

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on January 11, 2004)

December 2, 2003

Location: Townsend Harris High School at Queens College

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Gerald P. Halpern, David Herszenhorn, Alicia Hughes, Malcolm Largmann, Marvin Leiner, Gia Malka, Neil Manis, Lani Muller, Charles Sigety, Craig Slutzkin.

Guests: Sue Getting (THHS Assistant Principal), Lynne Greenfield (former THHS Assistant Principal), Winnie Hallex (THHS Parent Coordinator), Michael Krasner (Queens College Professor), Howard Kwait (THHS Assistant Principal), Lisa Mars (THHS Assistant Principal), Ted Peck (THF!), Shirley Stergiou (THHS Parent-Teachers Association).

- I. David Herszenhorn called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.
- II. Mr. Herszenhorn introduced a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 26, 2003 Board of Directors meeting and approve such minutes. Gia Malka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report. Craig Slutzkin presented the report of the treasurer from September 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003. He presented an overview of the financial performance and cash position of the Association. Mr. Herszenhorn introduced a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as given; Ms. Malka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- IV. Executive Committee Report. Mr. Herszenhorn presented the Executive Committee report, a copy of which was included in the Board Package distributed to the members of the Board.
 - a. Board Composition. Irving Gerber and Charles Puglisi have resigned from the Board of Directors, each for personal reasons.
 - b. THAM. The *Townsend Harris Alumni Magazine* was published and distributed in November. Plans for the Spring 2004 edition are currently underway with the estimated distribution date of April 1, 2004.
 - c. Committee on Public/Private Partnerships. The Committee is currently working on a proposal for a Japanese program at the high school, and has plans to meet after the Board adjourns tonight.
 - d. 100th Anniversary Committee. Eugene Lang and George Weissman have agreed to serve as co-chairs.
 - i. In addition, the school has nominated several committee members.
 - ii. Responding to a question, Mr. Herszenhorn noted that there will be recognition of the 20th anniversary of the reopening of the school.
 - iii. The ceremony is expected to be held on November 10, 2004.
 - e. Staffing. An interview is currently being scheduled with a new candidate for the administrative director position.
 - f. Wall of Fame. Mr. Slutzkin is working with Tom Cunningham to ensure we have plaques for all Hall of Fame inductees.
 - i. A dedication ceremony is being planned by the high school for early-2004.
 - ii. The Board had a brief discussion on who the school currently has plaques for.
 - g. Internships/Career Day. Ms. Malka is working with the high school to develop a more formal internship program. Career Day is scheduled for January 29, and a joint notice was sent to the alumni membership by mail. Janet Solomon is coordinating for the high school.
 - h. High School Admissions. With the help of the alumni association, the high school has received satisfactory responses to its inquiries regarding the new admissions process.
 - i. Nominations and Officer Development. Discussions have begun about recruiting board members for other positions. Gerald Halpern later noted that he is seeking new members for the Nominating Committee, as Lester Friesner has been unable to dedicate a significant amount of time to this responsibility.

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- V. School Report. Mr. Cunningham was not present. He had sent a general update to Mr. Herszenhorn during November.

- VI. College Liaison Report. Marvin Leiner reported on the following:
 - a. Efforts are underway to find a replacement for Dr. Leiner upon his retirement on February 1.
 - b. Dr. Leiner introduced Dr. Michael Krasner, Co-Director for the Taft Institute for Government. Dr. Krasner discussed the various aspects of the Election Simulation that he helps coordinate at the high school.
 - i. The Election Simulation has been made possible by grants over the years from *Newsday* and the New York Community Trust. The annual budget started at \$25,000 but has decreased over time.
 - 1. Charles Sigety mentioned that he might know of other funding sources.
 - 2. Mr. Herszenhorn suggested that the Committee on Public/Private Partnerships include this program in its agenda.
 - ii. The Election Simulation includes members of all grades, especially the freshman whose votes count double relative to sophomores, juniors and seniors.
 - iii. Dr. Krasner is performing a "longitudinal study" on the Election Simulation which will assess the post graduation effects of an innovative curriculum such as the Simulation.
 - 1. Dr. Krasner wishes to survey alumni from several high schools, including Townsend Harris. The Board agreed to help Dr. Krasner in communicating with Townsend Harris alumni.
 - 2. Mr. Slutzkin noted that we need to be clear that this survey is coming from the Alumni Association and that the Alumni Association is not selling mailing lists to survey companies.

- VII. Events Committee. Ms. Malka reported the following:
 - a. The Fall Cocktail Mixer on November 20 had over 60 attendees.
 - b. The high school has requested alumni judges for the January 29, 30 and 31 performances of SING. Ms. Malka is coordinating our efforts.
 - c. The Class of 2003 reunion was held during Thanksgiving weekend.
 - i. Mr. Herszenhorn and Mr. Slutzkin attended and noted it seemed to be quite successful and had high attendance.
 - ii. Mr. Herszenhorn noted that dues payments tend to increase for classes who have just had reunions.
 - d. As discussed earlier, the Events Committee is working with the high school on an Internship Program and Career Day.
 - e. There are plans in the works for a Frick Museum outing on January 16.
 - f. Ted Peck recommended that the Events Committee have an event which would showcase arts and crafts projects undertaken by alumni.

- VIII. Secretary's Report. Mr. Slutzkin noted several actions he has undertaken in his role as secretary, including the registration of web domains, meeting preference questionnaires for the Board and monitoring of the Alumni Association's email accounts.

- IX. New Business.
 - a. Lani Muller has been coordinating with Shirley Stergiou on the March 20 PTA/Alumni dinner. Several members of the Board noted that the history of the high school should be discussed at the dinner.

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- b. As a result of the discussion surrounding the PTA/Alumni dinner, the Board discussed the role and relationship of the Alumni with the high school student body.
 - i. Mr. Herszenhorn summarized discussions he had with Mr. Cunningham on the Founders' Day ceremonies.
 - ii. Malcolm Largmann recommended that alumni should come to the high school occasionally and be available to answer questions and have impromptu discussions with current students.
 - iii. Mr. Halpern recommended that writers come into the high school and show their work.
- c. The PTA is helping to coordinate a Valentine's Day dinner-dance in February. The cost of the dinner-dance is \$65, which will help support the cost of the yearbook.
 - i. Mr. Herszenhorn requested a breakout of how the yearbook is paid for.
 - ii. Lisa Mars noted that the cost is paid for out of advertising, senior dues, minimal bagel sales, the dinner-dance and PTA support.
- d. Mr. Peck reported that the Bernstein Philanthropic Fund has agreed to provide \$100,000 over five years to continue to support the Hebrew Class.
- e. Mr. Halpern reported that Charles Fleischmann of the Nias Foundation visited the school and was extremely impressed. The Nias Foundation provided \$35,000 of scholarship money again this year.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 8:50 P.M. Next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Florence Nightingale Health Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig L. Slutzkin
Secretary of the Board of Directors