Principal’s Coffee and Board and General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013
9:30am – 11:00am
Cafeteria


Call to Order: PTSA President Celeste Fritzson called the meeting to order at 9:30am in the TJ Cafeteria.

President’s Report: Celeste Fritzson
- Celeste Fritzson presented the March minutes for approval. The minutes were approved as written by Pam Swift and Lisa Savage.
- Celeste thanked the Hospitality Committee for the morning refreshments.
- Ethics Week. Lakshmi Bala and Celeste have talked with the 8th period service club Building a Better Community to see how the PTSA can help sponsor an Ethics Week Program, April 29-May 4.
- Diversity Outreach Event on May 4. This event, open to all 4th-7th graders, is targeted to under-represented groups, to encourage an interest in STEM. Volunteers are needed. Contact Grace Becker or Celeste.
- Class of 2017 Freshman Preview Night. Online notifications of acceptance to TJ were extended to 8th graders. April 10 is Freshmen Preview Night, and the PTSA will focus on getting all new families to sign up for their welcome parties.
- Stress Less, Laugh More Campaign before AP Exams. From April 20- May 3, the 8th period Active Minds Chapter will bring their program to the school to help students lessen stress by laughing. The PTSA has been asked to contribute baked goods on Monday, April 29. Please bring them into the front office.
- Guest Speaker at Next meeting. Intervention coordinator Mark Forgash, who was recently featured in This Week at TJ, will speak about his role in the school. He is here to help students and families if they are on the B average watchlist.

Nominating Committee Report: Leslie Culman-Dupree
The Committee announced they are still accepting nominations for PTSA officers of executive committee. Leslie stressed being on the committee is a great way to be involved. Applications can be submitted online, and the form can be found on the PTSA website, as well as linked in the Tech cetera and This Week at TJ.

Principal’s Report and Informal Discussion: Dr. Evan Glazer

Dr. Glazer announced that he would cover some general announcements then launch into some “hot topics”.
- AP Weeks in May: There is a provision that allows students to request a half day pre-arranged absence per AP exam, depending on frequency and timing of the exams. A form was sent out via email, and it is a guideline for AP exams and testing. Dr. McDowell is the point of contact for questions.
- Point of Contact Per Class: Dr. Glazer introduced Vera Woodson, the temporary class of 2015 administrator for the remainder of the year; Ms. Woodson is covering for Dr. Sondel, who is taking a professional development opportunity. Mr. Bermudez is the junior class administrator and Ms Bosley, the senior class administrator.
- Course Verification: Parents are asked to verify the courses that their student has signed up for for the 2013-2014 school year. An email was sent to each family, and you did not receive a course verification email, contact Mr. Kosatka. Dr. Glazer noted that the administration wants parents to be instrumental in making sure their students are choosing courses that are appropriate for them.
- Back to School Night. Dr. Glazer delivered advance warning that Back to School Night will be presented in two shifts (late afternoon – early evening and early evening- late evening) on the same day. Although the administration realizes this presents an inconvenience for working parents, parking and traffic flow is a concern with the ongoing renovation.
**Special Note:** The PTSA budget was not presented at this meeting. Attached to the minutes is the budget in electronic format.

**Announcements and Upcoming Events**

- **SGA's Report: President Allison Chou**
  - Allison noted the success of Service Week, March 11-15.
  - Next big event is May 31, Friday – J-Day, a huge festival that highlights the different 8th period clubs.
  - Allison noted that tomorrow is the Senior Class talent show from 7-10pm, to be preceeded by a possible paint party.
  - Other upcoming activities by class: Seniors are focusing on Prom and ANGP, Juniors are gearing up for a movie night, Sophomores just wrapped up the Pi-miler run, and Freshmen class is going to Camp Highroads for outdoor extravaganza.
  - Allison pointed out that if your student is interested in SGA, the election meetings are going on this week. Packets are available on the internet, and there are four class councils, each with subsets of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. In addition there are four positions on Student Advisory Council which is a country wide program.

