Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
PTSA Board and General Membership Meeting
TJHSST Library
February 2, 2012
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm


Call to Order: PTSA President Denise Bunting called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the TJ Library.

Ethics Panel: Assistant Principal Mary Ann Bosley chaired a panel on Ethics. Panel members included Geosystems teacher John Woodwell, AP US History teacher Thomas Sleete, English teacher Emily Orser, Guidance Counselor Sean Burke, Librarian Anne Applin, SGA VP Allison Chou, and TJ parent Mrs. Julie Griffith (James Brooks – 2010; Sarah Brooks - 2014). Due to time constraints, there were no questions taken from the floor.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the PTSA Board Meeting held on January 5, 2012. Draft minutes had been emailed to members and attendees and were distributed at the meeting. Secretary Sara Schneider reviewed minor modifications that had been made to the sections pertaining to Academic Boosters, Orchestra Boosters, and Partnership Fund. The minutes were approved as modified.

SGA President’s Report: Allison Chou covered for Helen Hastings. SGA is working on Service Week which will be held 2/17 to 2/24. All Service week earnings will be donated to a charity selected by Namaste. Allison spoke about the SGA-sponsored Leadership Conference for Middle School students from Northern Virginia schools, the rescheduled SGA retreat to Camp Highroads, and the Senior Talent Show. Allison mentioned the sophomore class is hosting “A Night in Paris” on 2/25 and is working on an online auction. The junior and freshman classes will hold the 2nd Annual Pi Miler on 3/24.

President’s Report: Denise Bunting thanked the Hospitality Committee for the refreshments. She spoke about the new School Board members and said Ryan McElveen and Sandy Evans are both opposed to athletic fees. Denise talked about the “Kings Dominion” Law which prohibits Virginia public schools from starting before Labor Day. She said that the Heidi Werntz would
present Reflections awards to TJ Students at the March meeting. Denise mentioned that Charlie Bolden, the head of NASA, will speak at graduation this year and said that the PTSA is looking for a volunteer to edit the Techcetera next year.

**Faculty Report:** Jim Rose said that Telelearn Day went well! He said that second semester is busier than first semester with many contests, science fairs, field trips, testing, and tjSTAR. He introduced Milde Waterfall, who read a statement on behalf of the Humanities Department on their approach to teaming (see Attachment A).

**Faculty Allocation Action Item:** Dale Kummer spoke about a Social Studies competition called “We the People” which promotes understanding of the US Constitution. Virginia’s program is coordinated by the Madison Foundation at Montpelier. Mr. Kummer asked the PTSA to approve $1K for bus funding for a trip to Richmond on February 3. His request had been approved by the Faculty Allocations committee (6-1) via email on 1/27. A motion to approve the request was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

**Principal’s Report:** Principal Evan Glazer introduced staff members and shared photos of Winter sports, the pep rally/student-faculty dance contest, and students in physics classes. He said students should buy their I-Night tickets in advance. Dr. Glazer spoke about the restrictive nature of the Master Schedule and on how teaming provides schedule flexibility that enables students to more fully develop thinking skills. Principal Glazer reminded everyone that while the Aud-Lob and Library are open in the evening, after the security team leaves at 6:30 pm the gates to the back halls will be locked. He mentioned that new badges with lanyards are now available to expedite Lobby Guard check-in for frequent volunteers. Dr. Glazer also said that a new drop-off zone on Minor Lane road is being painted and that he will send out a KIT once signage arrives. He explained that bus passes have been delayed due to a shortage of ink. He concluded by saying that Registration for 2012-2013 will be underway soon and that the Economics course will be available online for the Class of 2015 beginning this summer. He reminded parents of sophomores and juniors to attend Curriculum night on 2/16.

**tjSTAR:** Kayla Gutierrez and Koji Otani spoke about the 4th Annual tjSTAR, which will be held on 5/30. They thanked the PTSA for providing refreshments and for helping them recruit speakers. This year, there will be six 45 minutes blocks instead of five 75 minute blocks, so they will need more speakers this year. Last year, they schedule 70 speakers; this year they will need over 80 speakers. They have prepared a letter and flyer and are asking parents to help them find professional speakers in STEM fields.

**Student Services:** Brandon Kosatka spoke about the five honors courses that the School Board recently approved. These courses are already offered at TJ, so there will be no change to the course selection guide. He said that Curriculum Night on 2/16 is primarily for the parents. Several parents raised questions about the summer online personal finance course, which Dr. Glazer said he would address individually after the meeting. Leslie Culman said the sophomore parent coffee with Student Services would be held on 2/24.
Treasurer’s Report: Vice President Celeste Fritzon covered for Frances Kim. Celeste reviewed highlights from the Budget vs. Actual Report (Jul-Feb) including the following Income items: Donations - $6,013 (92.5%); Directory Sales - $10,680 (101.7%); Membership - $13,615 (108.9%); Free Money - $10,399 (69.3%). She also reviewed select Expense items including: Faculty Allocation - $3,720 (24.8%) and ANGP YTD @ $31,850 (55%). Celeste said that the PTSA had given $1,130 in Staples Money to ANGP and that Booster groups interested in receiving Staples Money should email their requests to Frances Kim.

Membership: Pam Swift reported that the PTSA has grown to 925 members!

ANGP: Bruce Summers and Deidre Jimenez-Defoe said that all but eighty students have purchased ANGP tickets. Although most of the sub-chair positions are filled, ANGP still needs parent volunteers to work during graduation on June 16th. They are also looking for a parent to chair “Prizes and Raffles”. This position involves shopping with ANGP monies and managing donated prizes. ANGP has placed a box in the front office for donated items.

Free Money: Vince Want said Free Money is doing well. While there are fewer participants this year, those who do participate are contributing larger amounts.

Partnership Fund: Hilde Kahn spoke about the Junior Lab Appeal and said that she is looking for junior parents to captain this event.

Academic Boosters: Linda Loffredo said that although membership is down, the teams are participating in many competitions. Academic Boosters will be conducting a callathon this weekend.

Crew Boosters: Sara Schneider asked parents to support TJ student-athletes who will be erging in Crew’s Annual Million Meter Ergathon on February 10.

Theater Boosters: Denise Bunting mentioned the One Axe Plays. Grace Becker promoted the Frosh Fest.

Choral Boosters: Blair Reischer said “The Secret Garden” will be presented in March.

New Business: Denise Bunting proposed a five member slate consisting of Linda Loffredo, Nirmala Sundaranaman, Jean Lee, Cindy Hahn, and Lakshmi Bala to serve as the Nominating Committee for next year’s PTSA Board. Denise asked for nominations from the floor. As there were no additional nominations from the floor, Denise repeated the above slate. Celeste made a motion to accept the slate, which was then elected by a voice vote.

Announcements: Robin Hatanpaa spoke about the Safe Community Coalition event “What’s Love Got to Do With It?” that will be held at McLean High School on 2/9.

Adjournment: Denise Bunting adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.