

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (approved)
November 10, 2009
Location: Telephonic

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Rishona Fleishman, Shari Gruber, Gerald Halpern, Donna Manion, Tanya Odom, Craig Slutzkin and Vincent Yuen.

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He thanked everyone for dialing in. He explained that since a lot of people were unable to make the meeting we wanted to try a call so that the few people who could make it did not have to travel.
- II. Mr. Slutzkin asked everyone to review the minutes from the September 29, 2009 meeting. Gerald Halpern made the motion to accept the minutes; Vincent Yuen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Report
 - a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that we held back the 2009 dues statements so that they could go out with the Annual Meeting notice. This will go out soon.
 - b. SLT -- Tanya Odom reported that the school has received an "A" on the progress report from the DOE.
 - c. We are looking to hold an event in the Spring to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the school, perhaps in early May.
 - d. The Class of '39 70th reunion was a success. They had 33 people in attendance. We received a pledge for \$1,000 from a member of the class. So far, with that pledge, we have \$3,500 lined up to try to match the \$10,000 that Mr. Sigety pledged (should it be matched by others).
 - e. The Polonsky Fund -- the teachers at the school are already making requests for the use of money from the Fund. Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Odom will consult with Mr. Bonamo to see if we can have the funds used for programs that will ultimately be used in the classrooms. We will also sponsor Mr. Bonamo to attend a leadership course at Harvard this summer.
- IV. Nominating Committee Report
 - a. Ms. Odom reported that Mr. Yuen has accepted nomination to the Nominating Committee. The Committee will now be Ms. Odom, Donna Manion and Mr. Yuen. Shari Gruber reached out to some people to see if they would be interested in joining the Board. Sydney Butts, '90, reached out to Ms. Odom to see if she could join the Board, which was great news. David Herszenhorn is going to see if Jin Pak, '90, would like to join the Board. We are actively looking for more members.
- V. Events Committee Report
 - a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that plans are being discussed for the Annual Meeting. Consideration has been given to the time/date/venue. Some rethinking was done about the concept of the annual meeting. The concept has not changed since the beginning of the Association. The concept needs to adjust for the change of the mix of the membership. Mr. Herszenhorn suggested doing something on a weeknight to try to capture a larger audience. We are trying to find the right model. In recent years we haven't had a huge turnout. The permit has been secured to hold the meeting on Saturday, December 5th, at the High School from 12 - 3pm.

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- b. Mr. Yuen reported that we are still holding on to the idea of doing a business professionals event. He is checking venues. He is thinking of doing something in early 2010.
- c. Mr. Slutzkin reported that we will wait to plan a cultural event until the Annual Meeting is behind us.
- d. Reunions - We discussed that June is the best month to do them as that timing allows us to capture the largest audience. Mr. Yuen will send out an email to ask for people to help him plan the reunions. Ms. Odom suggested that in all of our communiqués that we mention the 25th anniversary of the school, as it will help us with our overall branding this year. A question was raised as to whether or not we could provide babysitting services to those who attend the Annual Meeting.

VI. Treasurer's Report

- a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that the value of the Association's endowment increased in September and decreased in October. The Polonsky shares went increased overall.
- b. Mr. Slutzkin reminded the group that we need to pay the Hebrew teacher through the Department of Education. This was discussed previously.
- c. Mr. Slutzkin reviewed our expenses. The expenses were \$63,000. This is generally comprised of the cost of the Hebrew class and the scholarships sponsored by the Association.
- d. Mr. Slutzkin highlighted the balance in the J. Winston fund. It is a lower number than it has been previously. Mr. Slutzkin felt that it had clearly been hit by the recession. Mr. Slutzkin reported that we still have allocated the same amount of money for the scholarships.

VII. School Report

- a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that one anonymous contribution for SING in the amount of \$3,000 was received.
- b. Next Thursday the school is having an Open House. As there is no per session money for this, it may be that there are only administrators attending. If any alums have time to attend, that would be great.
- c. Mr. Slutzkin reported that Nancy appointed a new PTA representative, which is in her right to do as the new PTA President. She appointed Jordan as the new representative.

VIII. Website

- a. Julie Chan is moving along. She is working with the developer on coding.

IX. Association Bylaws

- a. Deferred.

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November 16, 2009 (continued)
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- X. New Business
 - a. Ms. Gruber reported that three people were recruited for the Ambassador Program this year. They went to three different Junior High Schools. This is a great start.
 - b. Mr. Slutzkin asked us to think about the college mentoring event that we did last year that Rishona Fleishman coordinated. We should think about whether or not we want to do that this year.

There being no other business, the call was ended at 7:58pm. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 16, 2009 at 7:00pm. It is possible that we will meet in a new location; details to follow soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Manion