Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology  
PTSA Board and General Membership Meeting  
TJHSST Library  
March 8, 2012  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  

**Attendees:** Dr. Evan Glazer, Denise Bunting, Celeste Fritzson, Amy Shaw, Robin Hatanpaa, Sara Schneider, Ally Walsh, Allison Chou, Laurie Kobick, Jim Rose, Dale Kummer, Tonya Latham, Heidi Werntz, Bruce Summers, Deidre Defoe-Jiminez, Cheryl Buford, Lakshmi Bala, Ann Burroughs Sun, Vincent Wang, Ginger Bugaighis, Hilde Kahn, Jennifer Bui, Xiaowei Zhou, Judy Tsai, Whay Lee, Anna Ryjik, Seung Namkung, Sun Hur-Diaz, Sharon Sneed, Mike Auerbach, Paula Mathews, Rajni Goel, Carol Anne Kelly, Betsy Sandstrom, Leslie Culman, Jyoti Shirke, Kim Do, Joy Mayuga, Thuy Dang, Shawn Lukas, Kyounghee Malawi, Diane White, Richard Popp, Natalie Goldring, mark Merriman, Piknal Mazmudar, Grace Becker, Cesar Basurto

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

**President’s Report:** Denise introduced the faculty and administration. She thanked the Hospitality Committee for providing refreshments and Leslie Culman for working with Student Services to identify the 400 families who were not receiving emails from the school. She reminded all parents to update their Blackboard accounts to ensure they will receive future Naviance emails from Student Services. Denise said the new course in Personal Finance will be offered at TJ this summer and Dr. Glazer is still working on a TJ prototype class for students to receive credit by objective. She spoke about Government Relations’ visit to Richmond and the King’s Dominion Law, which was not repealed as hoped. Denise reminded Booster Presidents and Cluster Reps to prepare their groups’ welcome flyers for the Class of 2016. She said the PTSA needs a TechCetera Editor for next year and the nominating committee is still accepting nominations for the PTSA Board.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Baccalaureate):** Ally Walsh spoke about the annual Senior Baccalaureate. All religious organizations will be represented at the one hour gathering, which will be held on the last day of exams. Parents who would like to provide financial support may drop off checks made out to TJ FCA in the front office.

**SGA President’s Report:** Allison Chou said monies raised at I-Night had been contributed to the family of Brian Chavez Hernandez, the Weyanoke Elementary student who died after being hit by a car. Allison spoke about the SGA-sponsored Leadership Conference for Middle School students from 70 Northern Virginia schools on 3/3, the rescheduled SGA retreat to Camp Highroads to plan J-Day, and gravel lot tailgate parties for Spring sports. She said the Class of 2014 hosted “A Night in Paris” on 2/25 and is seeking donations for their upcoming online
auction. The junior and freshman classes will hold the 2nd Annual Pi Miler on 3/24. The Class of 2015 is looking forward to their Lock-In. Last week, twelve TJ Seniors traveled to Richmond with the Government Relations’ Committee to meet with several state legislators.

**Career Center:** Lori Kobick gave a five minute power point presentation about the Career Center. Her presentation is available on TJ’s website. In addition to providing substantial support to students during their junior year to prepare them for the college application process, the Career Center also hosts events like Engineer’s Week and the TJ Alumni Career Fair in the Spring. The Career Center has information on international applications. On their BlackBoard accounts, students may view five years of TJ scattergrams. The college-specific scattergrams correlate anonymous TJ students’ applications and outcomes to their corresponding GPAs and standardized test scores (SAT & ACT). Students may sign up for automatic emails to notify them when representative from colleges the students select will be visiting TJ. Laurie said a summary of scholarships is also posted on the TJ website. Since the Career Center is sometimes used for small group meetings, Laurie suggested that parents email her in advance to make sure the room is available when they’d like to visit.

**Faculty Report:** Jim Rose said the staff appreciated the Valentine’s Day luncheon and sent out Interim reports last week. TWIST’s Techstravaganza, which will be held on 4/14, needs 300 TJ student volunteers to interact with 2000 guests and many parents to help with supplies, logistics, and hospitality. Please contact TwistCoordinators@gmail.com or Jim.Rose@fcps.edu

**Faculty Allocation Action Item:** Dale Kummer spoke about a Social Studies competition called “We the People” which promotes understanding of the US Constitution. He thanked the PTSA for their financial support and said TJ’s team took 3rd place against Maggie Walker, the reigning two-time national champion.

**Principal’s Report:** Principal Evan Glazer introduced staff members and shared photos of “A Night in Paris”, I-Night, and students working on research projects. He announced that the student newspaper TJ Today is now available both in print - and ONLINE! The online version will carry additional, shorter, and older stories and will also incorporate more student photos. Dr. Glazer said TJ is still experiencing the theft of wallets and expensive electronics on a daily basis and that FCPS Security and Officer Harrington are considering the use of temporary surveillance cameras. Dr. Glazer said that the number of students who skip 8th Period is growing. He asked parents to talk with their student and to remind them to sign up early for 8th period classes. One parent said that student satisfaction is at an all-time low. Another parent asked whether students are looking for a quiet place to take a cat nap. Dr. Glazer said he will be speaking personally students and that Administrators will be contacting their parents. He thanked the PTSA Hospitality Committee for the Valentine’s Day Luncheon and for providing refreshments for the Science Fair and the Cluster 3 gathering. He said that the new drop off zone is active and encouraged parents to take advantage of the new route. He reminded parents that bus passes are required for Fairfax students in the morning. Currently, there are no overcrowded buses. He asked that students send him a picture of the inside of their bus if it’s ever overcrowded. He spoke briefly about the School Improvement Plan, the 5 year accreditation cycle and the upcoming review on March 21-22. Dr. Glazer then spoke the School
Board’s decision to allow students to take an online course as an alternative to taking a live class during either the 1st (i.e. – beginning) or 7th (i.e. - ending) period of the day. Tonya Latham gave an overview of the new online policy. As a general rule, students may take elective courses online as long as the course is not a prerequisite for another course. Some examples include AP Spanish, Economics/Personal Finance, and AP Economics (both Macro and Micro). Students taking an online course who arrive after the beginning period of the day or depart before the ending period of the day must provide their own transportation.

**Reflections Awards:** Heidi Werntz setup a gallery of TJ students’ Reflections submissions in the Library. She thanked the judges and announced the winners.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Vice President Celeste Fritzon covered for Frances Kim. Celeste reviewed highlights from the **Budget vs. Actual Report (Jul-Mar)** including Cash Donations (95%), Directory Sales (105%), Membership (109%), and Free Money (89.3%). She reviewed select Expense items including Faculty Allocation (24.8%) and ANGP YTD (55%). Celeste said the PTSA had given out $1,700 in Staples Money, including $1130 to ANGP. Booster groups interested in receiving Staples Money should email their requests to Frances Kim.

**Membership:** Denise Bunting covered for Pam Swift. The PTSA has grown to 927 members.

**ANGP:** Bruce Summers and Deidre Jimenez-Defoe said they need volunteers to work on the Senior DVD and underclass parents to work during graduation on June 16.

**Government Relations:** Cheryl Buford said the four adults and twelve students who attended Capitol Day in Richmond met with 21 legislators. The legislators want to meet with TJ after the session to address the budget cap. Senator Saslaw submitted an amendment to the proposed budget to increase TJ’s funding by 50 students to 1750 students.

**Nominating Committee:** Lakshmi Bala said the committee is still accepting nominations.

**Adjournment:** Denise Bunting adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.