

**Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on February 28, 2012)**

**December 6, 2011**

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Kenneth Bonamo, Susan Getting, Gerald P. Halpern, Christina Juva, Selina Lee, Jordan Leeds, Tanya M. Odom, Nily Rozic, Craig L. Slutzkin, Karen Wu, and Vincent Yuen.

Karen Wu acted as Secretary of the meeting.

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and welcomed the directors.
- II. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Slutzkin asked the Board for any questions or comments regarding the September 27, 2011 board meeting minutes. A correction was noted, fixing reference to Janet Solomon's former title from "Vice Principal" to "Assistant Principal." Gerald P. Halpern moved to accept the minutes; Vincent Yuen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- III. **Moment of Silence.** Mr. Slutzkin asked the board to observe a moment of silence in honor of key alumni who recently passed away, in particular, Norm Merino (longtime President of the Florida Chapter) and Saul Grossman (former President of the Board of the Alumni Association). Mr. Slutzkin noted that Norm Merino was very enthusiastic about his love for the high school. His obituary published in the *New York Times* emphasized his involvement with the alumni association, and asked that contributions be given to the alumni association in his name.
- IV. **Welcome of New Board Members.** Mr. Slutzkin welcomed Christina Juva '97 and Nily Rozic '04 to the board. Ms. Juva noted her involvement in helping to plan some of the alumni association's events during the past year. Ms. Rozic was the 2011 Founders' Day keynote speaker, and has been a Career Day volunteer for the alumni association.
- V. **Nominating Committee's Report.** Mr. Slutzkin reviewed the list of directors who were re-elected by the members at the annual meeting held on December 3, 2011. He also noted that Julie Chan, who has been a board member for over a decade, as stepped down due to work commitments, and expressed appreciation for her many contributions to the alumni association. With respect to officers, Mr. Slutzkin read the report of the Nominating Committee which nominated the following list of officers for re-election:

Co-Chairs:	David M. Herszenhorn, Tanya M. Odom
President:	Craig L. Slutzkin
Vice President:	Selina Lee
Secretary:	Karen Wu
Treasurer:	Craig L. Slutzkin

Motion to approve the entire slate of officers was made by Mr. Halpern, seconded by Mr. Yuen, and approved unanimously.

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**December 6, 2011 (continued)**

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- VI. **Executive Committee Report.** The Executive Committee highlighted a few topics of interest to the Board.
- a. **THHS Video Documentary Project.** Mr. Slutzkin reported that Jesse Ash continues to help with the video projection and interviews. Concern was expressed that we are missing opportunities to record some of our older alumni, and that funding was an issue. Fundraising ideas were discussed, including a Florida fundraiser, and making portions of the existing video footage viewable at those fundraisers. In future phases of the project, other members of the school community that we will consider interviewing are some of the teachers who were part of the original reopening of the high school. Mr. Slutzkin noted that the alumni association is not able to pay his normal fee, but is offering Mr. Strauss an honorarium. A suggestion was made by Mr. Halpern to provide a \$2,000 honorarium for Mr. Strauss's services. No vote was taken although there was general consensus for this suggestion.
  - b. Dr. Largmann suggested that Principal Bonamo bring a member of the school cabinet to attend the THAA board meetings as a way to create a closer link between the current faculty and THAA board members. Principal Bonamo said he would look into doing this commencing the next board meeting.
  - c. **Membership Dues.** Mr. Slutzkin reminded the board to pay their annual member dues before the end of 2011.
  - d. **D.C. Mini-Reunion.** Per the request of certain D.C.-based alumni, Jin Pak is working on coordinating a reunion for alumni in the Washington, D.C. area.
  - e. **Website.** Mr. Slutzkin reported that we continue to receive many hits to our website. Statistics typically approach 700 hits when an email blast is sent out. It was also noted that Facebook posts, including pictures and comments following THAA events help generate enthusiasm and buzz. Mr. Slutzkin also noted that a Guestbook is being set up on the website so that members of the alumni community can leave notes for Ms. Nix in honor of her retirement.
- VII. **Events Committee Report.** Selina Lee reported on a number of different events that recently took place or that are coming up soon.
- f. **Ms. Nix Event.** The PTA has approved the alumni association's petition to rename the gym the Wanda Nix Gymnasium. We continue to follow the Department of Education's procedures for renaming school facilities. An event honoring Ms. Nix's contributions to THHS is in the works, date TBD.

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- a. Attorney Professionals Networking Event. Ms. Odom noted that a lawyers' networking event has always been a big hit with alumni, and alumni continue to inquire about the next lawyers' event. The board discussed some possible locations for the event.
- b. Film Screening. There has been discussion about holding a screening of Elana Mugdan's independent film, *Director's Cut*, as well as films that involve other alumni, including Susan Stewart and Jesse Ash. We discussed possible locations, including screening rooms within major corporation offices, and possibly making such a film event into a fundraiser for the alumni association.
- c. Lunar New Year Event. Vincent Yuen raised the idea of holding a Lunar New Year event, which might draw alumni interest due to the growing Asian alumni population. It was noted that Stuyvesant has used the Lunar New Year as a major fundraising event.
- d. Other possible events. The board discussed potential events for alumni entrepreneurs, alumni in government/policy, alumni in the restaurant/hospitality field, and an educators' event. A couple of location suggestions for an educators' event include the Rubin Museum and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Manhattan.
- e. Mentoring Program. The mentoring program for seniors making college acceptance decisions is also likely to be conducted again in the spring. Acceptance decisions are expected to be received from mid-March to early April, with decision deadlines due around May 1<sup>st</sup>. The board discussed having greater board involvement in screening for appropriate mentors, and establishing a follow-up program evaluation procedure.

**VIII. Treasurer's Report.**

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported on changes in the organization's assets, amounts collected in membership dues, and recent expenditures.
- b. Our investment management strategy will be discussed at the following board meeting.

**IX. School Report.** Principal Bonamo reported on various recent events.

- a. Principal Bonamo thanked the Alumni Association for supporting the professional development activities for THHS faculty. Many of the faculty were very pleased with the information they learned.

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- a. Our investment management strategy will be discussed at the following board meeting.
- X. **School Report.** Principal Bonamo reported on various recent events.
- a. Principal Bonamo thanked the Alumni Association for supporting the professional development activities for THHS faculty. Many of the faculty were very pleased with the information they learned.
  - b. Principal Bonamo also thanked the Alumni Association for its support to extend the school's library hours for an additional 40 minutes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday. Approximately 20 – 50 students use the library per day during that time.
  - c. The school's election simulation is being coordinated with the timing of the presidential primary.
  - d. Many students just completed their Intel projects, which were submitted in November.
  - e. Susan Getting's daughter has been assisting us in looking into potential grants that the school can apply for, in particular, pulling together a list of 21 private foundations that have historically given to secondary school projects. Principal Bonamo and Susan Getting will be reviewing the list again, and preparing list of action items and next steps, but there is a general sense that there are a number of potential grant fund sources for which THHS is potentially eligible. Sue Getting's daughter knows of three people who would be interested in such a position. The anticipated cost is approximately \$2,000, which THAA will cover on behalf of the school.
- XI. **PTA Report.**
- a. Jordan Leeds reported that the Phoneathon raised 2/3 of its goal. This year's goal was higher than last year's.
  - b. Mr. Leeds attended the school's Open House and noted the excellent turnout. A few educators brought small groups of students from their zones. In addition, student participation was double that of the previous year. Karen Wu and Jordan Leeds noted the incredible enthusiasm of the students, and how eager prospective students were to attend Townsend Harris.
- XII. The board meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Wu