Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
PTSA Board and General Membership Meeting
TJHSST Cafeteria
April 12, 2012
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Attendees: Dr. Evan Glazer, Denise Bunting, Celeste Fritzon, Amy Shaw, Frances Kim, Robin Hatanpaa, Sara Schneider, Helen Hastings, Jim Rose, Cindy Hann, Pam Swift, Deidre Jimenez-Defoe, Natalie Goldring, Anna Ryjik, Alice Tang, Grace Becker, Linda Loffredo, Ginger Bugaighis, Lakshmi Bala, Jack Laveson, Ricardo Corzo, Caroline Chow, Jane Li, Yvonne Shincovich, Yuzhen Ge, Jinny Lay, Veronica Bartlett, John Moses, Peter DeBour, Shawn Lukas, Laura Fifer, Catherine Anderson, Lisa Savage, Julie Klosky, Mary Bullen, Beth Chung

Call to Order: PTSA President Denise Bunting called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the TJ Cafeteria.

SGA President’s Report: Helen Hastings said SGA Elections will be held the week of 4/23. J-Day is scheduled for Friday, 6/1. Class Councils are working on Tailgates for Spring Sports. The Sophomore Class is working on their Auction and the Freshman Lock-in is scheduled for 4/27.

President’s Report: Denise Bunting presented the March minutes for approval. Sara Schneider highlighted a change regarding online classes. The revised minutes were approved. Denise thanked the Hospitality Committee. She said the “One Book” committee includes two parents this year and yearbooks must be ordered by 4/14. Denise said FCCPTA’s Technology Committee is looking for parent volunteers. Student Services will host Admissions Officers from UVA, Georgia Tech, and Duke on 4/24. The PTSA will provide snacks for students during AP testing week. Freshman Preview is scheduled for 4/11; Freshman Registration will be held on 4/24 and 4/25.

Grace Becker proposed that TJ students receive Honors weighting for Honors Courses taken during summer school. Sara Schneider offered an initial motion, which Natalie Goldring refined. Denise opened the floor for discussion. Evan Glazer spoke about World History 1 and the new Economic/Personal Finance course. He noted that specialty electives don’t fall into one of the four categories that are approved by FCPS for Honors weighting. The PTSA unanimously supported a motion proposing that FCPS award Honors weighting to all courses taken at TJHSST Summer School that receive Honors weighting during the regular academic year. One member asked whether Honors weighting would be retroactive for current TJ students. Additional floor discussion, which established that the School Board approved retroactive Honors weighting for all FCPS students, led TJ parents to say they thought Honors weighting should be retroactive for TJ students as well. No TJ parents were opposed to retroactively weighting Honors courses for current TJ students.
**Faculty Report:** Jim Rose said that Techstravaganza, which will be held on 4/14, needs 300 TJ student volunteers to interact with 2000 guests. In addition, many parents are needed to help with supplies, logistics, and hospitality. Please contact TwistCoordinators@gmail.com or Jim.Rose@fcps.edu

**Principal's Report:** Principal Evan Glazer introduced staff members and shared a photo slide show highlighting the Festival of Colors, the student play *The Secret Garden*, and a comedian who spoke about Persian culture. Dr. Glazer said that parking will be limited next year due to preliminary renovation work. This situation will primarily affect Juniors. He mentioned the possibility of adding gravel parking lots on campus. One parent suggested working with the church on Braddock Road for weekday spaces. Dr. Glazer reminded parents that students need to submit a pre-approved absence form with the front office if they anticipate an early end to the school year. Summer School registration is currently underway for upperclassmen. Rising Freshmen will be able to sign up for summer school at the end of April.

Dr. Glazer spoke at length about Online Courses. He said that TJ will speak with all students who sign up for an online course to ensure they fully understand what they are undertaking. Online courses will range in size from 170 to 600 students. He mentioned that the dropout rate is much higher for online courses. Dr. Glazer said that students must take the online course off campus and that TJ will not provide on campus supervision or instructional support for TJ students during their online courses. Some TJ teachers may teach both face-to-face courses and online courses next year. Dr. Glazer stated there may be staff reductions for elective courses. On a positive note, he noted that online courses may allow for more flexibility in creating desirable live class sizes and for broadening TJ’s reach. Dr. Glazer noted that Governor McDonnell has proposed that all students, beginning with the Class of 2017, be required to take at least one online course to graduate.

Dr. Glazer spoke about the 5 year accreditation cycle and the school review on 3/21 and 3/22. He applauded the staff for their hard work to support the evaluation. While TJ received highest marks in all 7 areas, there are 45 items on the School Improvement Plan that will be addressed by Staff over the next five years. Dr. Glazer noted that AP Exams will be given in May and that pre-arranged absence forms are due on Monday, 4/16. Dr. Glazer said that the number of reported thefts on campus has dropped significantly, a change he attributed to increased announcements and awareness. He said that the FCPS Transportation Department is working to create a survey for TJ families to look at family preferences regarding high school locations for student pick up and drop off. He believes the survey will allow families to identify multiple preferred schools, in addition to their base high school, for student pick up and drop off.

**Treasurer's Report:** Robin Hatanpaa highlighted items from the Budget vs. Actual Report (Jul-Apr) including Cash Donations (94%), Directory Sales (105%), Membership (103%), and Free Money (100%). Frances also reviewed select Expense items including Faculty Allocation (24.8%) and ANGP YTD (100 %). Booster groups interested in receiving Staples Money should email their requests to Frances Kim.
Nominating Committee: Cindy Hann introduced the proposed slate for next year’s PTSA Executive Board:

President – Celeste Fritzson
1st Vice President – Grace Chung Becker
2nd Vice President – Lakschmi Bala
Treasurer – John Moses
Recording Secretary – Robin Hatanpaa
Corresponding Secretary – Natalie Goldring

This proposed slate will be voted on at the June meeting.

Membership: Pam Swift said that the PTSA has grown to 930 members.

ANGP: Deidre Jimenez-Defoe said ANGP has raised $34K, including $14K in donations. She expressed concern that the potential early school closing this year may impact ANGP’s ability to recruit parent volunteers from non-senior families.

Free Money: Celeste spoke for Vince Wang. Vince has wrapped up the successful Free Money program for the 2011-2012 school year. Please contact Vince Wang with any suggestions on how to increase Free Money income next year.

Boosters: Theatre Boosters is supporting the student production Stage Door next week. Band Boosters reminded the group about J’Amnesty, which will be held on 4/13.

New Business: There was a brief discussion on whether or not ending the school year early will impact the Junior Sleep Out. Evan Glazer spoke about the continuing problem with 8th period attendance. The administration is speaking to frequent offenders and considering having the Honor Council address this issue. When asked about surveillance on campus, Evan said that FCPS has not implemented hidden surveillance and that he did not believe that Fairfax Police had installed hidden cameras, either.

Announcements: The proposed slate for the 2012-2013 PTSA Executive Board will be voted on at the final monthly meeting of the year on June 7.

Adjournment: Denise Bunting adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.