

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on October 4, 2012)

June 5, 2012

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Sydney Butts, Melissa Gibilaro, Naomi Horowitz, Principal Kenneth Bonamo, Susan Getting, Gerald P. Halpern, Dr. Malcolm G. Largman, Craig L. Slutzkin, Tanya M. Odom (by phone).

Guests: Jordan Leeds, Kimberly Lo, Jennifer Medina (PTA President)

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 715pm and welcomed the directors.
- II. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**. Mr Slutzkin asked the Board for any questions or comments regarding the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Mr. Slutzkin, seconded by Mr. Halpern).

III. **Executive Committee Report**.

- a. **Principal Search**-Principal Kenneth Bonamo announced that he will be stepping down as principal of Townsend Harris High School at the end of the academic year. The C30 posting to begin the principal search was listed on June 1 and is open for 2 weeks. There was a discussion of the screening and interview process which involves a first round of interviews by the Level I committee headed by the Network leader. Members of the Level I committee include parent representatives, alumni, students and teachers. The principal is selected by the Network leader and the superintendent based on the recommendations of the C30. If the process carries through to completion, the next principal would be chosen in time for the beginning of the 2012-2013 academic year.
- b. **Documentary Project**-Another interview session was scheduled that included faculty, students from the first classes of the new school and parents
- c. **Membership Dues**-Hardcopy forms will be mailed after the electronic membership forms are sent.
- d. **School Relations**-President Craig Slutzkin has attended several PTA Executive Board and general meetings. There was a discussion of increasing THAA board member attendance at these meetings.

IV. **Events Committee Report**.

- a. Plans for future professional networking events include an entrepreneur's event and a hospitality industry event.
- b. The 20th reunion will be held at Hurleys on June 2.
- c. The talent competition sponsored by Michael Feinstein's foundation was held at THHS on May 5.

V. **Treasurer's Report**.

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported on changes in the organization's assets and recent expenditures. Some specific expenditures were highlighted including funding for

additional library hours and the video project. In addition, the Phoenix literary magazine will be soon be available online to dues-paying alumni.

VI. **Principal's Report**. Principal Bonamo updated the board on several developments.

- a. The Phoenix was published in June.
- b. Mr. Duke, the SAPAS worker who counsels students and leads programs aimed at drug and alcohol abuse prevention will be leaving his position. The possibility exists that the position will not be replaced. Though he is retiring, he may be interested in part time work; there may be an opportunity for alumni association support of this part time position.
- c. Ms. D'Souza, the head of the French department for many years, will be retiring and a search for her replacement will begin soon.
- d. An incident of vandalism in the boys bathroom was discussed along with ways to address and prevent these incidents
- e. Assistant Principal Sue Getting informed the board of the wonderful news that the mock trial team won the city championship for the first time in 14 years. The team came in third in the state competition held in Albany. AP Getting also began the first-ever rocketing club with a successful model rocket launch on June 1.

VII. **PTA Report**. PTA President Jennifer Medina presented the PTA report. Fundraising efforts have been significantly increased. A successful phone-a-thon was one recent fundraising effort. The PTA has arranged for Kaplan and Princeton Review courses at THHS at a discounted rate for students. Drivers' Education classes will begin this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Butts