

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on April 1, 2008)
February 6, 2008
Location: New Leaf Venture Partners, New York, NY

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Thomas Cunningham, Susan Getting, Gerald P. Halpern, Malcolm Largmann, Marvin Leiner, Donna Manion, Tanya Odom and Craig Slutzkin.

I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. and welcomed the directors.

II. Mr. Slutzkin asked that Directors review the minutes from the September 25, 2007 and December 6, 2007 meetings. He entered into a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from those meetings and accept them as submitted. Gerald P. Halpern seconded such motion, which carried unanimously.

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

- a. School Principal: Mr. Slutzkin noted that the process was moving ahead and discussed the solid relationship between the Alumni Association and the school PTA.
 1. The Alumni/PTA advertisement will be posted in *Education Week* and the *New York Times*.
 2. The Alumni Association will be sending out a blast email to all alumni and targeted educators about the opening. Mr. Slutzkin has contacted the CSA to run an article on the search.
 3. A new process will be in place whereby candidates will be matched to schools for NYC DOE principal searches. Candidates that are interested in Townsend Harris will be able to make their interest in the school known as they go through the process.
 4. Dr. Largmann asked the Board if there was a sense that the people at the Department of Education understand what distinguishes Townsend Harris from other schools so that an effective search can be run. In response, Mr. Slutzkin stated that the C-30 search committee is very active. The C30 committee has been providing significant feedback to the Department of Education and as such, Mr. Slutzkin felt that the Alumni Association as well as the PTA does impact the process.
 5. Sue Getting noted that there are 160 open Principal spots in NYC at this time, and that there are not enough candidates in the pool to properly fill all of these positions.
 6. Mr. Halpern asked if the Alumni Association could supplement the compensation for the Townsend Harris Principal in order to make the position more attractive. It was established that the Association can only pay a Principal for something non-conflicting with their position, so it may not be possible. Tanya Odom suggested that incentive packages will become a reality at some point as part of the Department of Education system, so it is good to think about this topic.
 7. Mr. Halpern asked if the Board should coordinate a letter writing campaign to help get Joel Klein's attention regarding the Principal search.
 8. Mr. Slutzkin then entered the following motion to the Board's consideration:

“Resolved, the Townsend Harris Alumni Association Board of Directors approves a special allocation of \$5,000 for the advertisement for the Principal Search of Townsend Harris High School.”

Mr. Halpern seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- b. Website: Mr. Slutzkin noted that Julie Chan, who was unable to attend this meeting, is progressing on the website.
- c. Florida Chapter Event: Mr. Slutzkin reported that Ted Peck gave a great talk on the history of the school to the Florida chapter when both Messr. Slutzkin and Peck recently visited.
 - 1. Mr. Slutzkin presented outgoing president Mort Greene with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Association which was well received. .
 - 2. Bob Kahal and Paul Chessin have been named the new Co-Presidents of the Florida chapter.
 - 3. Some retired teachers, such as Joe Horn, are beginning to attend the Florida chapter meetings. Younger alumni are still not participating in the Florida chapter.
- d. Development. Mr. Slutzkin reported that the Association is waiting for the stock certificate from Leonard Polansky.
- e. Scholarships: Mr. Halpern had organized a lunch meeting with Charles Fleishman at Yale, and Tina Wu '04 was scheduled to join the meeting. The meeting had to be postponed.

IV. Events Committee Report. Mr. Slutzkin reported the following:

- a. FIRE Event: The FIRE event is scheduled 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.
- c. Homecoming. Ms. Odom is organizing a homecoming on May 31, 2008.

V. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Halpern made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Ms. Odom seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Publications. Mr. Slutzkin discussed the first issue of ENVOY. He noted that it has thus far been well received.

VII. School Report. Thomas Cunningham noted the following:

- a. Public Relations. Mr. Cunningham sent in updated statistics to Newsweek recently with the hope of faring better in upcoming rankings, although the inherent problem with the study's methodology will be an issue.

- b. School Events.
 - 1. SING was a huge success.
 - 2. As February is Black History Month, students have been attending various programs at Queens College.
 - 3. The school play will be held on March 28 and 29.
 - 4. Two student written one act plays were produced to rave reviews recently.
 - 5. The Free the Children Variety Show was a tremendous success.
 - 6. Students are involved in the Robotics Contest.
 - 7. Students are also involved in the National Computation Linguistics Competition (Code Breaking).
- c. The Departments are all really meshing and the environment is collaborative and supportive. It is a very exciting time at the school.
- d. ABC News is very interested in the school. Art McFarlane has been doing little snippets of news reports about the school.
- e. Mr. Cunningham noted that he was seeking funding to produce a video of the school for submission to *U.S. News and World Reports* in order to bolster the school's ranking.

VIII. PTA. Ms. Casey reported that the PTA continues to be quite engaged and has been working diligently on the principal selection process.

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at 9:00 P.M.. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 1, 2008, at 7 P.M. at New Leaf Venture Partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Manion