Attendees: Evan Glazer (TJHSST Principal), Celeste Fritzson (PTSA President), Grace Becker (PTSA First Vice-President), Lakshmi Bala (PTSA Second Vice-President), John Moses (PTSA Treasurer), Robin Hatanpää (PTSA Recording Secretary), Natalie Goldring (PTSA Corresponding Secretary), and Tom Valery (TJHSST Partnership Fund Chairman) on stage and open audience before the annual back to School Night.

Call to Order: PTSA President Celeste Fritzson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm in the TJ Auditorium before a general assembly of parents attending Back to School Night.

President’s Report: Celeste Fritzson

- Celeste welcomed everyone to Back to School Night, where parents have the opportunity to meet amazing teachers and experience the TJ world.
- Celeste introduced the 2012-2013 PTSA Executive Board.
- Celeste presented the September minutes for approval. In an effort to go green, paper minutes were posted in the Auditorium before the meeting began. The minutes were approved as written by Christine Campe-Price and Art Fritzson.
- Celeste pointed out how PTSA membership dues benefited our school and why everyone should join.
- Celeste noted that renovations have already affected parking, and after the winter break, the library, cafeteria and college career center will be relocated. A new section on renovations will be added to the online Techcetera.
- Celeste highlighted the need for standardized communications among the school and noted that the PTSA is working with the Department of Student Services, the Department of Student Activities, as well as the Administration, to produce a periodic email with pertinent dates and information.
- Celeste noted that Honors weighting is now given to summer Geometry and noted an effort is underway to petition to apply Honors weighting to other TJ summer school courses (ones that are weighted during the school year) as well.
- Celeste encouraged parents and students to show their passion for STEM by volunteering for STEMassadors, which is headed this year by Eric Males.
- Celeste highlighted the new program, Health and Wellness, that the PTSA is focusing on to help TJ students deal with pressure and reduce stress.

Treasurer’s Report: John Moses

- John presented the budget on the overhead for view and noted that copies were available in the Auditorium. He projected revenues to total about $44,000, due in large part to membership dues, Free money program (in particular Amazon purchases via the PTSA portal) and directory sales.
- John noted that the PTSA Expenses fall into the following categories: Office expenses, School support, and Student support.
- A motion was made by Celeste Fritzson to approve the PTSA budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The motion was approved by Art Fritzson and Ann Burroughs Sun.

Partnership Fund Chairman Report: Tom Valery

- Tom noted that the Partnership Fund is a dedicated group of volunteers, parents, alumnae, and business partners who work together to create opportunities for TJ students.
- The Partnership Fund works to: provide opportunities for student mentorships, subsidize the unique needs of 13 labs (computers, software, equipment) at the school, sponsors tjSTAR, contributes grant toward school-wide One Question, subsidizes Techstravaganza, sponsors other outreach programs and brings keynote speakers into the school.
- Tom noted the goal is for 100% participation to help raise over $350,000. Tom noted it takes approximately $500 per student to cover the difference between what FCPS funds and the needs of the school. The Partnership Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit so deductions may be tax deductible.
- Donations can be made online or by check. Monthly installments through PF Sustainability Club are also welcome. Tom encouraged everyone to visit the PF website at http://tjpartnershipfund.org.
Principal's Report: Dr. Evan Glazer

- Dr. Glazer displayed a picture of visiting keynote speaker Dr. John Holdren, Senior Advisor to President Obama on science and technology issues, who delivered a presentations to Seniors in the Auditorium.
- Dr. Glazer discussed how the school year has begun with reflections about the One Question (“How does one balance the pressures of achieving personal academic success with the necessity of recognizing the fleeting nature of life and acting accordingly”) through the assigned summer reading, followed by book discussions and a movie during school hours.
- Dr. Glazer noted the goal for the 2012-2013 school year centers around the School improvement plan, which is based on the Action Plan developed in the Spring of 2012 by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This plan involved the faculty, parents, community and an accreditation team.
- Dr. Glazer noted the following priority areas for the TJ Program of Studies (PoS) by giving the analogy of a cake with frosting and layers, where the PoS and Standards of Learning (SOL) are the spongy, cake part; the frosting is the extra rigor (problem solving and research); and the decoration is the unique experiences that teachers and students bring to the table.
- Dr. Glazer pointed out how historical data and trends show that extra layers of intervention may need to be added. Administration is looking for early signs and patterns to help students before they face academic difficulties and noted the following interventions: 8th period help through peer tutoring, small groups and open tutoring, as well as meetings with counselors, parents and principal as the last resort.
- Dr. Glazer noted the high standards of the school and the amazing success of our students – over 99% of students maintain a 3.0 grade point average, highest number of Intel/Siemens semi-finalists ever in 2012, mean AP score of 4.5 with an average of 7.3 tests per student, and successful Olympiad participation.
- Dr. Glazer pointed out that the STEMbassadors program aims to have a presence at every school to promote the mission of TJ.
- Renovation: Dr. Glazer noted the process will take 4-5 years, with demolition beginning over the summer. The new capacity will give 40% more space, while maintaining enrollment at the same level. Some features: accessible courtyards, creating classroom environments connected with disciplines, and padded seats in the auditorium.
- Dr. Glazer ended the address with thanks to the volunteers, the PTSA, and the Partnership Fund.

Adjournment: Celeste adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.