

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on April 24, 2012)
February 28, 2012
Location: Offices of Perlman & Perlman, New York, NY

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Kenneth Bonamo, Thomas Cunningham, Gerald Halpern, Naomi Horowitz, Christina Juva, Malcolm G. Largmann, Selina Lee (by phone), Jordan Leeds, Tanya M. Odom, Craig L. Slutzkin, Karen Wu, and Vincent Yuen.

Guest: Veronica York.

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 December 6, 2011 board meeting minutes. Vincent Yuen moved to accept the minutes; Kenneth Bonamo seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- III. **Executive Committee Report.** The Executive Committee highlighted a few topics of interest to the Board.
 - a. **Officer Complement.** Tanya Odom and Craig Slutzkin announced Karen Wu's resignation from the board, and thanked her for her service as a board member and executive committee member. In connection with her resignation, Ms. Odom announced the opening of the position of Secretary, which is also an executive committee position, and asked the board members to consider whether it might be a role someone would be interested in taking on. Ms. Wu expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve on such a wonderful board, and explained that she was resigning due to work-life balance issues (Ms. Wu has two young children and works full-time), but looked forward to continue participating in THAA activities whenever possible.
 - b. **Florida chapter meeting.** Ms. Odom reported that Jerry Halpern attended the Florida chapter's January luncheon, and that Tanya Odom and Principal Bonamo would be attending their March "gala" luncheon. Mr. Slutzkin noted that a \$500 gift was given to THAA in honor of Mort Green from the Florida Chapter. Mr. Green was a former treasurer and president of the Florida Chapter. Mr. Halpern commented that there was a great deal of enthusiasm at his attendance at the January luncheon, and noted that the biggest issue raised was what to do with their \$6,000 treasury. Craig suggested purchasing award display cases for the lobby in the Florida chapter's honor. There was additional discussion about ways to encourage broader financial support from the older alumni, including through planned gifts and pledges. A suggestion was raised to create a video of the Hall of Fame at the school. Mr. Bonamo offered to look into having that created. Ms. Lee mentioned that she would begin looking into a date for the 70/75 year school reunion.
 - c. **THHS Video Documentary Project.** Ms. Odom reported that the next weekend of taping will be the weekend of March 11th.

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- d. Membership Dues. Mr. Slutzkin provided a written report on membership dues, including statistics from 2011, and plans for membership growth in 2012. Selina Lee briefly described some of the incentives we would be offering dues-paying members. Sidney Butts offered additional suggestions with respect to museum admission discounts. Ms. Butts also suggested promoting membership through all THAA email blasts, and offered to as approved on April 24, 2012 a short blurb that can be included in all THAA emails. Jordan Leeds noted that he has had a positive experience using the benefits provided by Plum Benefits, the benefits company THAA will be using.
 - e. Mentoring Program. Ms. Odom reported that board member Rishona Fleishman would again be coordinating the college mentoring program in April.
 - f. Website. Mr. Slutzkin provided a written summary on THAA's website development, and noted that he has been continually working to make the website more accessible, for profiles to be more easily updated, and for data to be captured in increasingly searchable/sortable ways.
 - g. Formation of Salk Committee. Sidney Butts proposed the formation of a medical professionals group to be named the "Salk Committee" after renowned alumnus Jonas Salk.
- IV. Events Committee Report. Selina Lee reported on a number of different events that recently took place or that are coming up soon.
- a. Career Day. Career Day will be held on March 30th. Ms. Lee reported a good response so far. Ms. Lee is coordinating the event with Veronica York.
 - b. Ms. Nix Event. The Ms. Nix event is scheduled for April 21st. Christina Juva and Selina Lee visited the school to size letters on the gymnasium wall to hang the new sign. Kenneth Bonamo has been helping to expedite the application for the renaming through the Department of Education. Ms. Nix confirmed that she would attend the event. It was reported that Kevin Kim has offered to match up to \$1,000 that is raised within the Class of '88.
 - c. Reunions. Mr. Yuen is coordinating the reunions once again. The 20th year reunion will be held independently, and the 5/10/15 year reunions will be held together. Mr. Yuen is narrowing down the choice of locations.
 - d. Baseball event. Mr. Yuen is looking into doing another Brooklyn Cyclones family event this summer.
 - e. Film Screening. Mr. Yuen is coordinating a screening of Elana Mugdan's independent film, Director's Cut, to be held at the Downtown TV Center. The event will include a film showing, followed by Q&A with Ms. Mugdan, and general networking and refreshments. The date is still TBD.

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- f. Discount performances. Jordan Leeds noted that we could obtain tickets to see the Metropolitan Opera dress rehearsals at reduced rates, and that other theatres sometimes offer to share the proceeds from ticket sales with a nonprofit that uses a performance as a fundraiser.
 - g. Government/Nonprofit event. Nily Rozic will be organizing an event for government and nonprofit professionals.
 - h. Volunteer event. There are two volunteer events being developed, one being coordinated by Angela Mui, and another by Melissa Gibilaro.
 - i. Medical event. Sidney Butts is interested in coordinating an event for medical professionals.
- V. **Treasurer's Report.**
- a. Craig Slutzkin reported on changes in the organization's assets, amounts collected in membership dues, and recent expenditures.
- VI. **School Report.** Principal Bonamo reported on various recent events.
- a. Principal Bonamo reported that Chancellor Walcott would be coming to school on March 1st to honor the school for its achievement in college readiness.
 - b. An Open House for accepted students will be held next week.
 - c. We are still looking for someone who can assist with grant writing.
 - d. Principal Bonamo noted that a few students are not doing well in the college bridge course, and that the school is putting in place steps to reduce the failure rate, with measurable success.
 - e. Principal Bonamo provided an overview of the admissions process.
 - f. Veronica York introduced her role as Assistant Principal, Pupil Personnel Services. Jordan Leeds complimented Ms. York on her accessibility and creativity, and expressed that her background in college guidance has been an asset to the school.
- VII. **PTA Report.**
- a. Jordan Leeds reported that the PTA is \$4,000 away from its fundraising goal.
 - b. Mr. Leeds has invited Mary Rodgers to speak at the student show. Richard Rodgers, her father, was an acclaimed composer who previously attended Townsend Harris Hall.

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VIII. The date of the next board meeting was confirmed for April 24, 2011.

IX. The board meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wu