Board and General Membership Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2013  
7:00pm – 9:00pm  
Room 240 (new Library)

Attendees: Evan Glazer, Celeste Fritzson, Natalie Goldring, Lakshmi Bala, John Moses, Robin Hatanpää, Jim Rose, Allison Chou, Ginger Bugaighis, Meredith Haines, Carol Miranda, Ricardo Donate-Armada, Suresh Shanmugam, Michele Lezama, Hong Yan, Yuzhen Ge, Hilde Kahn, Wendy Wang, Jane Hsu, Daphna Oren, Baishali Maskeri, Carol Anne Kelly, Alice Tang, Natalie Paul, Barry Gingers, Jimmy Rose, Allison Chou, Ginger Bugaighis, Meredith Haines, Carol Miranda, Ricardo Donate-Armada, Suresh Shanmugam, Michele Lezama, Hong Yan, Yuzhen Ge, Hilde Kahn, Wendy Wang, Jane Hsu, Daphna Oren, Baishali Maskeri, Carol Anne Kelly, Alice Tang, Natalie Paul, Barry Gingers, Jimmy Rose, Allison Chou, Ginger Bugaighis, Meredith Haines, Carol Miranda, Ricardo Donate-Armada, Suresh Shanmugam, Michele Lezama, Hong Yan, Yuzhen Ge, Hilde Kahn, Wendy Wang, Jane Hsu, Daphna Oren, Baishali Maskeri, Carol Anne Kelly, Alice Tang, Natalie Paul, Barry

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 April minutes for approval. The minutes were approved as written by John Moses and Jim Rose.
- Celeste thanked the Hospitality Committee for the refreshments and welcomed attending new parents of incoming freshmen for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Celeste introduced Emily Zhou, a student member of the Cultivators of the Earth. Emily outlined the club’s efforts to preserve the school’s plants and shrubs during the renovation process. Carol Miranda, the PTSA Landscaping Committee Chair, noted that the efforts of the students have been great and asked that other parents consider volunteering for this committee.
- Celeste announced that in accordance with the by-laws the PTSA is giving thirty days advance notice to propose a vote that would increase membership dues from $15 to $25 (which includes online and one hardcopy student directory). Celeste noted the reason behind the increase is to couple the directory with the membership fee to avoid payment confusion. These minutes serve as a note that the general board has been notified, and the proposal will be voted on at the next meeting in June.
- Celeste noted three important PTSA events that require parental involvement and/or donations:
  1) **Diversity outreach event on May 4, 9am-12pm:** The PTSA has invited 4-7th graders from under-represented communities to the school to expose these students to STEM, to introduce them to the concept of TJ Admissions, and to work with STEMbassadors, Math Counts, and other hands-on science groups. There will be resources for parents, concessions, and greeters. A signup is being passed around for parents who are available to volunteer.
  2) **AP Exam Healthy Snack Break:** The PTSA is providing healthy snacks to the students during the break in the AP exam. Celeste noted that students are famished and nervous before the test and are ravenous after the first half of the exam. A signup is being passed around to volunteer to prepare and serve the treats.
  3) **Proctors for AP Exams:** The PTSA has been asked by the Administration to provide proctors for the exams. A signup is being passed around to volunteer for this task.

Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 Executive PTSA Committee: Chair Denise Bunting
Denise Bunting announced that the nominating committee (Denise Bunting, Leslie Culman-Dupree, Yun Pang, Barbara Malès, and Elizabeth Sierra-Murphy) would like to present the Nominees for the 2013-2014 PTSA Executive Committee:
- Grace Becker – President
- Michele Gonzalez – First Vice President
- Robin Hatanpää – Second Vice President
- Enit Lulushi – Treasurer
- Natalie Goldring – Recording Secretary
- Lakshmi Bala – Corresponding Secretary

Refer to Addendum I at the end of the minutes for more information on the Nominating Committee procedure and qualifications of the candidates. Denise requested additional nominees from the floor, and none were made.

