

**Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (approved)**

**May 19, 2010**

**Location: New Leaf Venture Partners, 7 Times Square, New York, NY 10036**

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Tanya Odom, Jordan Leeds, David Herszenhorn, Vincent Yuen, Dr. Malcolm Largmann, Principal Kenneth Bonamo, Craig Slutzkin, Selina Lee, Shari Gruber, Sue Getting, Sydney Butts.

Sydney Butts acted as the Secretary of the meeting.

- I. Mr. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed the directors.
- II. Mr. Slutzkin made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting and waive a formal meeting. This was approved.
- III. **Executive Committee Report.** The report of the executive committee was presented by Mr. Craig Slutzkin and Ms. Tanya Odom. Several points were highlighted:
  - A. **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**-The board was updated on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, including the "25 at 25" event to be held on June 12.
  - B. **Facebook** has been an instrumental tool in locating Townsend Harris alumni. Of the 201 members of the class of 1991, 79 have connected to their class's facebook page.
  - C. **School Relations**-A successful college mentoring event was held in April, which was coordinated by Rishona Fleischman. Alumni were paired with students to help in guiding them through prospective college choices.
  - D. **School Relations II**-The Executive committee approved the use of dividends from Hansard Holdings to update the television studio.
  - E. **Fundraising**-Ways to further develop the schools fundraising efforts and build the endowment were discussed, including recruiting alumni with experience with institutional fundraising. Shari Gruber '90, has been developing plans to meet on this topic.
  - F. **Alumni Staffing**-The goal of additional staff resources would be to relieve some of the day to day work done by the members of the executive committee and facilitate communication between the alumni association and faculty.
  - G. **Website**-Mr. Slutzkin reported that he has been in contact with the website developer. Efforts to upgrade the current format which was developed in 2000 were discussed. Progress is ongoing.

**IV. Events Committee Report-**

- A. Events Completed:
  1. A Business Professionals Event was held on May 18. A wine tasting and networking event was planned for alumni. Feedback was positive and the venue was felt to be excellent. This type of activity could be broadened in the future and utilized for fund raising.
  2. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-A family-themed event was held at the high school as another part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the school's re-opening. This event was coordinated by Selina Lee. Thirteen families attended. Tours of the new building were given by current students.

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**B. Events Scheduled:**

1. "25 at 25"-This event will take place on June 12 and will highlight 25 alumni of the "new" school who epitomize the meaning of the Ephebic Oath. All Townsend Harris Alumni and current and former faculty will be invited. Five of the honorees will participate in two separate student assemblies at the school prior to the June 12 event. A streaming video presentation of the honored alumni will run during presentation of the awards.
2. Class Reunions- The class reunions are quickly approaching for the joint 5/10/15 year and the 20<sup>th</sup> class reunion for the class of 1990. The class of 1990 is planning to present a gift to the school and is considering giving a bench-which students have expressed interest in.

V. Treasurer's Report-Mr. Slutzkin presented the treasurer's report. The board was updated on the growth of the current assets, amount s collected in membership dues and expenditures.

VI. **School Report**-The School report was given by Principal Bonamo. Principal Bonamo updated the board on several recent achievements by Townsend Harris students including excellent results on the national Latin examination, strong placements in a statewide Art competition and student participation in NY history day.

- A. Three hundred forty freshman were accepted for the incoming class; 96% residing in Queens.
- B. The television studio upgrade will also coincide with the offering of a broadcast journalism course at the school.
- C. The board was informed that possible 5-10% budget cuts can be expected depending on the outcome of budget negotiations in Albany.
- D. Several faculty will be participating in advanced placement (AP) training over the summer
- E. Principal Bonamo was selected to participate in a 10-day long professional development symposium for high school principals at the Harvard School of Education this summer.

VII. **PTA Report**-Delivered by Jordan Leeds, PTA representative.

- A. The PTA bylaws were accepted and passed unanimously
- B. The vote for new officers will be held in June
- C. Fundraising efforts by the PTA are active. The PTA is exploring the role that parents of alumni could play to support their projects, including fundraising. Engaging past PTA presidents was also suggested
- D. The annual PTA dinner will be held on June 8

VIII. The board meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sydney Butts