

**Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on May 20, 2015)**

**March 24, 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 (by phone), Jomaire Crawford, Gerald P. Halpern, Selina W. Lee (by phone), Malcolm G. Largmann, Jordan Leeds, Gary Mellow (by phone), Debra Michlewitz, Craig L. Slutzkin, Lara Traum (by phone).

- I. Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 7:07pm and welcomed the directors.
- II. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**. The Board reviewed the minutes of January 13, 2015 meetings. A motion was made by Debra Michlewitz and seconded by Jomaire Crawford to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Executive Committee Report**. Mr. Slutzkin reported the following:
  - a. **Dues**: Over 700 dues payments from the 2014 have been made. This is lower than the previous few years. Ms. Crawford recommended that we set up a table at the reunions to allow people to pay dues.
  - b. **Wall of Fame Plaque**: Ms. Michlewitz, along with Malcolm Largmann, is working on a plaque for the Wall of Fame at the high school to note that the members of the Wall are all men because the original school was an all-boys school.
- IV. **School Report**. Principal Barbetta updated the board on several developments:
  - a. **Science Olympiad Team**: The high school team won the city championships and went upstate to Syracuse, where they placed seventh in all of New York State.
  - b. **Events**: Career Day will be this coming Friday, as is an event upstate commemorating Jonas Salk.
  - c. **Robotics**: The program is kicking into high gear. The team will be competing in the St. Louis for the World Championships, as well as at a competition at Hofstra. The team is trying to raise \$18,000.
  - d. **College Acceptances**: A number of students have already received early decision acceptances, including at schools in the Ivy League. Next week will be the college tour trip for schools in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.
  - e. **Japan Bowl**: In April, students in the Japanese program will be competing in the Japan Bowl in Maryland.
  - f. **Foreign Trips**: This year, the school is having a student trip to Peru. Next year, the trip will likely be in Europe.
  - g. **NY Science Engineer Fair**: There were 12 Harrisites selected as finalists who will now compete.
  - h. **Admissions**: Townsend Harris was the #1 school in New York City in terms of applications, with over 5,500 students applying for approximately 280 seats. The school had a successful open house.
    1. 300 students were accepted for the next year, although the school will likely lose several students to private schools; in addition, 18 incoming sophomores were accepted.
  - i. **Special Education Program**: As of now, the school will receive 11 students from the special education program into the 2015 freshman class.
    1. We should know within a few weeks if any students will be accepted in the second round.
    2. Seven students from last year's admissions cycle remain.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (continued)**

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3. Ms. Michlewitz will write a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Alumni Association thanking the elected officials throughout the process.
  - j. 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.
- V. **PTA Report**. Jordan Leeds updated the board on PTA developments.
- a. The Open House was highly successful.
  - b. The PTA has raised \$50,000 this year, with the goal being \$63,000.
- VI. **Nominating Committee Report**. Mr. Slutzkin noted that we will have a rotation of taking the minutes until a Secretary is appointed.
- VII. **Events Committee Report**.
- a. Events Completed:
    1. Lunar New Year Celebration
  - b. Events Pending:
    1. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
    2. Reunions – Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010
  - c. For next year, it was suggested that the Alumni Association connect the Lunar New Year Celebration with the Festival of Nations event at the high school
- VIII. **Treasurer's Report**.
- a. Mr. Slutzkin presented the financial report for the period between September 1, 2014 and February 28, 2015. Report and fund allocations were reviewed.
  - b. The annual audit was completed with no issue.
  - c. All IRS and New York State filings have been completed.
  - d. The issue with the NYS Workers Compensation Board has been dismissed by New York State.
  - e. A motion to accept was made by Dr. Largmann and seconded by Ms. Michlewitz and passed unanimously.
- IX. **Fundraising Report**. Kimberly Eaton was not present.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig L. Slutzkin  
Acting Secretary of the Meeting