Faculty Allocations Committee: Daphna Oren
- Daphna opened by thanking Mr. Jim Rose, a faculty member of the committee, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Refer to Addendum II for the Faculty Allocations Expenditures submitted for approval.
Daphna noted that a request for travel reimbursement for Dr. Glazer’s trip to Japan, although interesting and compelling, did not meet the Faculty Allocation requirements since travel is a cost not covered. However, Daphna recommended that the PTSA either consider making an amendment to the budget to cover the cost of this trip or perhaps use monies from a different committee to fund this important exchange with the Japanese school.

The remaining 11 submissions were for training sessions and conferences. Line Item 6 is more costly because of the specialization, while Line Item 10 is request for leadership and development conference for high school administrators principals and vice principals. The total amount of requested expenditures is $4176.6. See Addendum II.

Because no questions were taken from the floor, a motion was made by John Moses to approve the expenditures. This motion was seconded by Diane McKenziel.

SGA President’s Report: Allison Chou

- Allison noted that May 20 has been designated as Senior Skip Day. Dr. Glazer noted that the school does not sanction skipping school, and that as the parent of a senior, take the penalty for missing school, know your child’s wearabouts, and for safety and security reasons, seniors skipping school should not be on school campus.
- May 21 is College T-shirt day, and seniors are encouraged to wear the college shirt of the school they will be attending.
- Allison announced that the SGA is preparing for J-Day, a school festival that emphasizes the diverse 8th period clubs at the school on Friday, May 31.
- SGA completed elections, and Allison introduced next year’s board: Joey Valery (President- 2014), Dennis Kim (Vice President- 2015), Jenny Kim (Secretary- 2015) and Andrew Howard (Treasurer- 2016).

Faculty Report: Jim Rose

- Mr. Rose thanked the PTSA for the Teacher’s Appreciation Lunch, as well as for funding Techstravaganza.
- Mr Rose noted the upcoming busy school schedule: AP exams two week testing period, SOL tests administered, Memorial Day holiday, tjSTAR, and then J-Day. June 3-7 is perhaps the only week of uninterrupted studies!

Principal’s Report: Dr. Evan Glazer

- **Slideshow and Surprise Presentation:** Dr. Glazer began his report with a slideshow of students in action over the last month, with some additional surprise photographs of Dr. Glazer. The meeting was temporarily “hijacked” by the Executive Board to recognize Dr Glazer’s runner up status as Principal of the Year. Carol Rycklik and Eric Mailes, both contributed to the application that President Celeste Fritzson submitted, and they delivered speeches honoring and congratulating Dr. Glazer.
- **May 29- tjSTAR:** Dr. Glazer noted parents will be receiving invitations to attend their child’s session, and he also called attention to TJ’s success at the state Science and Engineering Fair, where TJ students took all the grand prizes.
- **US News and World Report Rankings:** Dr. Glazer discussed TJ’s ranking of 4th in the US News and World Report Best Public High school ranking, and he noted that what it boils down to is that our post AP courses are not taken into consideration, nor are the actual AP scores, only the proportion passed. At this juncture, Dr Glazer feels strongly that TJ should not become a School of AP. Note: average number of AP courses taken per student at TJ is 7 and average AP score is 4.5, which is the highest of the schools.
- **Renovation:** Dr. Glazer presented the following assessment on renovation: fencing on the property is being used to identify work spaces (ie, where to expect demolition), shrubbery is being moved and trees will come down soon, old bookshelves in library will be available to anyone who can use them, the old library will be the first section of the building to be demolished, and traffic is being rerouted with the access road becoming the dropoff area. Information on the Town Hall meeting about renovation can be found at [http://www.tjhsst.edu/renovation/4-25-13%20TownHall.pdf](http://www.tjhsst.edu/renovation/4-25-13%20TownHall.pdf)
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Dr Glazer noted that next week is official Teacher Appreciation week, and a great way to show staff parent/student appreciation is to write teachers notes about the impact they have had. Dr. Glazer reminded everyone purchasing gifts that gifts should be less than $25 in value as stipulated by FCPS.