- **Dr. Glazer Continues Discussion with Hot Topics**
  - **Homework over School Breaks:** Dr Glazer reiterated the school policy that teachers should not accelerate the curriculum over the break, and he stressed that student advocacy should be the first step towards combatting any perceived additional homework given over breaks. However additional measures may be needed such as student discussing with counselor and if multiple concerns are voiced then the administration gets involved. One parent recommended that the Homework Policy be posted to the intranet, so that students are able to advocate for themselves by referencing the Homework Policy document.
  - **Integrity:** Dr. Glazer noted that the school leadership has been struggling with how to address academic dishonesty with the students. TJ has an Honor Code in place, but cheating does occur and needs to be addressed in a myriad of ways. Dr. Glazer noted that we would like to hope that no student would tolerate academic dishonesty. There are mechanisms in place to report cheating, but often times students feel compromised when reporting. So instead Dr. Glazer encourages parents and students to report the name of the classroom/teacher in which cheating appears to be widespread. Dr. Glazer did voice that “closure” to a cheating incident is difficult because of privacy issues. One parent noted that distributing the Integrity Policy at back to School Night might be good re-enforcement, while another parent asked about signing off on the Honor Code policy every time a test is administered.
  - **Character Issue:** Dr. Glazer shared with parents that around the third week of March, benign school Facebook groups turned malicious, and the administration became involved when the school logo was used. Facebook shut down those sites using the school logo, but other sites started sprouting up, many with offensive comments (bullying) that can damage the reputation of the school. The school leadership team decided to start a positive messaging strategy. which seemed to have nipped the problem in the bud, but this has elevated the issue of electronic bullying. Dr. Glazer stressed that if you are aware of bullying and matters of safety and security, approach the administration. One parent voiced concern that some of these sites may still be operational and that they are open sites.
  - **Renovation:** Dr. Glazer noted that there will be a town hall meeting on April 25 for interested parents to meet with the contractors, design team and architects to discuss the specific issues facing TJ during the renovation process; questions may be submitted in advance. Also on TJ’s home page, the Renovation link (http://www.tjhsst.edu/renovation/renovation.php) gives a detailed by date analysis of the renovation as well as a youtube video.

**Announcements and Upcoming Events**

- April 29-May 3 is the Active Mind’s Laugh More Stress Less campaign and food donations are needed
- Support Safe Community Coalition by purchasing a $10 card for a fashion event. All proceeds go back to SCC.
- Partnership Fund encourages junior parents to support their student’s junior lab.

**Adjournment:** Celeste adjourned the meeting at 11:10am.
## Income

### Contribution from Membership
- Cash Donations: 6,448.00
- Matching Funds Programs: 328.35
- Total Contribution from Membership: 6,776.35

### Directory
- Directory Sales Income: 9,390.00
- Directory Advertising Income: 1,450.00
- Directory Costs: -4,303.20
- Total Directory: 6,536.80

### Membership Dues
- Dues Received: 11,438.66
- Dues Paid (Nat'l, State, Local): -2,723.50
- Total Membership Dues: 8,715.16

### Miscellaneous Income
- Miscellaneous Income: 729.25

### Free Money Programs
- Free Money Program Income: 12,722.10
- Total Free Money Programs: 12,722.10

### Total Income
- Total Income: 35,479.66

## Expense

### PTSA Office
- Online Transactions Cost: 110.41
- Insurance: 529.00
- Miscellaneous Expenses: 768.47
- Mailings: 1,490.96
- Total PTSA Office: 2,898.84

### PTSA Programs / Committees

#### All Night Grad Party
- ANGP '13 Costs: 6,528.90
- ANGP '13 Donations: -9,871.10
- ANGP '13 Sales: -36,105.00
- ANGP Costs '12: 1,842.75
- Total All Night Grad Party: -37,604.45
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