Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology  
PTSA Board and General Membership Meeting  
TJHSST Cafeteria  
May 3, 2012  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. Evan Glazer, Denise Bunting, Celeste Fritson, Amy Shaw, Frances Kim, Robin Hatanpaa, Sara Schneider, Helen Hastings, Jim Rose, Sharon Sneed, Mike Auerbach, Deidre Defoe-Jimenez, Bruce Summers, Hilde Kahn, Heidi Werntz, Jay Sun, Nhan Do, Janet Minkler, Pam Swift, Carol Anne Kelly, Ann Burroughs Sun, Veronica Bartlett, Natalie Goldring, Anna Ryjik, Gabriel Velicu, Horatio Blumenfeld, Leslie Culman, John Moses, Meena Krishnan, Michelle Bei, Jin Zhou, Hongling Chen, Cesar Basurto, Leela Singh, William Rowe, Teresa Rowe, Raha Atluri, Kerstin Hildebrandt, Linda Loffredo, Alexandra Pou, Sidarth Ambardan, Ricardo Corzo, Yodit Seifu, Xiaowei Zhou, Yvette Sutton, Elizabeth Sierra-Murphy, Ginger Bugaighis, Alice Tang

Call to Order: PTSA President Denise Bunting called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the TJ Cafeteria.

SGA President’s Report: Helen Hastings spoke about the Stress Less, Laugh More presentation. Helen introduced Allison Chou, who was recently elected SGA President. Allison spoke briefly about J-Day on 6/1 and the Spring Sports Pep Rally. She said the Junior Class Campout has been rescheduled to 6/15 and the Sophomore Class has cancelled their online auction.

President’s Report: Denise Bunting presented the April minutes for approval. Denise noted that the last two sentences were modified to clarify the discussion on honors weighting. The April Minutes, as modified, were approved.

Sara Schneider distributed copies of a web archived screen shot from May 2009 of FCPS’ announcement that honors weighting would be approved retroactively for all FCPS students (Attachment A). She noted that the School Board did not exclude core courses taken at TJHSST during Summer School. After reviewing the May 2009 archive screen shot of the FCPS Announcement approving retroactive honors weighting for all such courses that appear in current FCPS students’ transcripts, the membership agreed to revisit the honors motion approved at the April meeting as it applied to core courses taken by TJ students during Summer School. A straw motion was proposed and discussion was opened to the floor. A final motion was made to amend the approved April motion in support of honors weighting of all core courses taken during TJ Summer School that receiving honors weighting during the school year to include, “In addition, honors weighting of TJ Summer School core courses that receive honors weighting during the school year shall be retroactive for all such courses that appear on current student’s transcripts.” The motion received a second and was approved unanimously.
Denise thanked the Hospitality Team and Cluster Reps and spoke about the Volunteer Luncheon held the previous day. Parents were reminded that rising 9th grade students are eligible to take the online Economics/Personal Finance course this summer. Denise mentioned that the School Board is looking at later start times for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Faculty Report:** Jim Rose thanked the PTSA for feeding the students during AP Exam weeks. He said the schedule on Wednesday, 5/9, would be flipped (4-3-2-1) for Juniors. AP Exam weeks will be followed by SOL Testing. TJ Star and J-Day will be held the 5/31 and 6/1. Final Exams will be given from 6/5 – 6/15. He introduced faculty members Alex Pou, Sharon Sneed, and Michael Auerbach. Michael Auerbach, who is the Senior Class sponsor, mentioned there is only one Senior Skip Day and it is on 5/18. Unexplained absences will be unexcused. Senior Switch Day is scheduled for 6/4. He reminded parents that many Seniors still need to pay $25 for their graduation cap and gown.

**Principal’s Report:** Principal Evan Glazer shared photos of the play, lacrosse, Techstravaganza (4/14), the Track and Field team, the State Science Fair at ODU, and the US Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC. He said that Senior Skip Day is not FCPS-sanctioned.

The deadline for applying to summer school is 5/11. This year, TJ will offer an outreach programs for middle school students. Northrop-Grummann is funding 100 scholarships, 25 of which will go to students from Washington, DC. TJ STEMbassadors is looking for parents liaisons in 30 school neighborhoods. They would like to put together a team of five TJ students to mentor students for 2-3 weeks over the summer. The STEMbassadors’ reception will be held on 6/4. Teacher Appreciation Week is next week.

Dr. Glazer said that following TJ’s orientation to online classes, students were less interested in taking an online course as a 7th course, but more interested in taking it as an 8th course. He noted that there is a fee for taking an 8th course. The most popular course is Economics & Personal Finance, followed by AP Economics and Online PE. He asked parents to speak with their child about the demands and to address the additional stress inherent in taking 8 courses.

TJ STAR, which stands for “TJ’s Symposium To Advance Research”, will be held on 5/31. Student presenters are to dress professionally. Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation, will be the keynote speaker. Parents are invited to visit during their student’s presentation.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Frances Kim reviewed highlights from the Budget vs. Actual Report (Jul-May) including Cash Donations ($6616; 102%), Directory Sales ($11,775; 112%), Membership (13,770; 110%), and Free Money (16K; 106%). She reviewed select Expense items including Faculty Allocation ($4900; 33%), Cluster Parties and ANGP Sales. As Cluster Parties and ANGP Sales are well below budget, Frances said that she is anticipating many check requests for these events. She asked that people turn in all of their receipts to help the PTSA budget accurately next year.

**AP Breakfasts/Snacks:** Celeste asked parents to sign up for any of eleven 1-2 hour shifts.
**ANGP:** Bruce Summers and Deidre Jimenez-Defoe 75% of budget; $50K to the PTSA! They urged parents to volunteer for ANGP, as they still have 80 open slots from 8pm to midnight. Bruce and Deidre said they are still looking for additional donations and thanked Shawn DeRose’s wife for being exceedingly generous. Bruce and Deidre thanked Frances Kim for being a fantastic treasurer!

**Booster Groups:** There were no reports made. Denise asked parents to check TechCetera for the latest Booster Club’ news.

**Partnership Fund:** Hilde Kahn announced that the Partnership Fund just made a $100,000 donation to TJ. Hilde asked that parents of graduating seniors consider making a donation in the name of their student’s favorite TJ teacher. This year, the Partnership Fund has a $5K matching fund for such donations.

**New Business:**

**Reflections:** All TJ entrants won at the Cluster level. In addition, two TJ students advanced to the next level.

**Zach Brunt:** Denise spoke about the memorial service for TJ Alumni Zach Brunt. Denise said that ~200 members of the TJ Community attended the memorial service for Zach, where they shared many memorable stories of a unique young man. Denise asked that all members of our community work together to keep TJ kids happy and safe.

**Announcements:** The proposed PTSA Officer Slate will be voted on at the next PTSA meeting on June 7.

**Adjournment:** Denise Bunting adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.