
Call to order and President’s report: Grace Becker
The meeting was called to order at 7:37PM.
April minutes were approved. Recording the meeting was approved.

Grace Becker updated the group on several PTSA activities, including:
The cluster parties to welcome the class of 2018
The need for AP proctors – we were asked to provide almost 100 proctors
AP snacks – we fed 600 students today for morning exams we still need help bringing snacks and helping serve
The Teacher Appreciation lunch that the PTSA hosted in March
This Friday PTSA is putting together a basket of gifts – they will be in the old front office.

SGA President’s report: Joey Valery
Joey expressed “the student body’s undying gratitude for the snacks”! He announced the new SGA officers for 2014-2015:
Anant Das – President
Dennis Kim – Vice President
Parsa Zand – Secretary
Andrew Howard – Treasurer

JDay will be a bit different this year; many activities will be moved to the stadium because of construction. It will be June 6th in the afternoon. The theme is Avatar: The Last Airbender.
tjSTAR will be May 28th.

Teacher liaison Laura McConnaughey reported that the umbrellas the PTSA provided are a success! Teachers really appreciate the support they’re getting. Next year she would like to do a summary and welcome for the teachers so that teachers can better understand what the PTSA does. Natalie Goldring volunteered to help compile this material.
Principal’s report: Dr. Evan Glazer

Dr. Glazer offered several updates:

- TJ had a table at the USA Science and Engineering Festival.
- We have over 200 scholarship opportunities for the TJ summer institute because of our partnerships.
- “Stress Less Laugh More” week is the week before APs, as is traditional.
- Dr. Glazer then demonstrated functional aerobics. [Note: Unfortunately, video of this demonstration does not seem to be available.]
- He noted that faculty members participated in Urinetown and faculty choir.
- Even though Techstrav was at Holmes Middle School, we still ran the full program.
- For tjSTAR – parents of participating students may attend, but only during their students’ sessions.
- Expect approval of self-paced Economics and Personal Finance course any minute. Students can earn the credit remotely through a sequence of modules, working at their own pace. The course will be pass-fail.

Grace Becker: Will students only be able to take only one course this summer?
Dr. Glazer: Students will not be allowed to take more than one summer course without a waiver. I’d also have to have a conversation with the family before approving that. We want our students to have a summer break. Even the summer course is less demanding cognitively, we still want them to have a summer vacation.

Natalie Goldring: Perhaps students who are doing the one-semester research statistics class could take EPF as well?
Dr. Glazer: They generally shouldn’t be doing that concurrently with the 11 days of the research stats course.

Dr. Glazer: There will be modified schedules for AP exam weeks and for SOLs. Make sure you know where your students are!

Q: If our students are coming in late because they don’t have an SOL on a particular day, do we still need to call in or provide a note?
Dr. Glazer: Will send out a KIT with the schedule and information on whether parents need to call in.

Eric Malèse: What is the official policy on homework loads during AP weeks?
Laura McConnaughey: It’s very, very reduced.
Dr. Glazer: There isn’t a school policy on this. Ask students to approach teachers first if they have a concern. There is not an official policy of no homework. I assign homework. If I receive a note from a student or a parent, as I have, I ask if they’ve talked to the teacher. Next step is talking to the counselor and then to administrators.

Dr. Glazer reported that the homework committee is not yet at a point of consensus.
Robin Hatanpää responded, and said that a parent subgroup of the homework committee will meet with an administrator to present its proposals for ways forward.
Rick Monteverde: You don’t have a uniform student body with respect to experience. I teach sophomores.
Dr. Glazer: We discussed this at the last PTSA meeting. Our strategy is to try to work with students when they’re overloaded. But we’re trying to at least make some headway, and I hope we have some recommendations coming out at the end of the year. This are many different perspectives.

