

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on February 9, 2004)
January 11, 2004
Location: Florence Nightingale Health Center

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Julie Chan, Thomas Cunningham, David Herszenhorn, Alicia Hughes, Renata Kobetts Miller, Marvin Leiner, Gia Malka, Neil Manis, Maurice Paprin, Sidney Silverman, Craig Slutzkin.

Guest: Winnie Hallex (THHS Parent Coordinator)

- I. David Herszenhorn called the meeting to order at 10:25 A.M.
- II. Mr. Herszenhorn introduced a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 2, 2003 Board of Directors meeting and approve such minutes. Gia Malka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee. The Committee did not meet in person. Mr. Herszenhorn noted the following developments:
 - a. The Florida Chapter Anniversary Luncheon will be held on January 18. Thomas Cunningham will be the guest speaker.
 - b. Japan Foundation. Ted Peck and Tom Cunningham have responded to the US-Japan Foundation regarding a possible donation for the school's Japanese program.
 - c. The search goes on for an administrative director and webmaster.
 - d. Centennial Celebration, to be held in November 2004. Ted Peck and Charles Sigety are helping to plan the event. Gene Lang and George Weissman will serve as honorary co-chairs.
 - e. School admissions. The number of applications is up dramatically as a result of the new city admissions process.
- IV. School Report. Mr. Cunningham reported the following:
 - a. Career Day. Career Day will be held at the high school in late January. So far, several alumni and non-alumni have agreed to participate in the festivities.
 - b. The Florida Chapter Anniversary Luncheon will be held on January 18. Mr. Cunningham will be the guest speaker and will brief the Florida Chapter on current school happenings. Ellen Fee, Assistant Principal of Languages other than English, may be in Florida that weekend and attend as well.
 - c. Wall of Fame. The dedication ceremony will be held at the high school on February 25 at 7 P.M. Former assistant principal Sheila Orner has been organizing the event.
 - d. School admissions. The number of applications is up dramatically as a result of the new city admissions process. There were over 6,700 applicants for 250 seats.
 - e. Regents exams. The students will be taking the Math-A regents in January. Townsend Harris students always have had an extraordinarily high pass rate.
 - f. College Admissions. The college admissions process is underway. Two students have each been accepted via early admissions to Harvard and Yale. Cornell University and New York University continue to be popular choices for seniors.
 - g. General Programs. The Intel and Quality of Life Programs are underway. A new mathematics program, to be coordinated by Bob Cowen (husband of Townsend Harris teacher Ilsa Cowen).
 - h. Department of Education. John Lee, former Queens high school superintendent and current coordinator of admissions policy, is retiring this month. Bonnie Gross will be replacing Mr. Lee.
 - i. Textbooks. The Humanities Department is replacing its textbooks this year at a cost of \$32,000. Debra Michlewitz and Sue Getting of the faculty are developing a custom textbook using excerpts from other sources.

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- V. College Liaison Report. Marvin Leiner reported that Dr. August Carbonella will be replacing Dr. Leiner upon Dr. Leiner's retirement. Dr. Carbonella is a visiting professor of Anthropology who has taught at the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center, and is a veteran of the Vietnam War.
- VI. Treasurer's Report. Craig Slutzkin presented the report of the treasurer from September 1, 2003 through December 31, 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.
- VII. Events Committee. Julie Chan and Ms. Malka reported the following:
 - a. There are several events being planned:
 - i. Frick Museum Gathering – January 16
 - ii. SING event (alumni judges) – January 29, 30 and 31
 - iii. Internship programs.
 - iv. PTA/Alumni dinner – March 20
 - b. The Committee has been exploring several venues for a consolidate reunion. Ms. Malka has looked into using the Queens College Student Union but the cost may be prohibitive. Dr. Leiner and Maury Paprin both provided suggestions.
- VIII. Communications Committee. Eileen Gunn was not present. Mr. Herszenhorn noted that the next distribution was scheduled for April 1.
- IX. Finance and Gifts Distribution Committees. Mr. Slutzkin reported that technology requests had been granted to the high school.
- X. PTA Report. Neil Manis and Winnie Hallex discussed the plans for the PTA/Alumni dinner on March 20. It is not expected that there would be a significant amount of speeches.
- XI. Secretary's Report. Mr. Slutzkin provided a written report and highlighted the following:
 - a. Dues for 2003 were improved over 2002. The Class of 1939 had the highest dues rate.
 - b. Townsend Harris is now on the community web site www.friendster.com. There are over 50 alumni that are members.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 11:55 A.M. Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at Townsend Harris High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig L. Slutzkin
Secretary of the Board of Directors