

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association
Sunday, May 17, 1998 10:00 A.M.
Florence Nightingale Nursing Home

- I. Call to Order: Dr. Grossman called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M.
- II. Attendance: Marc Ackerman¹, Abraham Bein, Norman Bernstein, Lester Friesner, Julius Graber, Saul Grossman, Mara Gruber-Hochhauser¹, Neil Manis², Gerald Maslon, Gary Mellow¹, George Motakis, Tehsing Niu¹, Charles Puglisi, Craig Slutzkin, Tom Sweetin.
- III. Minutes: Dr. Grossman called the members' attention to the copies of the Minutes that were distributed before the start of the meeting. Mr. Puglisi mentioned that these copies of the Minutes reflect Mr. Halpern's corrections and additions to the Draft Minutes. Mr. Slutzkin moved acceptance of the Minutes and Mr. Bernstein seconded the motion. There being no additional corrections, Dr. Grossman moved the question and the Board unanimously approved the Minutes as corrected.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Slutzkin distributed copies of the April Treasurer's Report to the members and discussed portions of it. He mentioned that the report does not include a substantial amount of income received after the end of the month. Mr. Maslon moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Bein seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Dr. Grossman moved the question and the Board unanimously approved the Motion.
- V. Queens College Liaison: Dr. Leiner was not present at the meeting to report.
- VI. P.T.A. Report: Mr. Manis reported:
 - A. The PTA has conducted its Annual College Information Night.
 - B. The student production of Guys & Dolls, one result of the school's involvement in "Project Act" was a success.
 - C. The PTA is working on the New Student Orientation Breakfast.
 - D. "The Ambassador," the PTA Newsletter, includes information about the PTA's efforts and support of the school's programs. He will arrange for copies of future issues to be placed in the Alumni Association's mailbox.
- VII. School Report: No one from the school administration was present to report. Mr. Sweetin said that the student production of Guys & Dolls went well despite several technical problems.
- VIII. Recent Graduates: Ms. Gruber-Hochhauser reported that planning for the tenth reunion of the class of 1988 continues. Forty-two students, one current, and one former faculty member have responded to the invitation. The event is scheduled for June 27, 1998.
- IX. Nominating Committee:
 - A. Dr. Grossman reported the Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers:
 1. Chairman: Dr. Saul Grossman
 2. President: Mr. Lester Friesner
 3. Vice Presidents: Mr. Maurice Paprin & Ms. Julie Chan
 4. Treasurer: Mr. Craig Slutzkin
 5. Secretary: Mr. Charles Puglisi
 - B. Dr. Grossman announced the names of the proposed new Directors of the Board:
 1. Ms. Eileen P. Gunn
 2. Ms. Mara Hochhauser
 3. Mr. Gary Mellow
 4. Ms. Tehsing Niu

Mr. Bernstein moved the acceptance of the proposed slate prepared by the Nominating Committee and Mr. Maslon seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Dr. Grossman moved the question, which was unanimously carried.

- X. Chairman's Report: Dr. Grossman reported:
 - A. The Jay Winston Scholarship fund will be awarded this year;

- B. The amount of the scholarship will depend on the income generated by the \$300,000 endowment fund set up by the Jay Winston family;
- C. Mr. Sweetin asked if and how the Jay Winston Scholarship, which is given solely based on economic need, will be publicly presented. Dr. Grossman replied that the decision if, when, and how scholarships are presented is a matter of school policy and will be made by the Administration of the school.
- D. On a question from Mr. Maslon about the timeliness of the notification of the recipient of the scholarship, Dr. Grossman said that in the future, the selection of the recipient of the Jay Winston Scholarship will be completed by March.

XI. Annual Meeting:

- A. Mr. Friesner reported:
 - 1. He has received 115 responses to the meeting announcement
 - 2. He estimates that 69 alumni and 46 guests will attend the meeting.
 - 3. The cost of the caterer is at least \$16.50 per person, depending on the final menu selection. This cost includes the rental of tables and chairs.
- B. Mr. Sweetin added:
 - 1. That all necessary permits have been applied for.
 - 2. That three security officers will be on the site from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (Cost: approximately \$30 per hour)
 - 3. That student-led tours of the building will be conducted.
 - 4. That the school cafeteria aide will be on the site to work with the caterer. (Cost: approximately \$20 per hour.)
 - 5. That (cash) gratuities for the custodial staff should be included in the cost of the event.
 - 6. That the Melbourne Avenue gate of Queens College will be open for parking and that the back door of the school, which opens into the parking lot, will receive security coverage.
- C. In response to a question from Mr. Friesner about a limit on the cost of the event, Mr. Slutzkin suggested that Mr. Friesner ask Mr. Peck, the Chair of the Disbursements Committee, for guidance. Dr. Grossman said that the last Annual Meeting cost about \$22.50 per person.
- D. In response to Mr. Friesner's request for assistance in planning the agenda for the meeting, Mr. Ackerman suggested that Mr. David Herzenhorn ('90), Metropolitan Editor for *The New York Times*, be asked to address the attendees. There was consensus on this suggestion, and Mr. Ackerman agreed to speak to Mr. Herzenhorn.

