

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc., held at the offices of Sheriff, Friedman, Hoffman and Goodman, at 919 Third Avenue, New York City on June 18, 1989. Present were:

Julie Chan
Victor Feingold
Lester Friesner
Eugene Heil
Kenneth Kaufman
Morton Lederman

Melvin Moore
Ted Peck, presiding
Alec Pollak
Kenneth Shorter
Harold Spielman

Also present were Arthur Graham, Class of '38, Norman Merino, Class of '38, Peter Joseph of the THHS P.T.A. and Tom Sweetin, an instructor and Senior Class Advisor at THHS.

Ted Peck opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Ted introduced Julie Chan, Class of '88 and Alec Pollack, Class of '89.

Since Mort Lisser and Julius Graber were not present the treasurer's report and minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

Lester Freisner was nominated for the office of Secretary of the Association and Myron Proujansky for the office of Recording Secretary. These nominees were both elected unanimously.

Ted Peck reported that Townsend Harris High School had been designated a "School of Excellence" by the Federal Office of Education. Only 150 secondary schools throughout the country have been so designated. This is quite an accomplishment for our school which is only in its fifth year of its rebirth. The principal, Mal Largmann, will represent THHS at a White House ceremony in September. Hopefully, this honor will help in our effort to have THHS become a school requiring an entrance exam. The Alumni Association contributed \$1,000 for a luncheon to honor all participants at the school.

Ted then read a letter George Weisman had written inviting Governor Cuomo to the Hall of Fame Dinner. It was suggested that the Governor may want to use this occasion as a platform to express his program for the advancement of education in the state. Claire Schulman will probably attend and there will most likely be an award for her.

The Townsend Harris Hall of Fame Dinner is set for Tuesday, November 21, 1989 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person. Black-tie optional. The band under consideration will probably charge about \$3,000 for the evening. However, other groups may be checked for comparative prices.

A mailing regarding the dinner should be mailed immediately. There will be five inductees to the Hall of Fame. Notices have not yet been sent to those invited to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The five honored posthumously will be: Richard Rogers, Bennet Cerf, Edward G. Robinson, Ira Gershwin and David Schoenbraun.

Saul Grossman, Class of '39 will be attending his 50th Anniversary Class Reunion and will speak to his classmates concerning the Hall of Fame Dinner.

The Alumni Association members ~~were~~^{will} be invited to the THHS Commencement Exercises on Thursday, June 22, at 7:00 p.m., Colden Auditorium. Speakers at the graduation will be Elizabeth Holtzman, Joe Flum, an alumnus and Nobelist, Charles Ciggarty, Class of '39 will give greetings and he will be introduced by Nicholas Mellilla, Senior Advisor to the Class of '39.

Leonard Goldwater who had never received his THHS Diploma, although he has gone on to become an M.D. and in addition earned a Medical Science Degree, will be at the graduation to receive his diploma. The robing of the faculty for the commencement exercises was paid for by the Alumni Association.

Norman Merino, an active alumnus from Florida spoke about some of his chapter's concerns vis a vis the THHS Alumni Association. He expressed pleasure at the positive response from New York to their recent questions. He indicated that people out of New York want to know what is going on in the organization. They would like to have the school newspaper. They want to know the goals of the school and what the current school is like. The Florida chapter is interested in developing a Townsend Harris-like school in their state. They have contacted the Broward and Palm Beach County Boards of Education and some local colleges as well as former Secretary of Education Bennett. They would like to start a school for gifted children specializing in the Humanities. Norman feels that the appointment of liaison people to the Chapters will be very helpful. Mr. Merino believes that each Chapter should be allowed to collect their own dues. He also felt that the individual Chapter should be allowed to keep \$10 from each member's dues, instead of \$5.00. This would enable the Florida organization to be run more effectively.

In addition, if the Florida Chapter collected their own dues, Norman could follow up with alumni in his area who may not be remitting their dues. This suggestion will be taken up at a future meeting of the board of directors in New York and discussed more fully.

Julie Chan observed that the Alumni from her class would like to know what the allocation of their dues will be for future expenditures. It was noted that every year the Senior Class

gives a \$1,000 donation to the Alumni Association.

Ted indicated that the recent graduates received "their school" because of the efforts of the Alumni and up until now the re-establishment of the Townsend Harris High School was the main focus of the Association. Ted also pointed out that Henry and Mort were dedicated to this goal. Past dues have kept the organization together and enabled the school to be born. Ted talked about the possibility of a newsletter or magazine in the future, which might include the writing of someone like Herman Wouk and this conceivably would have more relevance for the recent graduates. He acknowledged that this main goal having been achieved, the association can address itself to new goals. Arthur suggested a magazine, outings, etc. in the future. The board would like to know what the new graduates would like the association to do. The new members are needed to carry on the organization. Their ideas are needed and welcomed. Arthur invited the new Alumni to come up with a wish list.

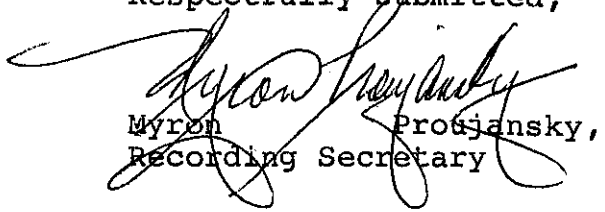
Mr. Sweetin noted that three quarters of the recent class held a reunion in November of 1988. This year the Class of '89 will also attend. Graduates receive their yearbook at the reunion.

It was noted that currently only board members receive the Classic. The cost of sending a copy to every member would be substantial, but could be considered.

End

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Myron Prosjansky,
Recording Secretary