Interventions Specialist: Mark Forgash

- **Background:** Mr. Forgash was introduced as the Interventions Specialist at TJ, a vital role that he started in November. With his background in teaching and masters in education, Mr. Forgash has worked with struggling students at Stuart before coming to TJ.
- **Role at TJ:** Mr. Forgash noted that his role is to identify students who are struggling in math and science and work with teachers and parents to put a plan in place. Mr. Forgash has conducted surveys and has found that increased collaboration between teachers, 8th period peer tutoring, and recognition of his role has been favorably viewed.

Treasurer’s Report: John Moses

- **Approval of the Audit:** It has come to the attention of the PTSA that the audit has not been approved at a general meeting. Therefore, a motion was made by John Moses and seconded by Denise Bunting to approve the July 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012 audit, which was found favorable by an outside auditor. All PTSA members voted in favor of approving the audit. The audit can be found on the PTSA website.
- **Amazon Link:** John noted that parents should continue to make amazon purchases through the PTSA website portal.
PTSA Committee Reports:

**Diversity Committee Chair: Michele Gonzalez**

*Introduction:* Celeste Fritzson introduced the new Diversity Committee Chair, Michele Gonzalez, who was appointed by the PTSA Executive Board. Ricardo Corzo will be assisting her. Mrs. Gonzalez addressed how she would like to promote diversity, by encouraging the under-represented students to take an interest in STEM and apply to TJ. Ms. Gonzalez noted that she welcomes everyone’s help and ideas and invited everyone to the next Diversity Meeting.

*Outreach Program:* Saturday, May 4, is the Diversity Outreach program at the school where over 1,000 under-represented students and parents receive information on outside resources, and receive advice on nurturing STEM. Volunteers are still needed.

*Parent Question:* A parent asked why the Diversity Committee head position is not represented by two individuals, and Celeste Fritzson noted that PTSA bylaws state that committees can not have co-chairs because each committee gets one vote. Because Michele was prepared to step up and take on the work when the former Chair, Michele Lezama, resigned, the Executive Board appointed Mrs. Gonzalez Chair.

**Membership: Pam Swift**

Pam noted that the PTSA has already signed up 100 new members from the incoming freshman class. In addition, several parents joined this evening in order to vote.

**ANGP: Laura Guth**

Laura noted that the All Night Grad Party is less than 6 weeks away, and volunteers are still needed. In addition, shadow volunteers are needed from the junior class, since next year they will be planning this event.

**New Business: Ricardo Donato-Armada**

Ricardo Donato, a TJ parent and Diversity Committee volunteer, presented a slideshow on diversity at TJ. He noted that he became involved because he wants to give back to the school, and he has helped lead the TJ prep admissions test for the Diversity Committee.

**Adjournment:** Natalie Goldring made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. This motion was seconded by John Moses.

The next PTSA monthly meeting will be held **Wednesday evening**, June 5, in Room 240. Refreshments will be served at 7pm, and the meeting begins at 7:30pm.
Addendum I

PTSA Nominating Committee Report, May 2, 2013

Nominating Committee:
The Nominating Committee (NC) is comprised of five TJ parents who either volunteered or were selected by officers of the PTSA Executive Committee, and who were approved by vote at the PTSA meeting on March 7, 2013. These members are: Elizabeth Sierra Murphy, Barb Males, Yun Pang, Leslie Dupree Culman and Denise Bunting.

Search for Officers:
The NC posted announcements regarding nominations on the TJ PTSA website, in "This Week at TJ", and in the Tech Cetera. Nominations were also requested at the March and April PTSA meetings. Finally, numerous emails were sent and many conversations held regarding prospective nominees.

Nomination Committee Meetings:
The nomination committee met on four occasions (March 20th, April 3rd, April 17th, and April 18th). At the first meeting, the committee elected Denise Bunting as chair. Nominees were asked to fill out the Nomination Form and every form was reviewed by all 5 committee members. Current Executive Board and Executive Committee members were contacted for information. Numerous phone calls and emails were exchanged regarding prospective nominees including interviewing a few of the candidates. Drawing from the pool of experienced and highly qualified nominees, the committee has sought to put together a slate of candidates who are representative of the diversity of the TJ community in terms of geographic location, TJ club and academic interests and affiliations, graduations class, as well as representative of a variety of volunteering and PTA/PTSA leadership experience at TJ and other schools. Following a final vote on the entire slate, NC members contacted each nominee. The Executive Committee was also contacted by email prior to this meeting.

