

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
149-11 Melbourne Avenue, Flushing, NY 11367.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 13, 1997
Place: 1760 Third Avenue, New York, NY - 18th Floor
Time: 10:00 AM

Present: Saul Grossman (presiding), Jerry Halpern, Julie Graber, Irving Gerber, Daniel Dwyer, Norman Cohen, Karen Greenberger, Ted Peck (Secretary pro tem.), Tom Sweetin, Maury Paprin, Charles Sigety, Jerry Maslon, Craig Slutzkin, Lynne Greenfield.

1. Upon a motion made and seconded, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
2. Daniel Dwyer (PTA Rep.) reported that a PTA fund-raising drive had raised \$16,000 and that \$7000 of this will be used to install a video system in the school auditorium.
He also reported that there was no strong feeling for or against the idea of making THHS a "test" school. Parents would like a Board member to address the PTA on the subject. Dr. Grossman noted that Henry Shereff had agreed to perform that function.
3. Mr. Halpern brought the group up to date on the "van" story. Mr. Sigety reported that Dr. Largmann said that the problem had been solved and the school could go ahead and get the van.
Jerry further reported on his talks with Dr. Leiner, the Queens College liaison, about providing a psychometrics specialist. Dr. Leiner has learned that a paid consultant would be needed.
4. Julie Graber gave a brief Treasurer's report. Receipts from THETA for the period totaled \$7,960. A full report for the fiscal year will be provided at the next meeting.
5. At this point Dr. Grossman brought up the issue of the Florida Chapter and the controversy about dues. He stated that we are legally bound to treat Florida the same as every other Chapter. Mr. Paprin said that he would speak to an associate who is a lawyer and ask him to draft a letter to the Florida Chapter. It was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the Florida Chapter informing them that they be must treated the same as all Chapters.
6. Mr. Sigety next reported that he was present at a meeting that was held at the school with Mr. Halpern, Dr. Grossman, Mr. Shereff and Dr. Largmann to determine whether or not Dr. Largmann supported the idea of making Townsend Harris a "test" school. Mr. Sigety reported that Dr. Largmann recognized the need to protect the school from changes in Board of Education policy. On the specific question of how this should be accomplished Dr. Largmann said he supports the test school concept with a written essay requirement.
Mr. Sigety also pointed out that there is strong opposition to the test school concept from Dr. Harrington, Carol Gresser and members of the faculty and the PTA. Their opposition is based on the fact that Townsend Harris is so successful as it is, that a change in policy might threaten the nature of the school.
Mr. Sigety also reported on a brief contact he had with Chancellor Crew. He then read from the original resolution of the Board of Education in establishing Townsend Harris. It states specifically that essays are to be part of the admissions policy. It was decided to try and arrange a meeting with Dr. Harrington and other concerned parties to sell them on the idea of a written essay as part of the Townsend Harris admission process.

7. Lynn Greenfield, Assistant Principal (Humanities), reported on efforts to increase the school's presence on the Internet. Townsend Harris will become part of Queens College's Internet node. She stressed the fact that the computer capabilities of the school were not being used to the fullest because trained staff are not available.

Since the question of Dr. Largmann's retirement was brought up earlier, Ms. Greenfield was asked about and subsequently explained the procedure for replacing a principal.

8. Ted Peck provided the Board with a variety of items of general interest:

A. Morris Schappes wrote an article in Jewish Currents about his induction into the Townsend Harris Hall of Fame. A copy of the article was passed around at the meeting.

B. A group has organized a Luncheon in honor of Schappes' 90th birthday. An invitation was sent to Ted Peck which he passed on to Maury Paprin.

C. Ted brought along a copy of the latest New York Sheet Music Society Newsletter which had been sent to him by Board member Sam Malkin. The lead article was a report on the Birthday celebration for THHS Hall of Famer Ervin Drake -- attended by hundreds of friends, co-workers and admirers. The article noted that the Townsend Harris Alumni Association was represented at the affair.

D. Ted next passed around a certificate in honor of Abbott Rosenberg, the moving force behind the Southern California Chapter.

E. Ted reported on Abbott Rosenberg's suggestion that an electronics course be integrated into the curriculum so that those using computers understand the machines better.

F. Ted reported that Nancy Laing who runs the Joseph and Claire Flom Foundation for her parents had requested data about the school and about the courses that are offered and the colleges graduates attend. The information was obtained from Sheila Orner and forwarded to Ms. Laing.

G. Ted Peck wrote to Mr. Lang outlining the investment policy of the THETA Fund and demonstrating that it was doing precisely what he had asked for. Mr. Lang now indicates that he is satisfied that his contributions to the THETA Fund are being properly handled and supervised, and that it is time to make another major effort to reach the "first" million.

H. A letter from Sandy Bernstein was read to the Board. Sandy would like some indication that the Hebrew Language courses he is funding are resulting in students learning to speak Hebrew. Ted reported that he already requested that Mr. Rossman arrange for someone with a camcorder interview the students and provide a video cassette of the class speaking Hebrew.

I. Ted also suggested that the next time the Alumni Directory is published it be organized differently. Ted thought it would be more practical if the entries with name and address were arranged by class. A separate alphabetical listing could indicate just name and class.

J. The final matter on Ted Peck's agenda was the very important question of hiring a money-manager to supervise day-to-day investment of Alumni Association funds. Jerry Chazin brought the problem to the people he deals with at *Sanford C. Bernstein*, and they prepared an extensive report which Ted had at the meeting. Ted suggested that a small *ad hoc* investment group be formed to review the Bernstein data and report their recommendations to the Board. No action was taken on this suggestion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 1997. Same time. Same place.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.