Treasurer’s Report: Grace Becker for Enit Lulushi

We have been getting some additional Faculty Allocations Committee requests, but we still have some money in our budget. Faculty Allocations has already made two rounds of grants, but expects to do another round of grants before the end of the year.

PTSA Committee and Booster Group reports

Hilde Kahn presented the Nominating Committee report and the nominees for the PTSA Executive Committee for 2014-2015, and introduced the proposed new members of the Executive Committee. Voting will be at the June 10th PTSA meeting.

Robin Hatanpää presented the Bylaws Committee report and the draft bylaws. [Note: The draft bylaws were posted on the PTSA website for review immediately after this meeting.] Contact Natalie Goldring with any changes or corrections.

Eric Malè reported on STEMbassadors: The summer STEMbassadors is increasing greatly in size. Last year, we supported more than 50 programs with over 200 STEMbassador volunteers, many of whom were not TJ students.

Right now, we have 18 FCPS schools without adult STEMbassador liaisons, and possibly quite a few Prince William schools that will need help as well.

Q: What is STEMbassadors?
Eric Malè: We partner with as many elementary and middle schools as we can to identify opportunities for volunteers to encourage STEM and spread the love of learning. At this point, 16 of 34 FCPS schools with summer Young Scholars programs do not have an adult Liaison to recruit volunteer high school students. [Note: For an updated list of schools that STEMbassadors plan to work with this summer, see: http://www.tjhsst.edu/~emglazer/stembassadors/STEMbassadors_summer14.pdf ]

Grace Becker reported on Bangra Bash, saying that TJ hasn’t had it recently. The organizers asked the PTSA for an initial outlay of about $700 to rent the space for June 20th. They anticipate 300—400 people in the audience. Any expenditure over $300 must be approved by the general membership.
Dr. Glazer: Is the request to have the money to reserve the space?
Grace Becker: Yes. It would basically be a PTSA event that would be held offsite.
Dr. Glazer: I think they've also approached the Athletic Boosters and have the sense they approved the proposal. If the PTSA pays the deposit, the responsibility for supervising falls on the PTSA.
Robin Hatanpää: We would also take on the liability. Part of the rental cost includes paying Herndon High School staff to do lights, curtains, etc.
Eric Malès moved to authorize an expenditure of $700 in the event that the PTSA is asked to sponsor Bangra Bash. Ginger Bugaighis seconded.

Hilde Kahn reported on the Partnership Fund’s “Honoring Faculty Appeal”, and encouraged parents to participate. She also pointed out that after tjSTAR, the Partnership Fund will have a reception at the Hilton. The Partnership Fund is giving Tommy awards to CISCO in acknowledgment of gifts for JCIRN and to Nysmith because of the education they've given so many students who have done great things to help TJ.

Eric Malès: Do you have suggestions for how people should think about the various categories for Partnership Fund donations such as Junior Lab appeal and the Honoring Faculty Appeal?
Hilde Kahn: Historically these have been separate appeals. But if people give the $1000 we’re suggesting for the renovation fund, they can designate labs and teachers to honor without making an additional donation.

Rowie Pangilinan reported on All Night Grad Party -- We’re 45 days from graduation, and $5000 short. But it just takes 40 tickets at $125 to bridge that gap. The biggest need is for volunteers. We need about 400 volunteers beginning at 2PM on graduation day through 7AM the next morning. The party starts at 10PM and ends at 5AM. We still have fewer than 200 volunteers.

Natalie Goldring reported on Academic Boosters – We need volunteers to step forward to replace the senior parents who will be leaving the committee. Academic Boosters raises funds for TJ’s two dozen academic teams. It keeps sponsors from having to pay expenses out of their own pockets, and allows parents to make contributions that may be tax-deductible.

Paula Mathews moved that the meeting adjourn, seconded by Rowie Pangilinan. Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

The last PTSA monthly meeting of the year will be on Tuesday June 10th. Light refreshments will be available at 7PM; the meeting will start at 7:30PM. Please note the date change!