

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (draft)

December 6, 2012

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Anthony Barbetta, Kimberly Eaton, Shari Gruber (by phone), Gerald P. Halpern, Selina Lee, Jordan Leeds (by phone), Kimberly Lo, Tanya M. Odom, Craig L. Slutzkin, Malcolm G. Largmann, and Nily Rozic.

Guest: Jennifer Medina (PTA President).

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and welcomed the directors.
- I. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Slutzkin asked the Board for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Mr. Slutzkin, seconded by Selina Lee.)
- II. **Executive Committee Report.**
 - a. **Announcements:** Nily Rozic was elected to NYS assembly and will be representing the area in Queens which includes THHS. She will be attending an “Assembly-Person in Training” course.
 - b. **Hurricane Sandy:** Over \$2,000 raised thus far, this fund will be kept open. Ms. York will use the funds to purchase gift cards such as for Target. Members of the Class of 1988 and 1989 known to have been impacted.
 - c. **Video Documentary Project:** One or two more sessions to be planned to include interviews with members of the original high school. Ellen Lebow’s (author of Bright Boys) husband in DC has shown interest in being interviewed as well.
 - d. **Specialized High School Alumni Boards Meeting:** Craig Slutzkin spoke with the head of one of Stuyvesant High School’s alumni groups to discuss common issues. He noted that Stuyvesant has three distinct alumni groups but the groups are attempting to consolidate.
 - e. **Founder’s Day:** Successful event with Doreen Odom as the keynote speaker. The students also viewed the video documentary project preview. Ideas discussed to show a webcast or live broadcast of future Founders’ Days.
 - f. **Hebrew Class:** The Bernstein Foundation has decided not to fund this class moving forward. They agreed to pay for 2012/2013 school year as it was already in session. We need to look at ideas for fundraising for future classes. Mr. Halpern, Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Eaton to reach out to possible contacts within Jewish philanthropic organizations.
 - g. **Membership and Fundraising:** Dues were received from 797 members; a reminder to pay dues is to be sent out this week. We are starting to offer discounted event pricing to members. Suggestion was made to include more details on what specific items dues are used towards. Discussion of possible re-introduction of the newsletter.
 - h. **Future Board Meetings:** Discussion on having one of the students who sit on the School Leadership Team (SLT) dial-in to the board meeting or attend in person. Jen Medina will look into this with Principal Barbetta.

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (continued)

December 6, 2012

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

III. Events Committee Report.

- a. Reunions: 70/75/80th Year Reunion—more private space to be selected this year. We also like to possibly plan another homecoming event for 2013. Class of 1988 (25 year reunion) tentative date is June 1 with invite and save the dates to go out to original teachers. Plan is to combine 5/10/15/20th Year Reunion is possible.
- b. Entrepreneurs' Event:—October 2013 is possible, Jerry Chazen as a possible speaker.
- c. Annual Meeting 2012—Museum of the Moving Image: was rescheduled after the hurricane. We had a discussion of some event around the annual meeting eg: museum, speakers, basketball game. We also discussed ideas for future annual meetings and possible venues. The goal is to have more people attend the annual meeting.
- d. Basketball Tournament: Interest in planning another event. Target date: Spring 2013.
- e. Public Service Event/Volunteer Event : planning for a future even, possible Hurricane relief support in the Rockaways.
- f. Accounting Professionals: April 16th or April 18th. (Tuesday/Thursday)
- g. Entertainment/Arts: Interest in event for entertainment networking event, programs to offer free tickets for arts events. Ms. Eaton to explore this.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported that the fiscal year runs from September 1-August 31. Mutual funds have been flat. Hebrew class was funded with \$27,000. The annual award from the Nias Foundation for scholarships was funded at the \$25,000 level. The value of our shares in Hasnard Global has gone down but this is mostly a paper loss.
- b. Scholarships: All scholarships (Nias, Winston, Flom) Scholarships have been funded. Mr. Slutzkin also provided the Board Members with a booklet containing letters of thank you from the 2012/2013 award recipients.

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

- a. There are 250 freshman this school year and 20 incoming sophomores. This is 20 students below the DOE target thus the city is requesting funding to be given back.
- b. A school aide has been assigned to the college office on a temporary basis, funded by the Alumni Association. This aide is serving in place of another aide who is on maternity leave.
- c. Mark Duke has returned to the school, 3 days a week and funded by the PTA.

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (continued)

December 6, 2012

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

- d. School TV studio has been fully upgraded. Some computers in the school will be upgraded with \$100,000 grant from the City Council.
- e. The school's Mock Trial team made it to the 3rd round of competition. Students currently participating in the Science Olympiad. Others are participating in the "We the People" government competition. Students are also involved in music and humanities competitions.
- f. Brian Sweeney is the new advisor for "The Classic." Mr. Slutzkin suggested and encouraged Principal Barbetta to have Mr. Sweeney meet with former advisor, Ilsa Cowen.
- g. THHS received an "A" in the Annual Department of Education School Progress Report. It ranked 3rd in all four categories. It also received a Gold Star School rating. The one area where the school did not rank well was the "Learning Environment" Category.

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

- a. Phone-A-Thon: Jordan Leeds said the PTA is \$20,000 short of their goal of \$63,000. They will be doing another mailing. 18% of families thus far have participated. If anyone has any new ideas for fundraising please send these to Jen Medina and Jordan Leeds

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina M. Juva