

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on January 13, 2015)

October 2, 2014

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Jesse Ash, Sydney Butts, Kimberly Eaton, Jonathan Kamler, Kimberly Lo, Principal Anthony Barbetta, Selina Lee, Tanya M. Odom, Nily Rozic, Craig L. Slutzkin, Gerald P. Halpern, Vincent Yuen,

Guests: Gary Mellow, Keith Tully, Lara Traum, Janet Umententa

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. **Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes**. Mr. Slutzkin asked for a review of the minutes from the June 2014 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.
- III. At this time, Mr. Slutzkin requested a moment of silence for Charlie Sigety, Class of '39, who recently passed away. Mr. Sigety was a former Chairman of the Board as well as a significant donor to the Alumni Association.
- IV. **Executive Committee Report**. Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Lee reported on the following:
 - a. **Membership**. Dues notices were recently sent. The aim is to surpass last year with greater than 800 dues paying members. Tanya M. Odom suggested ways that board members could use social media to encourage other alumni to pay dues and suggested ways to develop competition between classes. Gerald P. Halpern offered to contribute \$1,000 if there are over \$1,000 in contributions.
 - b. **Committees**. The new structure was approved at the last meeting.
 - c. **School Honor Societies**. A Social Studies honor society is being formed at the school. The Board discussed funding sources as well as suggestions for naming the society. Former alumni or faculty including Bernice Horowitz, Eugene Lang and Kenneth Shorter were discussed.
 - d. **PTA**. Ms. Odom presented a report from the recent PTA meeting. Ms. Odom indicated that the THAA would offer to replace the microphones to support AV needs of the PTA. This is a minor (<\$50) cost.
 - e. **Alumni Newsletter**. Janet Umententa is a recent alumna (2009) who works in publishing at Penguin Books. She will begin working on a template for an alumni newsletter.
 - f. **Founders Day**. Founders Day is scheduled for November 6. Several ideas were discussed for the event including screening the documentary again. Board members also suggested recording Founders Day and/or live streaming the event on the THAA website.
 - g. **30th Anniversary**.
 - i. Logo contest-THHS students will submit ideas for a 30th anniversary logo. The THAA board will vote on submissions and select a winner which will be announced at Founders Day.
 - ii. Two events are planned for 30th anniversary: one sit down event in Queens and a second evening event. Other suggestions were discussed including adding an alumnus/alumna to the Hall of Fame and linking this to fundraising.
- V. **School Report**. Principal Barbetta updated the board on several developments:
 - a. **Newsweek Survey**. Townsend Harris ranked 8th among high schools in the northeast (Staten Island Tech was ahead of us).

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- b. School Results. This year's AP test scores were the highest in 10 years.
- c. Election Simulation. The Election Simulation is currently ongoing and videos are posted every Friday on YouTube.
- d. Library. The library staff is upgrading access to educational databases.
- e. Budget issues. 15 students left the school which means that some money needs to be refunded to the DOE.
- f. Open House. The annual Open house is scheduled for November 3.
- g. Structural Issues. The school's roof is being replaced; this project may take one year to complete.
- h. Science Laboratory. A new science lab is being constructed using funds from a grant awarded four years ago.
- i. School Events. SING! will be held on November 21 and 22.
- j. Special Education Update.
 - i. 10 total students were admitted (5 of whom met normal THHS admissions criteria, the others did not). One is likely to leave and it is believed that two will not want to stay. Most seem to be struggling.
 - ii. The school is looking for additional DOE funding for guidance counseling to help these students.
 - iii. The one special education teacher meets with the students for the writing process class (WP) every day.
 - iv. The DOE wants to send more students next year. Mr. Halpern noted that the DOE consistently assured us that the special education students admitted would meet standard THHS criteria.

V. PTA Report. Deferred.

VI. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Slutzkin reported on the following:

- a. Budget. The proposed Alumni Association budget for the 2014-2015 academic year was reviewed. Mr. Halpern made the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the 2014-2015 academic year budget as presented.

Motion seconded by Vincent Yuen, approved unanimously.

- b. Amazon Account. A Townsend Harris Amazon account has been established. Amazon pays THAA for every dollar spent. Information about this account will be reposted right before the holidays.

VII. Events Committee Report. Mr. Yuen reported on the following:

- a. Reunions. All reunions occurred this past summer (5,10,15,20)
- b. Professional Networking Events. A general mixer was held this summer. Upcoming professional events include a legal mixer and an education professional event.
- c. Social Events. There may be an independent league football game in November (family event).
- d. 30th Anniversary Tie-in. All events this year should plug the 30th anniversary.

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XI. **Fundraising Committee**. Kimberly Eaton reported the following:

- a. Several ideas were discussed including naming opportunities at the school to spur fundraising (i.e. classrooms or naming chairs in the auditorium). Naming the auditorium is another available option.
- b. The name of the fundraising committee should be changed to fundraising and engagement.
- c. A meeting of committee members will be scheduled.

X. **Young Alumni Committee**. Kim Lo reported the following:

- a. The cut off for the definition of "Young Alumni" will be 30 years old and younger.
- b. The committee will work on developing programs that will address specific needs of younger alumni with events this year tied to the 30th anniversary.
- c. Social Media outlets will be strengthened including LinkedIn, Instagram account and a THAA vimeo page.

XI. **Old Business**. By-law revisions will be deferred.

XII. **New Business**. Keith Tully will work with Rishonna Fleishmann and Veronica York to evaluate the feasibility of a mentoring program.

The meeting was adjourned at 940pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Butts