
Call to Order: PTSA President Celeste Fritzson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm in the TJ Library, Room 240

President’s Report: Celeste Fritzson
- Celeste Fritzson presented the February minutes for approval. The minutes were approved as written by Natalie Goldring and John Moses.
- Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 Executive PTSA Committee: Celeste announced the Nomination Committee: Denise Bunting, Leslie Culman-Dupree, Yun Pang, Barbara Males, and Elizabeth Sierra-Murphy, with Hilde Kahn serving as an alternate. Nomination forms are available on the web site and are due by the end of March, extended now until April 7. The slate of new officers will be presented at the May Board and Membership meeting, and are voted in at the June meeting. Celeste asked for and received a motion to accept the six candidates for the Nomination Committee from Jim Rose and Heidi Wertz.
- Non- Fairfax counties participating in renovation cost: Celeste noted that due to the media attention about non-Fairfax counties being asked to participate in renovation cost, the PTSA has asked parent representatives from outside districts to invite their School Boards to take a tour TJ. Thus far, the Arlington School Board has visited the school.
- Governor’s School Cap: Celeste applauded the student representatives and parents who went to Richmond to talk with legislators and discuss legislation about student cap for Governor’s School. VA will provide Governor’s School funding for up to 1725 TJ students for fiscal year 2014. PTSA is considering inviting Dick Saslaw, Virginia Senator for 35 District, to a PTSA meeting to thank him for approving the increase in the funding and asking him to continue to advocate until all TJ students are fully funded.
- Protocol for Concerned Parents: Celeste noted the PTSA had been working with Student Services to document a protocol of communications for parents to address concerns involving their students. Dr Glazer elaborated that the protocol is for parents and is based on feedback from parents. Dr Glazer distributed a draft of the protocol, minus the specific administrator contacts, and this document will be posted to the TJ website.
- Interim Grades: Celeste drew attention to an upcoming Keep in Touch (KIT) message that would be sent out from the school as a reminder interim grades. Celeste encouraged students to advocate for themselves and speak with teachers about their grades, if there are concerns.
- AP Weighting for Post-AP Classes Offered at TJ: Celeste called Grace Becker, First Vice-President, to the floor to discuss the PTSA’s motion that the PTSA of TJHSST support the adoption of an FCPS Board Policy or FCPS Regulation so that all post-AP courses that have an AP prerequisite receive a weight of +1.0 and that the AP weighting apply retroactively for all current FCPS students. Grace explained that currently TJ offers 18 college level classes, some of which receive +0.5 Honors weighting and some receive the +1.0 weighting. Grace presented the motion to support the adoption of AP weighting (+1.0) for all college level classes. The resolution states: ‘The PTSA of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology supports the adoption of an FCPS Board Policy or FCPS Regulation such that all Post AP courses for which an AP course is a prerequisite will receive a weight of +1.0’. Sara Schneider approved and Natalie Goldring seconded to approve the motion. After discussion, the PTSA unanimously voted to support the resolution. The TJ 2012-2013 courses this motion would currently apply to are: Parallel Computing 1; Parallel Computing 2; Advanced Topics in Calculus; Mathematics Techniques for Scientists and Engineers; Neurobiology; Relativity, Electrodynamics and Quantum Mechanics; and Introductory Organic Chemistry with Instrumental Analysis.

SGA President’s Report: Allison Chou
- Allison highlighted the daily events of service week (March 11-15): Meaningful Monday, Toy Tuesday, Welfare Wednesday, Thrift Thursday Spirit Day, and Eco Friday.
- Allison noted that Capital Day on February 19, was a success.
- Allison pointed out that J-Day (Jefferson Day) Festival, the annual celebration of student culture, will take place on Friday, May 31.
Adjournment:

Faculty Report: Jim Rose
Jim thanked the PTSA for the Valentines Lunch and their support and noted that interims will be distributed March 8, in class.

Principal’s Report: Dr. Evan Glazer
- Dr. Glazer noted that he had pictures to show for the previous two months, since there were technical difficulties at last month’s PTSA meeting that prevented him from showing them. Pictures from I-Nite and the Science Fair were shown.
- Dr. Glazer stated that proceeds from I-Nite will go most toward renting a facility that has a large capacity, but there could still be the problem that demand exceeds supply. To view the recorded I-Nite: (http://psingh.smugmug.com/School/Kritika/TJ-I-Nite-2013/28031091_H386b8#i=2367466941&k=rhpnp6Z)
- Dr. Glazer noted that the faculty will join in the spirit of Service Week next week by using recycled paper. Depending on the cost effectiveness of this initiative, it could become a permanent one.
- Summer School: Dr. Glazer informed parents that a KIT will be sent out when summer school registration (for the science and technology institute, TJ summer school and outreach programs) becomes active. The Economics and Personal Finance course, a new FCPS requirement starting with the Class of 2015, is likely to be offered as a hybrid where students can attend the summer school course at their nearest base school. If a student is in a different school division, Dr. Glazer advised him/her to check with his/her counselor to make sure the credit will transfer. At the time, Dr. glazer was not aware if this Economics and Personal Finance course would be offered exclusively online.
- Renovation: Dr. Glazer stated that prospective contractors will place bid within the next few weeks and plans for the makeshift cafeteria upstairs are underway, with benchese already having been ordered. Administration expects that the new wing in the front which will house the research labs to be complete by Fall 2014. A video rendering of the new design can be found at http://www.tjhssst.edu/renovation/renovation.php. Dr. Glazer said that with the renovation, they are trying to preserve the legacy of the school.
- Answers to February’s Questions on Non-Fairfax Counties Contributing to Renovation Cost: Dr. Glazer and the PTSA shared with members last month about FCPS asking participating school divisions to contribute towards the renovation loan. Dr. Glazer reported that the FCPS School Board has stated that if school divisions do not participate toward renovation cost, then they may not send new students from their district after the graduating Class of 2017. Dr. Glazer noted that current students from participating districts would be not impacted. Dr. Glazer strongly encourages the members of the PTSA to advocate to keep TJ’s special status and increase awareness of the school by asking school board members to tour the school. Dr. Glazer also noted that Alexandria City may join TJ.

