

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on January 13, 2015)
November 19, 2014
Location: 23rd Street, New York, NY 10011

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Anthony Barbetta, Shari Gruber, Christina Juva (by phone), Malcolm G. Largmann, Jordan Leeds, Dr. Selina Lee, Kimberly Lo, Tanya M. Odom, and Craig L. Slutzkin.

Guests: Ethan Felder (Class of 2005), Gary Mellow (Class of 1990).

- I. Dr. Selina Lee called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed the directors.
- II. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**. As the minutes from the October 2, 2014 meeting were not available, this item was deferred until the next meeting.
- III. **Executive Committee Report**. Dr. Lee reported the following:
 - a. **Founders' Day**:
 - a. Founders' Day was once again a success. Tanya M. Odom, Dr. Lee and Craig L. Slutzkin all spoke on behalf of the Alumni Association and Heather Nash '88 was the keynote speaker.
 - b. The winner of the 30th Anniversary logo was chosen and announced at the ceremony; it was junior David Zarowin.
 - c. Proclamations were presented by Senator Stavisky, Assemblywoman Rozic and Councilman Lancman.
 - d. An alumni lunch hosted by Principal Barbetta followed the ceremony.
 - e. Ms. Odom thanked the school faculty for their efforts in putting the ceremony together, and suggested bringing back the pre-sessions where alumni spoke to individual classes prior to the ceremony.
 - b. **Staffperson**: Mr. Slutzkin discussed the administrative needs of the Alumni Association. Margherita Wischerth will still provide certain support; however, Mr. Slutzkin discussed the need for a second person who will focus on individual projects over the next six months and then potentially past that time. As such, he made the following motion:

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Committee to enter into a consulting agreement with Gia Malka to provide administrative services for the Alumni Association at a rate of \$125 per week.

Motion seconded by Tanya M. Odom; Motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Scholarship Checks**: Mr. Slutzkin noted that most of the annual scholarship checks have been paid and that the school's guidance office is assisting with the outstanding students.
- d. **Videography Project**: The videography project will continue over the next few months, focusing on select "original" alumni, remaining original faculty and selected students from the Class of 1988. Shari Gruber made the following motion:

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors designate the funds currently held in the Class of 1940 Fund to the completion of the videography project.

Motion seconded by Kimberly Lo; Motion passed unanimously.

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- e. Workers' Compensation Claim: The issue is ongoing; the state will not review for some time.

IV. Thirtieth Anniversary Celebrations:

- a. The original thought was to have two celebrations – one more of a “cocktail hour” and the other a sit-down dinner.
- b. The cocktail event may become a champagne brunch as this may be more economical and affordable. Kimberly Lo will look at venues with her team such as Zuma and Housingworks Soho. She is working with Jamie Friedman and Rachel Gershman.
- c. The sit-down dinner will likely be in Queens due to ease of travel and cost. Gia Malka and Georgette Wallace will investigate potential locations. This event will be more geared toward teachers and older alumni.
- d. Gary Mellow and Donna Manion (both Class of 1990) are spearheading the Hall of Fame component to these events. Mr. Mellow discussed his thoughts with the Board on selection criteria.
 - A. The Hall of Fame can be divided into three groups – trailblazers, legends and game changers, with the members from the reestablished school falling into the “game changers” category.
 - B. There will be a distinction between “game changers” and recipients of the 25@25 awards.
 - C. There will be about five awardees, with the hope but no obligation for at least half to be female.
 - D. Nominations can be made by anyone, but the Board will make the decision.

V. School Report. Principal Barbetta updated the board on several developments:

- a. Department of Education Budget: The Department of Education was supposed to give \$9,000 for AP classes enhancements but the school has not received the money as yet.
- b. Student Exchange: Students from a high school in Hiroshima, Japan came to the school building for a tour.
- c. Election Simulation: The simulation was again a huge success. There were surveys done showing satisfaction; Principal Barbetta will share this with the Board.
- d. Journalism: Brian Sweeney and *Classic* students ran a workshop for 60 middle school students, which raised \$25 per participant.
- e. Open House: Over 3,000 prospective students attended.
- f. Quality Snapshot: The report is now on-line; this replaces the school report card.
- g. Robotics: The team goes on three trips now; the program continues to be successful.
- h. Respect for All: The school did a workshop on bullying.
- i. Special Education Program: Each of the students admitted have remained in the program. The Department of Education has been responsive to Principal Barbetta, but has been unresponsive to the parents and Alumni Association in terms of setting up a meeting to prepare for this year’s admissions.

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VI. **PTA Report.** Jordan Leeds updated the board on PTA developments.

- a. **Fundraising:** currently behind their fundraising goal as only 9-10% of all parents have participated.
- b. **Officers:** Penny Stern and Joan Weston are Co-Presidents and have been well-received.

VII. **Treasurer's Report.**

- a. Mr. Slutzkin presented the financial report for the period between September 1, 2014 and October 31, 2014. Report and fund allocations were reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Malcolm G. Largmann and seconded by Shari Gruber and passed unanimously.

VIII. **Nominating Committee Report.** Mr. Slutzkin noted that nominations were now open for the Director positions which will be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting and went through voting procedures:

- a. All potential directors (including incumbent directors) need to be nominated for a directorship. A person may nominate him/herself.
- b. Nominations for a directorship must be submitted to Tanya M. Odom at tanyaodom@aol.com by Monday, December 1, 2014. No additional nominations may be made after that. Nominations of people who are NOT currently a director should be accompanied by a CV as well as short introduction. The CV and short introduction is not needed for incumbent directors.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall consider the nominations received and present its findings to the Alumni Association body for consideration at the annual meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2014.
- d. There are currently 18 director slots (including one vacancy from Sydney Butts' resignation). An act of the Board of Directors is required to increase the number of director slots.
- e. All members of the Alumni Association present at the annual meeting are entitled to vote. Each member may vote for up to 18 individuals (or such number as the Board determines). The individuals with the highest number of votes will be elected as directors. If the number of nominations is fewer than the number of director slots, the Chair of the meeting will cast a single vote for the slate of nominations.
- f. Mr. Slutzkin then made the following motion:

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby sets the number of Directors at a maximum of 24.

Motion seconded by Dr. Largmann; motion passed unanimously.