

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on March 24, 2015)

January 13, 2015

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

The following directors were present and constituted a quorum: Jesse Ash, Anthony Barbetta, Jomaire Crawford, Kimberly Eaton, Ethan Felder, Rishona Fleishman, Gerald P. Halpern, Malcolm G. Largmann, Jordan Leeds, Dr. Selina Lee, Kimberly Lo, Gary Mellow, Debra Michelwicz, Tanya M. Odom, Nily Rozic, Craig L. Slutzkin, Lara Traum, Vincent Yuen.

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed the directors. Mr. Slutzkin then asked all of the directors to introduce each other.
- II. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**. The Board reviewed the minutes of both the June 3, 2014 and November 19, 2014 meetings. A motion was made by Kimberly Lo and seconded by Lara Traum to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **School Report**. Principal Barbetta updated the board on several developments:
 - a. **Special Education Program**: As of now, the school will receive 10-20 students from the special education program into the 2015 freshman class.
 1. Of the 12 accepted last year, six were sent to the school by the Department of Education and are struggling.
 2. None of the funds promised by the Department of Education for additional services for these students ever came to fruition.
 3. The Board discussed ways that it could address this issue. Gerald P. Halpern will discuss the issue with one contact who works in the Mayor's Office.
 - b. **Intel**: The school has one Intel semi-finalist.
 - c. **College Acceptances**: A number of students have already received early decision acceptances, including at schools in the Ivy League.
 - d. **Robotics**: One of the participating student's parents donated \$10,000. The program is kicking into high gear.
 - e. **Publications**: Both the Classic and the Phoenix were rated amongst the best high school publications in the United States in recent awards competitions.
 - f. **Public Relations**: The Board discussed a need for the high school to have a dedicated PR strategy which would bolster the visibility of the school even more than it is visible now.

IV. **Events Committee Report**.

- a. **Events Completed**:
 1. October 9, 2014 – Social Media Networking Event
 2. November 20, 2014 – Legal Professionals Networking Event
 3. December 6, 2014 – Alumni Association Annual Meeting
- b. **Events Pending**:
 1. 30th Anniversary Celebrations
 2. Reunions – Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010
 - i. The idea of having a reunion at a "Hookah Bar" was discussed and the general consensus is that there would be many people that would view such a venue as a negative.
 - ii. Reunions will be held in the summer/fall so as not to coincide and divert from the 30th Anniversary Celebrations.

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V. **Executive Committee Report**. Mr. Slutzkin and Dr. Lee reported the following:

- a. Dues: 700 dues payments from the 2014 have been made. This is lower than the previous few years.
- b. Staff Office: The Alumni Association shares an office with the PTA on the 3rd floor of the high school building. We have cleaned out and organized the office and put some of the older files from the 1980s into storage.
- c. Workers' Compensation Claim: The issue is ongoing; the state will not review for some time.

VI. **Thirtieth Anniversary Celebrations**:

- a. The thought is 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. The Hall of Fame inductees will be announced at the cocktail hour celebration.
 1. The criteria will revolve around the Ephebic Oath and the ability to make a difference, as well as how the individual has established himself/herself in a profession.
 2. The Board will have a follow-up call to approve the formal guidelines.
 3. Nominations can be made by anyone, but the Board will make the decision.

VII. **Nominating Committee Report**. Mr. Slutzkin congratulated the new directors to the Board: Jomaire Crawford, Ethan Felder, Debra Michelwicz, Gary Mellow and Lara Traum. He also noted that Christina Juva elected not to run for the Board this year.

- a. Officers: The following were nominations for officers:

Chairperson	Tanya M. Odom
Co-Presidents	Craig L. Slutzkin and Selina Lee
Vice President	Kimberly Lo
Treasurer	Craig L. Slutzkin

There were no nominations for Secretary.

- b. Mr. Slutzkin noted that we will have a rotation of taking the minutes until a Secretary is appointed.
- c. The Board voted for the slate of nominees for officers unanimously.

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VIII. Treasurer's Report.

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

IX. PTA Report. Jordan Leeds updated the board on PTA developments.

- a. The admissions issue continues to be a hot topic amongst the parents.

X. Fundraising Report. Kimberly Eaton reported the following:

- a. The fundraising pitches should be more goal and project depended.
- b. We need to get a list of all of the groups in the school to get a sense of what is needed.
- c. Jomaire Crawford volunteered to be part of the fundraising & development committee.

IX. Old Business.

- a. By-Laws: Deferred.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ethan Felder
Acting Secretary of the Meeting