Mr. Slutzkin's motion to accept the Annual Meeting report was seconded by Mr. Bein. There being no further discussion, Dr. Grossman moved the question, which was unanimously carried.

XII. Old Business

- A. Dr. Grossman brought up Mr. Peck's suggestion (made at the previous meeting) that the dues for all members be set at ten dollars per year.
- B. Mr. Graber suggested that the dues be kept at the present level of \$25 per year, with dues for all alumni set at \$10 per year until eight to ten years after graduation.
- C. Mr. Puglisi said that while Mr. Peck's suggestion would be a decrease for pre-1945 alumni, it would be a 100% increase for post-1984 alumni, because post-1984 graduates pay membership dues of five dollars a year. Mr. Graber said that he recollected that due for post-1984 graduates is ten dollars a year, excepting the year following graduation when the five-dollar fee is included in the graduate's Senior Dues. Ms. Gruber-Hochhauser said that she had paid five dollars some year dues since her graduation. The question of post-1984 dues was left unsettled.
- D. Mr. Slutzkin read a letter from Mr. Greene, Co-President of the Florida Chapter. In the letter Mr. Greene states that the Florida Chapter needs at least \$15 per member in reimbursements to keep the Chapter going and that any amount less than \$15 would force the chapter to consider dropping out of the THAA.
- E. In response to this letter, Mr. Graber said that he recollects that an agreement was made with Mr.

Merino that reimbursement would be set at five dollars per paid member and that this was the reimbursement for all chapters. He added that the THAA, Inc. is registered as a charitable organization, is not a social or nostalgia club, and that he has been concerned about issues of fiscal propriety raised by the entire reimbursement scheme.

F. Mr. Puglisi suggested a compromise. He proposed that the THAA, Inc. set its dues at Mr. Peck's suggested rate of dollars per year (or at another reasonable level) for all members and that local chapters be allowed to set their own dues rates. Any alumnus who pays dues to the THAA, Inc. can elect to join a local chapter and pay the local chapter's dues along with the THAA Inc.'s dues. The membership form should state that only donations to the THAA, Inc., registered with the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, are fully tax deductible, and that the portion of the local dues that are for IRS approved activities may be tax deductible.

1. Mr. Graber said that he thought the suggestion addressed his concerns.

2. The subsequent discussion demonstrated general consensus with the idea. Mr. Bein expressed his disapproval of the compromise, and suggested that the present two-tiered dues schedule be maintained and that all chapters be reimbursed at the rate of five dollars per dues-paid member.

G. Mr. Maslon moved that the topic be postponed until the September meeting. Mr. Bernstein seconded the motion. A discussion on the intent and wording of the motion led Mr. Maslon to clarify and amend his motion to read: "That the Board table the discussion of Mr. Puglisi's suggestion until the September meeting and that the Treasurer and/or Secretary be directed to write to the Presidents of the local chapters informing them of the suggestion and seeking their input into the final implementation." Mr. Bernstein seconded the amended motion. There being no further discussion, Dr. Grossman moved the question which was unanimously carried.

H. Dr. Grossman directed Mr. Slutzkin and Mr. Puglisi to work on the wording of the letter to be sent by Mr. Slutzkin. He suggested that the respective Chapter Presidents be invited to attend the September meeting.

XIII. Announcements: Mr. Bein reported that the songs of alumnus Irving Drake continue to be popular and have been recently recorded; that his song "I Believe" has achieved top ten status in Europe and been recorded by Barbra Streisand on her latest CD.

XIV. New Business:

A. Dr. Grossman asked for suggestions for increasing the accuracy of the database.

B. Mr. Puglisi reported at length on the way that the database is currently managed. He requested a simplification of the process to decrease database errors and the labor-intensive, time-consuming need to access the same record many times because of the format that changes, corrections, deletions, and additions to the database entries are transmitted to him.

C. Mr. Graber said that he prefers to keep the control of dues receipts in the hands of Mr. Gerber and was not in favor of changing the address to which THAA mail is sent. He stated that the 10% error rate is consistent with that of the magazines and the public organizations' databases that he has audited and is not at all excessive. He stated that the Board need not get involved in the process and suggested that Mr. Puglisi and Mr. Gerber were doing a good job and should be left to work out any problems between themselves.

XV. Adjournment: The Board adjourned at 11:35 A.M. The Annual Meeting will take place on June 14, 1998 at Townsend Harris H.S. @ Queens College.

Notes

¹ Nonmember Attendee

² P.T.A. Representative