: Herszenhorn, Paprin; CON: Chan, Gerber, Graber, Halpern, Hughes, Kadison, Largmann, Leiner, Malkin, Manis, Slutzkin, Tan).

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- XIII. New Business. The following items were discussed:
- a. Mr. Herszenhorn called for volunteers to help jumpstart a THAA apparel/souvenir program. Mr. Paprin suggested that such volunteers speak with his son Fred, who works in the licensing industry.
 - b. Mr. Herszenhorn discussed plans for an ice cream event which would have participation by up to four chapters of the Association in addition to the New York contingent.
 - c. Mr. Herszenhorn discussed recent discussions with Mort Greene, President of the Florida Chapter.
 - i. Mr. Greene continues to dissuade members of his chapter from paying dues to the New York office.
 - ii. Mr. Graber noted that we can request that the Florida chapter not use the Association's 501c3 designation if the Board felt that the Florida chapter's activities were not in line with a not-for-profit organization.
 - iii. Mr. Paprin introduced a motion that the Board formally inform the Florida chapter that dues must be paid to the main office (NY) and that failure to do so will force the Board to rescind the use of the 501c3 designation by Florida. The motion was tabled.
 - d. Mr. Herszenhorn then discussed the issue of stipends. A Board member had requested that the Board revisit who currently receives stipends and/or other forms of payment.
 - i. Mr. Peck receives \$1,000 per month for administering the THETA and development funds. All other activities performed in the past by Mr. Peck were voluntary (e.g. THAM). Mr. Gerber receives \$2,500 per annum. Charles Puglisi received about \$26,000 per annum until recently, and now does not receive any stipends or other forms of payment.
 - ii. Mr. Graber noted that his recollection was that Mr. Gerber received the \$2,500 per annum for production of the newsletter.
 - iii. Mr. Paprin moved that the finance committee consider the continued payment of all stipends and speak to all parties involved, and report back to the Board on whether such payments are appropriate and necessary, and if so, how much such payments should be. Mr. Gerber seconded that motion.
 - iv. Mr. Halpern noted that the Board has discussed these issues in the past, and should look at stipends and/or other forms of payment on an ad-hoc basis.
 - v. Mr. Herszenhorn said that he felt that the ad-hoc basis did, in fact, work up until now, but several people have brought up this issue and the Association is now faced with many inconsistencies with respect to stipends.
 - vi. Mr. Herszenhorn called for a vote on Mr. Paprin's motion (XIII, d, iii). Motion passed 10-2 (FOR: Gerber, Halpern, Hughes, Kadison, Largmann, Leiner, Malkin, Manis, Paprin, Tan; CON: Herszenhorn, Slutzkin).
 - e. The Executive Committee will revisit the time and locale of future Board meetings.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 12:30 P.M. Next meeting is Sunday, March 23, 2003 at the high school; to occur after the PTA Brunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Slutzkin