Treasurer’s Report: John Moses
John noted that copies of the budget were distributed on the tables. Cash donations amount to 99.2% of the PTSA income, with directory sales, PTSA dues, and PTSA donations contributing. On the expense side, the PTSA is low right now, but faculty allocations for the Spring will increase expenses. ANGP donations are exceeding projections, with expenses currently under budget.

Reflections: Heidi Werntz
Heidi noted that the national PTSA has run the Reflections competition for over 40 years to celebrate the creative gifts of students. Every Fall, students submit a work in any of the six categories, and Heidi finds judges to select the first prize winners, who then go on to Cluster 3 and District Competition. The entire process takes a year, and the list of categories and TJ winners are listed at the end of the minutes. Rebecca Merriman-Goldring, a sophomore whose won second place at the state recited her “World Rushing Past”. Heidi encouraged members to step forward and work with her next year.

PTSA Committee Reports
- Membership: Pam Swift noted that there are 856 PTSA members, comprised of 726 parents, 89 students and 41 faculty, and the PTSA is still accepting memberships for the 2012-2013 school year.
- ANGP: Laura Guth, ANGP Committee Chair noted that graduation is 100 days out. The ANGP will take place at Audrey Moore Rec Center, where seniors will have use of the pool. Laura noted that parent volunteers are needed to help with security and decorate.
- Database: Nancy Sharma, PTSA web master, noted that the PTSA wants to improve communications and web presence, since the current database is running on web development that Nancy wrote ten years ago. Nancy encouraged all those with experience with current content management systems, like Drupal or Joomla, to contact her.

Booster Group Reports: Hilde Kahn
Hilde noted that the Partnership Fund will soon launch the junior lab appeal, which raises average of $50,000 a year – all directed to the Class of 2014 Labs.

New Business and Upcoming Events
- Lakshmi Bala, noted that she attended 6th Grade Ethics Day, sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition, and was impressed with the event. Lakshmi and Celeste have met with the SCC to determine how to go about bringing an Ethics Day to TJ Seniors.
- Yuyan Zhou thanked the PTSA for their support of the chess event, which raised $200 for the chess team.

Adjournment: Celeste adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm.
2012-2013 “Magic of the Moment” Reflections Winners:

(1) Visual Arts:
   TJ PTSA Awards:
   First Place: Ji-Whae Choi and Jeong-in Seo*
   Second Place: Emily Zhou, Megan Ganley and Mimi Nguyen, Alison Li
   Third Place: Minjoo Kang and Youngjo Kim

   Cluster 3, District, and Virginia PTA:
   Jeong-in Seo, Outstanding Interpretation (1st Place) at both the Cluster 3 and district levels; Award of Excellence (2nd Place) for the state of Virginia.
   *Note, only one work may be submitted for further evaluation and Jeong-in Seo’s was selected.

(2) Photography:
   TJ PTSA:
   First Place: Rachel Merriman-Goldring
   Second Place: Katherine Lee
   Third Place: Priya Shankar
   Honorable Mention: Ravi Shankar

   Cluster 3:
   Rachel Merriman-Goldring, Award of Outstanding (1st Place)

(3) Film Production:
   TJ PTSA:
   First Place: Daniel Fritzson

   Cluster 3 and District:
   Daniel Fritzson, Outstanding Interpretation (1st Place) at the Cluster 3 level and Award of Excellence (2nd Place) at the district level.

(4) Music Composition:
   TJ PTSA:
   First Place: Shani Cave.
   Second Place: Noah Shin

   Cluster 3 and District Level:
   Shani Cave, Outstanding Interpretation at the Cluster 3 level and Award of Excellence at the district level.

(5) Literature:
   TJ PTSA:
   First Place: Kate Hao (prose); Becca Merriman-Goldring (poetry), *
   Second Place: Samuel Hsiang (prose) and You na An (poetry)
   Third Place: Disha Jain (prose) and Priya Shankar (poetry)
   Fourth Place: Danial Hussain
   Honorable Mention: Sreya Atluri
   * Note, only one work of literature may be submitted at the Cluster level and beyond, and Kate Hao’s work was selected.

   Cluster 3 and District:
   Kate Hao, Outstanding Interpretation (1st Place) at the Cluster 3 and an Award of Merit (2nd Place) at the district level.

Next year’s theme is “Believe, Dream, Inspire.” Submissions will be due Friday, October 25, 2013.