TJHSST PTSA
Parent, Teacher, Student Association

TJHSST General Membership Minutes
October 2, 2013
6:15pm - 6:55pm
TJHSST Auditorium

Attendees: Evan Glazer (TJHSST Principal), Grace Becker (PTSA President), Michele Gonzalez (PTSA First Vice-President), Robin Hatapää (PTSA Second Vice-President), Enit Lulushi (PTSA Treasurer), Lakshmi Bala (PTSA Corresponding Secretary), Jennifer Simpson (TJHSST Partnership Fund Representative, Joey Valery (SGA President) on stage and TJ parents in audience between the Back to School Night sessions.

Call to Order: PTSA President Grace Becker called the meeting to order at 6:15pm in the TJ Auditorium before a general assembly of parents attending Back to School Night. Grace presented the September PTSA Minutes, which were projected onto the screen, for approval. Upon a motion by Jennifer Simpson, the minutes were approved as written.

SGA President: Joey Valery spoke about Homecoming festivities, noted the upcoming elections, pointed out that seniors are focusing on college applications, and drew everyone’s attention to the Jefferson dome being constructed outside.

President’s Report: Grace Becker
- Grace introduced the 2013-2014 PTSA Executive Board, as well as the new PTSA Faculty Liaison, Mrs. Laura McConnaughey, a TJ math teacher who was recently named the Raytheon Math Hero.
- Grace noted that Student Directories are being sold in the gym and that for the first time, a free directory comes with a PTSA membership. Grace apologized for the number of missing freshman in the directory and attributed this to the change in protocol that allowed for incoming freshman to register online vs coming to the school last spring.
- Grace called attention to the different volunteer opportunities available, from producing the Student Directories to heading the All Night Grad Party.
- Drawing attention to the 2011-2012 FCPS Youth Survey, Grace noted that over 40% of 10th and 12th graders in Fairfax County (and at TJ) admitted to being a victim or an aggressor of racial or cultural harassment. Because of TJ’s diverse population, diversity training speaker Mauricio Velasquez is coming to speak to the students during 8th period on October 9, and to the parents on October 23 in the evening at the Diversity meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Enit Lulushi
- Grace presented a brief overview of the budget, projected onto the screen, noting the projected incomes and expenses for the 2013-2014 year. Grace asked for a motion to approve the budget, and Enit, on behalf of the Budget Committee, moved that the 2013-2014 PTSA budget be adopted. Grace noted that since the motion came from the Committee, a second is not required. Grace asked for questions from the floor and all in the audience were in favor of approving the budget.
Grace presented a brief overview of the PTSA Audit. Enit Lulushi, as head of the Audit Committee, moved to adopt the audit report. A second was not required, since the motion came from a committee. A vote was made to approve the audit with no dissenting votes, so the audit report will be forwarded to the Virginia PTA as part of the requirements for non-profit, tax exempt status, and the approved audit report will be available on the PTSA website.

**Partnership Fund Vice-Chair Report: Jennifer Simpson**

Jennifer noted that the Partnership Fund is a nonprofit organization to support TJHSST. Campaign for TJ is the Partnership Fund’s 8 million dollar new fundraising campaign to support the unmet needs of the school (research labs, technology, turf fields, humanities) especially during renovation. Jennifer discussed the various ways funds are being raised and encouraged everyone to participate.

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Evan Glazer**

- Dr. Glazer noted that the current TJ building was built in 1964 and discussed the different areas in which the renovation will improve the school.
- Dr. Glazer discussed how the school year has begun with reflections about the One Question through the assigned summer reading (*Drive* by Daniel Pink), followed by book discussions and culminating in Mr. Pink’s visit to the school later in the school year.
- Dr. Glazer noted that in an effort to improve the TJ Program of Studies (PoS) that a “learning goal” will be defined for each TJ course and this information will be posted to the website. Dr. Glazer referenced his cake analogy - where the PoS and Standards of Learning (SOL) are the spongy, cake part, while 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 that the STEMbassadors program, which promotes the TJ mission of giving back to the community in the form of encouraging a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, now encompasses 50 different schools, and that parental involvement is still needed.
- Dr. Glazer noted that a survey on academic integrity, with the purpose of focusing on the culture of integrity in TJ, had been sent out via email to the community. Dr. Glazer pointed out that the honor code is being shortened and updated, that a student honor council is being established and that additional consequences have been put in place for academic violations. Dr. Glazer also focused on the role of the parent as being a good role model and encouraged students to be advocates for themselves.
- Dr. Glazer thanked the volunteers, the PTSA, and the Partnership Fund.

**Adjournment:** Grace adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm.