

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc. held at the offices of Shereff, Friedman, Hoffman and Goodman at 919 Third Ave., New York City on May 3, 1987. Present were:

Alvin P. Dobsevage
Victor Feingold
Lester Friesner
Gerald P. Halperin
Irving Gerber
Julius W. Graber
Max Greenberg
Eugene J. Heil
Morton Lederman
Morton S. Lisser
Maurice Paprin
Ted Peck
Henry D. Shereff, Presiding
Sidney Silverman
Kenneth Shorter
Harold S. Spielman

The meeting was called to order by Henry Shereff at 10:10 AM.

Mort Lisser gave the Treasurer's report. We have about \$68,000. at the present time. Mort recommended that we extend maturities on our CD's in order to earn a higher rate of return and assure funding for the endowments for awards we are starting to receive. This was approved.

Irv Gerber went over some of the correspondence that he has received this past month. 1) Nathan Simat regrets the lack of activity for the 50th year class; 2) Victor Biliales is looking for Dunbar Roman, Class of '30. He also notes that classmate Bill Gibson has been notably successful as a playwright with shows such

as Two for the Seesaw and The Miracle Worker: 3) Mark Lazansky M.D. works in the Hospital for Special Surgery and writes that several other men there are THHS Alumni; 4) Alan Taylor questions the increase of dues when we have \$70M in the treasury; 5) Sidney Simon remembered classes with Peter Sammartino.

Irv also commented that A) he is not deleting deceased members from our mailing lists since families appear to be interested in the school. Maurice Paprin suggested that we designate the deceased member with an asterik so as to prevent difficult situations if other alumni try to call; B) we need volunteers to contact classmates regarding the forthcoming luncheon; C) Bill Nierenberg has had a fish named after him; D) Stanley Leeds '37 died this past month.

Mal Largmann in response to an inquiry from the Board wrote a letter listing the Academic and Athletic honors garnered by THHS students. The Board was impressed and congratulated all concerned.

Henry Shereff told us that Bernice Horowitz is collecting an oral history of the old THHS. She will be calling on us individually over the next academic year.

Gerry Halperin reported that there has been a one million dollar appropriation to research the feasibility of a Governor's school in the Route 110 area of Long Island. There was a general discussion as to the impact of this on THHS and the desirability

of our attempting to become involved. Gerry noted that there was opposition to this plan from the same sources that we encountered in setting up the new THHS, in addition to regional opposition from other areas in the State. He suggested that we consult Saul Cohen who is still an honorary Board member before we act in this matter. Maurice Paprin suggested speaking to someone on Governor Cuomo's staff if we intend to pursue the matter. No resolution was adopted at this time, we would await further information.

Henry Shereff and Maurice Paprin reported on the status of the proposed THHS building. The current stumbling block is the land needed to provide access for fire fighting equipment. The necessary strip of land can come from Queens College, New York City or Bowne High School--but no one is rushing to our aid. Gerry Halperin suggested checking with the Fire Department on the availability of special equipment that can access the school. Maurice Paprin did not want us to try this since the required equipment may not be available at all times.

Sid Silverman reported for his Fund Raising Committee. Attached to minutes is a letter from Mal Largmann listing potential areas of student and faculty awards. Henry Shereff referred several alumni who have inquired about the possibility of making memorial awards to Sid. It was suggested that we make use of the Queens College publicity office if we need presentations.

Henry Shereff talked about the new association of Alumni of the

NYC "superior" schools. Julie Graber reported on the last meeting which was attended by Sam Kostman, Superintendent of Queens High Schools. Mr Kostman spoke of problems facing the school system and asked if the group could help in the principal problem area, drop outs. This was too big a problem for our fledgeling organization and we asked that Sam confer with the powers in Livingston St. and bring back a more manageable project. Henry proposed a publicity program to present the positive side of what New York City schools have accomplished. His plans include a TV program to counteract the Bronx Zoo and Blackboard Jungle image so often seen on the screen. Sam said he needed to discuss this proposal with the Board of Education.

Maurice Paprin suggested involving Gene Lang in this type of project since this tied in to his (Lang's) "I have a dream" program. Maurice also recommended a "peer" monitoring program that THHS and similar alumni could offer to other alumni groups.

Irv Gerber noted that his elementary school went from 25% to 60% on or above grade level but the Board is very slow in adopting inovative programs.

Hal Spielman spoke in favor of a mentorship program and also encouraging the better students to become teachers. Both Gene Heil and Ted Peck wanted programs that would involve parents with the schools their children attended.

Ted Peck reported for the Spring Festival committee. All

publicity was out and there had not been a substantive response as yet. We cannot have students on a program since the luncheon falls in the middle of the exam period. Maurice Paprin suggested that we invite some teachers and parents who can tell us about THHS today. This would also permit those currently involved with THHS to mingle with alumni and learn something of the old school. Speaking of mingling Gene Heil '16 noted he had no desire to meet with his classmates.

Mort Lisser suggested that we invite the current faculty as guests of the alumni.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


JULIUS W. GRABER, SECRETARY



BOARD OF EDUCATION CITY OF NEW YORK
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Dr. Malcolm G. Langmann, Principal

Telephone: (718) 969-1433

April 1, 1987

Dr. Sidney Silverman
80 Park Avenue - Suite 1C
New York, NY 10016

Dear Sid:

The possibility of alumni-sponsored endowments for Townsend Harris is very exciting for us. I have had two "brainstorming" meetings with several of my staff, and their suggestions follow. Of course, these ideas are still very much in the formative stage; however, they may be helpful for your committee's discussions.

The general consensus is that the commodity we need most is time. Our staff is small and their responsibilities beyond the classroom already place me in an embarrassing position each time I request additional commitment of time, even when per session funding is available. However, we are aware that alumni funds are not available in the amounts which would provide for needed release time for staff.

As you suggested during our talk, the three categories for consideration are:

- Student Awards - \$100 minimum per award
- Faculty Grants - \$300-\$1500, depending on scope of the proposal
- Special Programs - \$300-\$1000, depending on scope of the program

I understand, too, that the school is expected to devise criteria for the awards; however, donors of individual student awards may wish to stipulate criteria.

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Dr. Sidney Silverman
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I hope these ideas provide at least a point-of-departure for any endowment program which alumni are interested in sponsoring. On behalf of the staff and students, we do appreciate the continuing concern and interest of the alumni association. Thanks, too, for your leadership in establishing an endowment program.

Regards,


Malcolm G. Largmann
Principal

MGL:em

cc: Mr. Henry D. Shereff