

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on December 6, 2012)

October 4, 2012

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Sydney Butts, Shari Gruber, Gerald P. Halpern, Selina Lee, Jordan Leeds, Tanya M. Odom, Craig L. Slutzkin and Vincent Yuen.

Guests: Anthony Barbetta (Principal), Jennifer Medina (PTA President).

I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:15pm 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 Appointment**-Principal Anthony Barbetta began his tenure as the new principal of Townsend Harris High School. A motion was made by director Gerald Halpern to formally welcome Mr. Barbetta, which was accepted. Sue Getting, Assistant Principal of Humanities retired this summer. Rafal Olechowski will serve as the acting Assistant Principal until her formal replacement is determined.
- b. **Announcements**- Alumna Nily Rozic won a successful bid in the democratic primary for NY assembly in Queens—representing the district in which Townsend Harris is located. The general election is in November.
- c. **Special Projects**-The third phase of the video documentary project is under way. Members of the original class of the re-opened school (class of 1988) will be interviewed. An email blast highlighting the project with a trailer from the documentary will be sent to members of the alumni association before the end of the year. It was suggested that the Alumni Association approach the New York Historical Society given the historical importance of this project.
- d. **Specialized High Schools Alumni Boards**-Craig Slutzkin shared with the board that the president of Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association and suggested a meeting with the presidents of the alumni associations of Brooklyn Tech, Bronx Science and LaGuardia High School to share ideas.
- e. **School Relations**-The executive board of the PTA met in May. They would welcome attendance at their meetings by the THAA board of directors.
- f. **Membership and Fundraising**-Outreach efforts are being made to alumni to develop relationships for fundraising efforts. As of 2011, there were 844 dues-paying members of the alumni association and the goal for 2012 is to top 900.

IV. **Events Committee Report.**

- a. **Reunions** (presented by Vincent Yuen): The 20 year reunion had excellent turnout. Vincent suggested that we continue with a combined 5/10/15 year reunion format to keep costs down and to make it easier for faculty to attend.

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- b. The Alumni association had another successful outing at a Brooklyn Cyclones game with about 20 attendees.
- c. Networking Groups-An Entrepreneurs' Networking event is scheduled for November 16. We will aim to plan a Medical/Science Professionals and a volunteerism event in 2013.
- d. A "Homecoming" representing the 70/75/80 year reunions is scheduled for October 14.

V. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported on changes in the organization's assets and recent expenditures. The budget (fiscal year September 1, 2011-August 31, 2012) was accepted by the board. \$12,000 in membership dues were collected.
- b. The board spent time discussing ideas for use of the "innovative programs" funds through the Polonsky Allocation.

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

- a. A waiver for "No Child Left Behind" has been granted to schools in New York State
- b. Townsend Harris received the "Reward School Designation" given to the top 5% of performing schools
- c. The "Election Simulation" was underway at the school. Linda Steinmann is coordinating the program this year.
- d. Principal Barbetta proposed upgrading classroom technology including Smartboards and computers.

VII. PTA Report. Jordan Leeds gave a brief presentation on PTA activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Butts