Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
PTSA Board and General Membership Meeting
TJHSST Library
December 8, 2011
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Attendees:  Dr. Evan Glazer, Denise Bunting, Celeste Fritzson, Amy Shaw, Frances Kim, Robin Hatanpaa, Sara Schneider, Jim Rose, Helen Hastings, Sean Burke, Adam Wong, Leslie Culman, Daphna Oren, Pam Swift, Vince Wang, Bruce Summers, Deidre Defoe-Jimenez, Heidi Werntz, Sharon Sneed, Cheryl Buford, Hilde Kahn, Linda Loffredo, Julie Griffith, Louise Epstein, Mike Auerbach, Mark Merriman, Rick Monteverde, Lakshmi Bala, James Sun, Alice Tang, Ricardo Corzo, Betsy Sandstrom, Lisa Layfield, Ginger Bugaighis, Linda Liu, Diane White, Suzanne LaPierre, Jennifer Simpson, Mary Allegro, Yvette Sutton, Rebecca Ayres, Thuy Dang

Call to Order:  PTSA President Denise Bunting called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the TJ Library.

Minutes:  A motion was made to approve the minutes of the PTSA Board Meeting held on November 4, 2011. Draft minutes had been emailed to members and attendees and were distributed at the meeting. Secretary Sara Schneider asked the members to review an amendment to the draft minutes pertaining to Dr. Glazer’s statements on homework and use of Blackboard. A motion to pass the amended minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

President’s Report:  Denise Bunting reviewed the issue of surveillance cameras and Dr. Glazer spoke about the installation of surveillance cameras at TJ after the renovation. Denise said Robin Hatanpaa would be TJ’s Safe Community Coalition liaison and then she spoke about the two programs the Coalition will offer in 2012. Denise also spoke about the SPAC Meeting, asked parents to look at the Library’s Wish List, and reminded parents to sign up as 8th period volunteers. Denise said that some parents may receive a letter from Dr. Glazer regarding their child’s Community Service hours. She said the PTSA Board is looking for 5 to 7 volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee to select next year’s Board.

SGA President’s Report:  Helen Hastings spoke about the UnderArmour Undeniable competition, Winter Chill Out, and Community Service Week in January.

Faculty Report:  Jim Rose introduced the Faculty and Staff member in attendance:  Sean Burke, Mike Auerbach, Rick Monteverde, Adam Wong, and Betsy Sandstrom. Jim Rose said midterm testing would occur before the Winter Break and Interim Grades would be mailed on 12/19.

Attachments
1 - Faculty Allocations Committee Proposed Projects List, 12/8/2011
2 - TJ PTSA Resolution to Improve School Food at Fairfax County Public Schools
**Student Services:** Sean Burke spoke about the Early College Scholars program, which will allow freshmen students to gain up to 15 college credits during their time at TJ. Sean spoke about the use of social media, TJ’s website, and short anonymous surveys to increase communications with students and parents. He spoke about the College Admissions process and reminded seniors to maintain their grades, as colleges do look at senior year grades. Adam Wong, TJ’s Testing coordinator, said that SOL’s would be given to some students in January.

**Principal’s Report:** Principal Evan Glazer shared photos of the Parent Choir concert and student play “Too Clever by Half” and of TJ students swimming, playing basketball, and performing in the Band and Orchestra Concerts. He said that TJ’s renovation will begin in summer 2013 with additions for the Science Labs. Dr. Glazer thanked the PTSA for donating gift cards for the Faculty and Staff and reminded parents that while FCPS regulations cap teacher gifts at $25, larger gifts can be directed to an academic program or the renovation via the Partnership Fund. He told parents that Student Services was reaching the point where they must deny student requests to shift from an AP course to an Honors course. Dr. Glazer said that Minor Lane will be closed daily from 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. He reminded everyone that 1st Semester will end on 1/20/12 to create a better balance between the 1st and 2nd semesters and that January 23 will be a TeleLearn Day. Denise Bunting asked whether the TJ Renovation Plan addresses the Annual Asbestos report that was mentioned in the December Family Gram

**Student Services Liaison:** Leslie Culman explained the various ways Student Services will be increasing outreach to students and parents. In addition to attending the monthly PTSA meeting, Student Services will issue an E-Note twice each quarter, increase postings on the website, publish information in Techcetera, and invite parents to monthly roundtable meetings with Brandon Kosatka.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Frances Kim said Membership Dues, Free Money, and ANGP Ticket Sales are all exceeding budget. She reminded parents to use the TJ link when they shop on Amazon.

**Faculty Allocations:** Daphne Oren said that the Faculty Allocations Committee was seeking approval to fund 15 projects totaling $5500. Sharon Sneed said that procedural rules require the Committee to provide detailed descriptions for each of the projects for which funding is sought. Daphne Oren read aloud a description of each of the following 15 projects and provided a list of the projects to the PTSA Secretary to append to the monthly minutes (Attachment 1). After a short discussion period, a motion was made to fund the allocations. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Membership:** Pam Swift reported that the PTSA now has 908 members and reminded people to please join, if they have not already done so. Denise added that the TJ PTSA by-laws stipulate that all officers and board members must be official PTSA members.

**Free Money:** Vince Wong reported that last month’s email blast resulted in 50 more people signing up for Giant cards. However, he said that we’re still running behind our objectives and will be $1,000 short if we don’t increase participation.

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ANGP: Bruce Summers reported that ANGP has sold 185 tickets so far and raised over $20,000 of their $63,000 goal. While 100 people have signed up to volunteer for ANGP, the committee still needs 500 additional volunteers. Bruce said that Senior Night will be held on 1/18.

Just Between Friends: Celeste Fritzson asked people to contact her if they would be able to help on this implementation committee in January.

Reflections: Heidi Werntz said TJ had five entrants and cluster awards will be announced in the spring.

Parliamentarian: Sharon Sneed recommended that PTSA officers attend the State Convention.

Government Relations: Cheryl Buford recommended that parents attend Capitol Day in Richmond in early 2012. Last year, TJ received an additional $66,000 of funding with the help of Representative Mark Keam.

Partnership Fund: Hilde Kahn reminded parents about the end-of-year appeal and asked them to consider making a donation. Although TJ received a $100,000 grant in November, TJ still needs to raise $350,000 to fund the labs.

Academic Boosters: Linda Loffredo thanked parents for their support and spoke about upcoming events.

Athletic Boosters: Celeste Fritzson asked parents to sign up for the Food Safety Training class that will be held at TJ this month.

New Business: Louise Epstein spoke about a group organized by Fairfax parents called “Real Food for Kids” who want to improve the quality of food served in FCPS cafeterias. The group would like FCPS to limit foods that contain chemicals, preservatives, and additives, offer salad bars and more freshly-prepared foods, make water free or less expensive, and offer both organic and non-organic milk. Louise distributed a typed resolution (Attachment 2) for the TJ PTSA to consider adopting. She said that “Real Food for Kids” plans to present a package of resolutions like this to FCCPTSA in the spring. After a brief discussion period, a motion was made to adopt the resolution. The motion received a second and was unanimously approved.

Adjournment: Denise Bunting announced that the next meeting would be held on 1/5/2012. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.