

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on May 15, 2013)

February 26, 2013

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Anthony Barbetta, Kimberly Eaton, Gerald P. Halpern, Malcolm G. Largmann, Kimberly Lo, Nily Rozic, Jordan Leeds, Craig L. Slutzkin, Vincent Yuen.

Guest: Jennifer Medina (PTA President).

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed the directors.
- I. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Slutzkin asked the Board for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Halpern, seconded by Principal Barbetta and unanimously approved by the Board.
- II. **Executive Committee Report.**
 - a. **Hurricane Sandy Relief:** Volunteer Projects to assist students affected by the storm continue to be a focus of the Alumni Association (visits to soup kitchens, purchase of gift cards donated to affected students)
 - b. **Video documentary Project:** Two additional sessions will be scheduled this Spring to interview original faculty from the new Townsend Harris HS as well as members of the original class of 1988. Efforts are being made to interview alumnus Irving Gerber ('43), founder of the alumni association who helped spearhead the effort to re-open Townsend Harris.
 - c. **Fundraising:** Efforts continue to work with the Bernstein Foundation to secure funding of Hebrew classes, but other options will be explored as well. Queens College may also be a resource for instructors for the Hebrew class.
 - d. **NYS Labor Department Audit:** A former consultant to the Alumni Association who performed technology assistant services to the high school has made an unemployment claim against the Alumni Association, claiming that he was an employee, not a consultant. We have strenuously objected to this claim, and Mr. Slutzkin working with the NYS Department of Labor (DOL). This resulted in the DOL performing an audit of the Alumni Association which is ongoing. Moving forward, the Alumni Association will require formal consulting agreements with anyone hired to do contractual work.
 - e. **Membership Dues:** Discounts for alumni events are offered to dues-paying members. This incentive has been helpful in encouraging alumni to pay dues at networking events. The possibility of generating a survey that would be distributed to alumni with the request for membership dues was discussed. A phone-a-thon was also discussed as a way to enroll alumni in the association.
 - f. **Priorities:** The priorities for the upcoming year and long-term goals for the Alumni Association were reviewed including recruitment of additional board members.

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III. Events Committee Report.

a. Events Completed:

1. January 2013: Volunteer Event at the Bay Ridge Soup Kitchen which supports people displaced by Hurricane Sandy. The Soup Kitchen was receptive to the volunteer effort and would welcome volunteers in the future.
2. February 23, 2013: Lunar New Year Dinner (Ping's on Mott Street)

b. Events Pending:

1. February 27, 2013: Start-up/Entrepreneurs Event. Jonathan Kamler '03, Speaker
2. March 13, 2013: Medical Professionals Event. Dr. Lee Reiter '96, Speaker
3. April 18, 2013: Accounting Professionals Event
4. Marketing Professionals Event was suggested as the next networking gathering
5. 5/10/15/20/25 Reunions
6. Nily Rozic, who was recently elected to the NY State Assembly representing the Queens district in which Townsend Harris is located, thanked the Alumni Association for supporting and attending her swearing-in ceremony. The speech she delivered at the ceremony will be posted on the THAA website.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported that the fiscal year runs from September 1- January 31.
- b. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the number of Nias Scholarship recipients should increase to five at the same level (\$2,500 per annum) going forward. Gerald Halpern agreed to discuss with the President of the Nias Foundation.

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

- a. Townsend Harris High School won the 2013 New York City Metropolitan Regional Science Olympiad. An article in the *Queens Gazette* featured the victory.
- b. A new Queens College / THHS liaison was appointed. Robin Hirsch replaces Helen Gaudette.
- c. Eight National Merit Scholarship Finalists were selected from the student body.
- d. An active search for an AP of Humanities is underway. The C-30 selection process to interview candidates will convene February 2013. Rafal Olechowski is serving in the position on an interim basis and is a likely candidate for the position on a permanent basis.
- e. A visit from our Japanese sister school is scheduled for March 21.

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- a. The second open house for accepted students is scheduled for March 20.
- b. The school play will be performed in early April.
- c. The Robotics Competition will take place at the Javits' Center on March 8-9.

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

- a. Part of the funding for the Robotics program was from Bloomberg LP. Bloomberg has eliminated funding, and the Board discussed ideas to support to maintain and grow the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Butts