

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on February 6, 2008)
December 6, 2007
Location: New Leaf Venture Partners, New York, NY

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Moira Casey, Julie Chan, Thomas Cunningham, Susan Getting, Gerald P. Halpern, David Herszenhorn (by phone), Tanya M. Odom and Craig Slutzkin.

Guests: Namita Dworka, Margherita Wischerth.

Tanya M. Odom acted as secretary of the meeting.

I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. and welcomed the directors. He introduced Namita Dworka to the Board.

II. Mr. Slutzkin noted that the minutes from the September 25, 2007 meeting were unavailable and would be presented at the next meeting.

III. Executive Committee Report. Mr. Slutzkin reported on the following:

- a. School Principal: Mr. Slutzkin and David Herszenhorn noted that the process was moving ahead and discussed the solid relationship between the Alumni Association and the school PTA.
- b. Wall of Fame: Gerald Halpern discussed the importance of us including a note on the Wall of Fame, about the all boys history of the school.
- c. Website: Julie Chan and Mr. Slutzkin talked about the progress on the web site. Ms. Chan is working with a consultant to help redesign the web site. Sue Getting suggested that we use the web site as a way to enhance the Wall of Fame and as a way to give people information about the people on the Wall, and as a creative way of rotating some of the names and photos on the wall. It was also suggested that include biographies of the people on the Wall of Fame. There was a discussion about the Wall of Fame and updating the pictures on the Wall. Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Getting agreed that they would try to find the original list that had all of the names of people that were originally supposed to appear on the wall.
- d. D.C. Chapter Event: Mr. Herszenhorn reported on the successful inaugural D.C. event which took place on November 29. The event brought young and older alums together.
- e. Development. Mr. Slutzkin reported on the following contributions:
 1. The Association is waiting for the stock certificate from Leonard Polansky.
 2. There was an increase in the Nias Foundation Contribution. Mr. Halpern made a motion to increase the number of students receiving the \$2,500 scholarship (renewable for up to four years) to four. Ms. Chan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Board Complement: Mr. Slutzkin reported that both he and Mr. Halpern had communicated with Alicia Hughes about the Board of Directors. Ms. Hughes informed Mr. Slutzkin of her intent to submit a letter of resignation from the Board. To date, Mr. Slutzkin has not received such a letter. The Board agreed that no further action was needed at this time..

IV. Events Committee Report. Ms. Chan reported the following:

- a. FIRE Event: Julie Chan spoke about the FIRE event that she is planning for February 27, 2008 (Sugar Bar and Lounge, 6:30- 9p.m.) Vincent Yuen (THHS class of 1990), is assisting with the coordination.
- b. Reunions: Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Odom spoke about the upcoming reunions for the classes of 1993, 1998, and 1988). The reunions will take place on June 7, 2008 at the Knitting Factory in Downtown Manhattan. Save the date communication has gone out to the 5th , 10th and 15th year reunion classes. Ms. Odom reported the Class of 1988: 20th reunion committee has been meeting and is working on securing a location. She shared some of the recent discussions among the Executive Committee about encouraging, and possibly requiring the Class of '88 to begin making donations to the school. Mr. Halpern suggested that we include a line on the registration form that states "minimum contribution \$X dollars". It was suggested that we might want to ask for \$88.00. Ms. Odom agreed to bring this information back to the committee.

V. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by the Board. Several points were discussed.

- a. Moira Casey inquired of the process by which the Alumni Association provides grants, and also inquired about the Alumni Association not having a Science Endowment. Mr. Slutzkin discussed both topics.
- b. Several board members discussed the General Fund operating deficit. The general consensus was that the deficit should not be merged into the larger THETA Development Fund.
- c. Mr. Halpern made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Ms. Odom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Publications. Mr. Slutzkin gave a report about his work on the publication of ENVOY.

- a. Envoy is in the final stages of being edited.
- b. Distribution will be electronic to the post-1988 graduates and paper copy to the pre-1944 graduates.
- c. Ms. Odom acknowledged how much work Mr. Slutzkin has put into making this happen.

VII. School Report. Thomas Cunningham noted the following:

- a. The school has a new Assistant Principal, Organization. Ms. Dworka introduced herself and shared with the Board a bit about her background and path to Townsend Harris High School.
- b. The Open House at the school was very successful. He thanked the PTA, Alumni, and Janet Solomon for doing outstanding jobs. He reported that there were 1700 guests.
- c. Mr. Cunningham distributed the Quality Review report, and discussed how well the school has done on the Review.
- d. Ms. Getting reported that on Thursday, December 20, a Drama Festival would take place at the school. Two one act plays will be performed at 7 p.m. These plays are student written, directed, and produced.
- e. Mr. Cunningham reported that he received a personal assurance from the New York City School Chancellor that the school will be funded at the same level as specialized schools.
- f. Townsend Harris received more applications for admission than any other school.

VIII. PTA. Ms. Casey reported on the following items:

- a. Ms. Casey discussed the ongoing discussion about the Humanities focus of the school, and the desire to balance support of the Sciences.
- b. Ms. Casey asked about getting funding to an art teacher for technical art books. Mr. Slutzkin explained the formal process for financial requests to the Alumni Association. Formal questions should come from the school administration.
- c. Margherita Wischerth discussed the Harris Festival, and would like to invite alumni to the festival.

IX. New Business.

- Mr. Cunningham shared a story about a professor from Cornell University who is writing a book about Education. He was introduced to Townsend Harris by an alumni. Her discussion of the school and her education, prompted the profession to come to Founder's Day, and will be mentioning Townsend Harris in a chapter of his book related to the theme of "what education should be."

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 8:45 P.M.. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 6, at 7 P.M. at New Leaf Venture Partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya M. Odom