Proposed Slate of Officers for the 2013-2014 School Year:
President: Grace Chung Becker (2015)
1st Vice President: Michele Gonzalez (2016)
2nd Vice President: Robin Hatanpää (2013 and 2015)
Treasurer: Enit Lulushi (2016)
Recording Secretary: Natalie Goldring (2013 and 2015)
Corresponding Secretary: Lakshmi Bala (2014)

Grace Chung Becker, from McLean, has served as TJ PTSA 1st Vice President for the past year and has volunteered at TJ in many other capacities including the College and Career Center, the Partnership Fund, and the front office. Grace has also served on the Fairfax County School Board's Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee, Human Resources Advisory Committee, and the Superintendent’s Business and Community Advisory Council. In addition, she has served as the President of the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted. Grace also speaks conversational Korean.

Michele Gonzalez, from Manassas, comes to us with many years of prior PTO experience. She was the PTO President of Parkside Middle School for 8 years, and the PTO Athletic Booster Representative and Auction Co-Chair for a number of years at Osbourn Park. Additionally, she served on numerous PTO committees in the schools of her other three children throughout their years in Prince William Public Schools. At TJ, Michele has been involved in the STEMbassadors program, volunteers in the front office, and is the Prince William Cluster Representative.

Robin Hatanpää, from McLean, has served as the PTSA Corresponding Secretary (2011-12) and Recording Secretary (2012-13). Additionally, Robin performs numerous other PTSA duties for the TJ community including serving as the coordinator for the incoming freshmen class’s welcome parties, the PTSA Roundtables, and co-coordinator of TJ’s Back-to-School Bash. She is also a member of the This Week at TJ team, is a TJ PTSA liaison to the Safe Community Coalition, is chairing the ticket sales for this year’s All Night Grad Party, is JV Field Hockey parent liaison, and is assisting in the PTSA Volunteer Coordinator and Hospitality duties. Finally, Robin has been instrumental in implementing the use of Signup Genius for many of our PTSA events.

Enit Lulushi, from Oakton, has a Masters Degree in math and computer science and has had extensive accounting and tax experience while performing the duties for her own company. At TJ, she is involved in the Jefferson Learning Community, the Partnership Fund Parent Advisory Board, STEMbassadors, and Crew Boosters.

Natalie Goldring, from Arlington, served as the PTSA Corresponding Secretary this past year. Additionally, she is part of the This Week at TJ team, is a Vice President of the Academic Boosters, and a member of the Faculty Allocations Committee. In Arlington County, Natalie is a Vice Chair of the Advisory Council on Instruction and its liaison to the Budget Advisory Council and serves on the Gifted Services Advisory Committee.

Lakshmi Bala, from Great Falls, served as PTSA 2nd Vice President this past year. She also has been the PTSA Hospitality Co-Chair for the past three years, and is the PTSA liaison for the Health and Wellness initiative.
The proposed slate of officers will be presented for a vote at the general meeting of the PTSA on June 4, 2013. Newly elected officers will take their office at the close of that meeting. In the case of absence or inability of the President to act during her term of office, the designated order of officers to perform the duties of president is Michele Gonzalez as 1st Vice President and then Robin Hatanpää as 2nd Vice President.

So, I’d like to end by thanking my fellow members on the nominating committee: Barb, Leslie, Elizabeth, and Yun, for working so diligently on our extremely important task. I’d also like to thank everyone who submitted a form, believe me, it’s not easy to make a decision when we have such qualified and enthusiastic parents. And of course, on behalf of the nominating committee, I’d like to thank everyone on the proposed slate for stepping up and volunteering your time and talents on behalf of the TJ PTSA and the TJ community.
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