

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on May 25, 2004)
April 27, 2004
Location: Townsend Harris High School, Flushing, New York

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Thomas Cunningham, Gerald P. Halpern, David Herszenhorn, Gia Malka, Neil Manis, Tanya Odom, Charles Sigety, Craig Slutzkin.

Guests: Donna Manion, Lisa Mars, Ted Peck, Shirley Stergiou (PTA), Winnie Hallex (Parent Coordinator).

- I. David Herszenhorn called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M.
- II. Mr. Herszenhorn introduced a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 7, 2004 Board of Directors meeting and approve such minutes. Gia Malka seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee. There were no formal meetings since the last Board meeting.
- IV. School Report. Thomas Cunningham reported the following:
 - a. School Exams. The citywide regents exams and graduation rights were published and Townsend Harris was the only city school to score 100%.
 - b. Scholarships. One student was offered a scholarship to study in Japan for the upcoming summer.
 - c. Honors and Awards. The school has applied for a "21st Century School of Distinction" honor. The winners will be announced on June 21 in New Orleans. Mr. Cunningham noted that several students continue to win individual and team awards.
 - d. Queens College. The high school continues to strengthen ties with the college. The Department of Education may try to raise \$500,000 to help upgrade some of the athletic facilities which would allow for more Townsend Harris access to such facilities. Currently, the school has access to the track but not the lights on the track.
 - e. School transportation. The school is looking to raise funds for a van, which is estimated to cost \$32,000. The school currently has two vans, although one is fairly old and may need to be replaced. Charles Sigety suggested that we use some of his donated funds for this; however, Mr. Herszenhorn suggested that we use this as a "targeted" plea for funds. Mr. Cunningham also noted that the school would not be eligible for "Take the Field" funds (Tisch Foundation) because the city doesn't own the land.
 - f. School Events. The first play in years was last week and was hugely successful.
 - g. AP Exams. There are now eight different Advanced Placement exams offered in the school.
 - h. Admissions. In the first round of applications, 195 students were offered placement but only 60 accepted. The second round is currently ongoing.
 - i. Faculty/Personnel. In response to a question from Mr. Herszenhorn, Mr. Cunningham noted that though several teachers will be retiring, there will not be an excess of sabbatical requests.
 - j. Miscellaneous. Mr. Cunningham noted that Islee Park '95 has been named the first Bard of Queens County. She will address *the Phoenix* in the Fall.
- V. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Slutzkin presented the report of the treasurer from September 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. 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.
- VI. Events Committee. Julie Chan and Gia Malka discussed the following events:
 - a. Reunions. The combined 5th, 10th and 15th year reunions will be held on June 12th at Connelly's. Each year will have a designated "area".
 - b. Night at Noche. A mixer was held on March 26 at Noche, located on Broadway off 49th Street. Attendance was good.
 - c. Alumni / PTA Dinner. The dinner was held on March 20 and was well received.

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- d. Lawyers Event. Donna Manion '90 is looking into having a lawyers' mixer in the fall. It was suggested that she speak with Joe Flom about using the conference center in his firm.
- VII. Communications Committee. Ms. Gunn was not present but Mr. Slutzkin noted that Ms. Gunn reported that the next distribution was scheduled for May and was on target.
- VIII. Anniversary Celebration/THF! Report. Ted Peck noted that progress is being made on the Anniversary Dinner on November 5. We are getting close to the million dollar mark for THF!. The Board discussed goals and the fact that perhaps \$2 million might have been aggressive given the economy.
 - a. Mr. Sigety hosted a luncheon with several prominent alumni. Each alumnus was excited about the dinner, and several (Charles Sigety, Murray Nathan, Gene Lang and Leonard Polonsky) committed to four tables each.
 - b. The Board discussed at length the policy on ticket prices and sales.
 - c. Mr. Peck is currently drafting a letter to be mailed out. He passed out the letter and the Board decided by consensus to authorize Mr. Peck to send the letter as long as the President had approved the letter.
- IX. PTA Report. Shirley Stergiou debriefed the Board on the PTA/Alumni Dinner. She also discussed the yearbook funding, which the PTA provided substantial funds for. Lisa Mars, Assistant Principal, noted that depending on the layout, the book costs between \$32,000 and \$42,000 to produce, and students are charged \$55 for a book. The costs have been made up through pretzel and sweatshirt sales and a Valentine's Day mixer.
- X.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the high school.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig L. Slutzkin
Secretary of the Board of Directors