

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

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

May 15, 2013

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Anthony Barbetta, Sydney Butts, Kimberly Eaton, Rishona Flesichman, Gerald P. Halpern (by phone), Christina Juva, Malcolm G. Largmann, Selina Lee, Jordan Leeds, Kimberly Lo, Tanya M. Odom (by phone) Nily Rozic, Craig L. Slutzkin, Vincent Yuen.

Guests: Rafal Olechowski

I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed the directors. Mr. Slutzkin began the meeting with a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of former Principal Tom Cunningham.

I. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Slutzkin asked the Board for any comments or questions regarding the minutes. There was one spelling correction (Jordan Leed's first name). The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Vincent Yuen, seconded by Selina Lee and unanimously approved by the Board.

II. **Executive Committee Report.**

- a. **Video Project:** Interviews of original faculty are ongoing.
- b. **Fundraising:** No long term funding solution for the Hebrew class has been made to date. The short term plan to fund the class is to use a budget surplus from this year while continuing to search for future support. The school needs \$27,000 for the year to sustain the two sections of the class.
- c. **Membership Dues:** 720 dues payments have been received so far and reminders will go out in December. To track contributions, we may begin to advertise the percentage of dues contributions from each class or decade.
- d. **Newsletter:** A THAA Newsletter is in development.
- e. **2013 Commencement:** The Annual Founders Award was presented to Sue Appel, Founding Assistant Principal of Science. Director Kimberly Eaton gave the keynote address.
- f. **Annual scholarships:** Most have been paid to recipients.

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III. Events Committee Report.

a. Events Completed:

1. March 2013-Medical Professionals Event-The turnout was small, perhaps partly related to the fact that the residency match was the following day. Lee Reiter (Class of 1996), gave a very good talk on practice management. Sydney Butts suggested events in the future could be tailored for physicians still in training (residents) and medical students with separate events for medical professionals in practice.
2. April 2013-Accountants Event-About 15 alumni attended. There was no featured speaker for this event, which allowed more mingling

b. Events Pending:

1. 5/10/15/20/25 Reunions will take place this summer.
2. Brooklyn Cyclones Outing-July 21
3. Possible Yankees Outing
4. Marketing Professionals Event was suggested as the next networking gathering
5. Lawyer's event, public service professionals events, possibly later this year
6. Potential service/volunteer event with students and alumni in the fall.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Craig Slutzkin reported that the fiscal year runs from September 1- April 30.
- b. Funding of School Programs: Many schools, especially at the elementary and middle school level, offer instruction in Mandarin. Students and parents see this course offering as strength. There was a productive discussion about the possibility of offering Mandarin at Townsend Harris. Some anticipated hurdles include DOE resistance to expanding the foreign language curriculum and the salary for the faculty member. The possibility of teacher sharing was discussed—i.e., finding another school that is also interested in hiring a teacher for Mandarin instruction and sharing the cost of his/her salary.
- c. Scholarships: The Alumni Board received \$50,000 from the Flom foundation for student scholarships. The NIAS foundation will continue its support of THHS students admitted to Yale and Mr. Halpern will meet with the NIAS scholars as he does every year over lunch.

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

- a. Principal Barbetta presented the report of colleges to which seniors were admitted.
- b. The new AP of Humanities is Rafal Olechowski. He had been serving in an interim/acting role since the retirement of Sue Getting last August.

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- c. A second open house for admitted students was held. The entering class size may be 300 students.
 - d. 210 students were installed into Archon, the service honor society
 - e. The school play was performed in April (25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee). Mr. Slutzkin said he attended one of the performances and had a most enjoyable time.
 - f. The high school came in 11th place at the national robotics competition at the Javits Center. Alternate sources for funding were found to replace the Bloomberg Foundation's funds, which partially supported the program. Queens College may provide salary support to Mr. Jones so that he can continue to teach the robotic program.
 - g. Artwork by Townsend Harris students is currently being displayed in the Ruth and Harold Jurist Center at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
 - h. *The Classic* was honored with journalism awards from the Harvard Crimson and Baruch college.
- V. **PTA Report**. Jennifer Medina gave a brief presentation on PTA activities.
- a. A recent change in bell schedule has resulted in elimination of the enrichment program. Many parents are upset about this. One parent representative at the next SLT meeting will voice these concerns.
 - b. Additional fundraising was very successful this year.

VI. New Business.

- a. Alumnus Herb Kadison (Class of 1935) contacted Co-Chair Tanya Odom about auctioning his collection of antique books and donating the proceeds to the THAA.
- b. Alumnus Milton Hoffman recently passed away. He had generously donated funds for student scholarships in the past. The alumni association was in contact with his grandson to express condolence.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Butts