

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on June 3, 2008)

April 1, 2008

Location: New Leaf Venture Partners, New York, NY

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Julie Chan, Moira Casey, Sue Getting, Shari Gruber, Gerald P. Halpern, Dr. Malcolm Largmann, Marvin Leiner, Donna Manion, Tanya Odom and Craig Slutzkin. David Herszenhorn participated via phone.

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. and welcomed the directors.
- II. Mr. Slutzkin asked the directors to review the minutes from the February 6, 2008 meeting. He entered a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them as submitted, which carried unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Report. Mr. Slutzkin reported on the following:
 - a. The school play, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, was wonderful.
 - b. Principal Search: Mr. Slutzkin commented at length about the process.
 1. Mr. Slutzkin reached out to Assistant Principals at other schools.
 2. Mr. Slutzkin has seen a few resumes as the advertisement he sent out encouraged people to copy him when they applied for the position.
 3. Mr. Slutzkin has checked in on the status of the search as there have been difficulties finding people.
 4. The posting for the position was supposed to be listed on April 1, 2008. There is a new process in place whereby candidates apply to be a principal and the Department of Education matches candidates to schools. We received an informal waiver that allows people to say that they want to apply to be considered for Townsend Harris. Therefore, candidates can apply directly for the position at Townsend Harris unless they have already applied through the Department of Education.
 5. The C30 level one committee is scheduled to meet in the first or second week of May.
 6. Sue Getting mentioned that the position description lists “data specialist” as the first qualification. This may cause some candidates to shy away from the position. Ms. Getting also explained that the new principal will find themselves in a situation where success is measured by success on predictive tests. Ms. Getting feels that this will cause the new principal to be in a situation where he or she needs to tell the high achieving faculty that they are not performing well enough. Ms. Getting feels that this deters people from applying for the position.
 7. Mr. Slutzkin commented that we have a strong coalition here of alumni and parents and that we have been effective in negotiating the system. He noted that the Association wants a fair process and top notch candidates.
 8. Mr. Slutzkin also expressed concern that the search process will change again when the administration changes (Bloomberg’s term is coming to an end).
 - c. Staffperson: Margherita is continuing to work with us.

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- d. Website: Paul Chessen wants to move Florida data on to the website. Julie Chan reported that the new website is progressing and the contractor who is working on it can provide us with a temporary URL so that we can see what is in progress. Some new features that are being worked on are the virtual store and a way for alumni to pay their dues online.

- e. Stock Certificates: Mr. Slutzkin received the stock certificates from Leonard Polonsky's Foundation. The Polonsky Foundation is giving us the November 2007 dividends retroactively, which is \$50,000. Mr. Slutzkin proposed using the money in the following way:
 1. \$10,000 for new principal acclimation
 2. \$5,000 for savings
 3. \$5,000 for teacher grants
 4. \$30,000 for Tom Cunningham to spend as he determined is in the best interests of the school.Questions arose as to how we would know if the teachers receiving grants used the money wisely. More conversation is needed if this is to take place.

- f. Events:
 1. The FIRE event was very successful. Elliott Roman is interested in taking some students on a tour of the Stock Exchange. Vincent Yuen, '89 and Angela Moia, '94 are interested in doing more with the FIRE group.
 2. The Chazen Museum of Art and Design should open soon. Perhaps we can do an event there.
 3. Mr. Chazen endows the 92nd Street Y Jazz Band. Gerald Halpern will see if he can get tickets for the students in the school Jazz group to attend a performance.
 4. Tanya Odom reported that he class of '88 is very frustrated as they still need a space for their reunion.
 5. It was decided that Homecoming should be moved from May 31 to October to coincide with the Annual Meeting. Homecoming can incorporate an art show, seminars, musical pieces, a speech by the current class President, and student ushered tours.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Not a lot of activity in February. Gerald Halpern made a motion to accept the Report, which carried unanimously.

V. School Report: Delivered by Sue Getting.

- a. THHS was recognized as a First Amendment School again.
- b. THHS did very well at the History Day Competition. One student won first place for work on police brutality. There were also second and third place winners for their work on Darfur, infanticide in India and the history of ghastly weapons.
- c. There is a proposed budget cut of \$350,000 that is going to be handled by cutting supplies and procession. Procession is the process whereby teachers are paid an hourly rate to compensate them for working with clubs outside of regular school hours.

VI. PTA report.

- a. The school leadership team is having a legislative breakfast in April.
- b. The art teacher has left the school and there is an ongoing investigation regarding that. Anthony Morales came back to fill in until that position is filled.

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VII. Envoy. Mr. Slutzkin is already thinking about the next issue.

VIII. Fundraising. Shari Gruber asked if she should look at creating the fundraising brochure at this time.

IX. Other Business. There was no other business.

There being no other business the Board adjourned at 9:00 P.M.. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 3, 2008 at 7 P.M. at New Leaf Venture Partners.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Manion