



General Membership Meeting Minutes

October 14th , 2021 at 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Attendees:

Executive Committees: President Harry Jackson, First Vice President Li Yang, Second Vice President Jun Wang, Treasurer Himanshu Verma, Corresponding Secretary Hanning Chen, Secretary Laura Marschoun, TJHSST Principal Dr. Ann Bonitatibus.

Committee Chairs: Family Engagement Committee Chair Ms. Shawnna Yashar, College Outreach Committee Chair Ms. Tanuja Ghodgaonkar

Others: Parliamentarian Mr. Steven Berke, VA PTA Support Team consisting of Ms. Debbie Kilpatrick, Ms. Pam Croom, Larry Mills.

Other TJPTSA Members and parents, as high as 120 participants

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

President Harry Jackson opened the meeting by advising all present of the rules of the meeting, such as how to raise a hand to be recognized and to only speak after being recognized.

The Meeting proceeded without an official call to order.

The president screen-shared the meeting agenda and briefly read off the main agenda items.

The secretary moved to add the First VP and Second VP as the co-hosts of the Zoom meeting.

- The president ruled that an improper motion because per the bylaws, the president shall preside over the meetings
- Mr. Davidson raised Point of Order, affirming the ruling of the president and informed the assembly that the assembly can change the presiding rule by creating a standing rule but that the motion as raised is improper at this time
- The secretary appealed the ruling of the president, stating that co-hosting in zoom-meeting refers to managing the technology and has nothing to do with presiding over the meeting.
- The motion was seconded by a member

- Mr. Ranjan was recognized and he stated that he supported the secretary's motion.
- The president reiterated that the bylaws dictates that the president shall preside in all meetings
- Mr. Davidson was recognized for the second time and re-stated his previous points and said, *"I simply suggest that they do not understand the rules, and are trying to tear up the constitution and bylaws"*.
- Ms. Heretick stated that from a technology standpoint, having co-hosts is a good idea, and she supported the motion.
- Ms. Margulies spoke in favor of Mr. Davidson, that the law should prevail and stated that one can not anticipate any potential disaster, for example an asteroid can hit us.
- The secretary asked for the parliamentarian Mr. Berke's opinion. ----- Request for clarification was not verbally recognized by the President.
- The president called on Mr. Davison and Ms. Margulies again as they still had their hands up. They lowered their hands without comment.
- The secretary moved to end the debate.
- The president conferred with Mr. Berke.
- The president asked if there is an objection to ending debate,
- Mr. Miller expressed that ten minutes had passed and he had expected that this meeting was going to talk about students, programs, and other valuable topics. He suggested that the meeting move on and start doing the PTSA's business.
- The president put a poll up on ending debate:
 - 81% of votes cast approved ending debate (44 votes); 11% of votes cast opposed (7 votes), 7% of votes abstained (4 votes). The president mentioned that about half of the meeting participants voted.
 - The motion to end debate passed.
- Mr. Davidson stated that just because the members vote a certain way, does not mean their wishes should be granted if that wish violates the bylaws.
- Ms. Margulies reiterated once again that the law should prevail.
- The parliamentarian reminded the president that the members had voted to end debate; therefore the president should present the next poll.
- Poll: Shall the ruling (that Ms. Marschoun's motion was improper) of the chair be sustained:
 - 20% voted for the ruling, 67% voted against, and 14% abstained
 - The ruling of the chair is not sustained
- The main motion of the secretary on co-hosting is back to the floor and open for debate
- The president recognized Mr. Davison and Ms. Margulies again as they still had their hands up. They lowered their hands without comment.
- The secretary moved to end debate and was seconded.
- Mr. Rivers objected to ending debate and asked why the motion was raised .
- Ms. Margulies alerted the president that, on the chat, Mr. Davison accused the VPs of planning to attack the president and move to remove him as president that night.
- *From chat file: 19:22:57 From Brian Davison : "Because the VPs plan to attack Harry and ask for him to be removed as President tonight."*
- The president put the poll up on ending debate:

- 71% voted to end debate, 25% voted against, and 4% abstained
- The motion to end debate passed
- Poll of the main motion: to appoint the First and the Second VP as co-hosts:
 - 79% voted in favor, 18% against, 3% abstained
 - Motion passed
- President made the First and the Second VP co-hosts on the Zoom platform

Ms. Margulies moved to add an additional item to the agenda: to change the dues structure of the 2021-22 membership fees requesting it be voted upon prior to the discussion of the budget. The motion was seconded.

- The parliamentarian stated that according to the bylaws, members had to be informed at least 30 days prior to a vote on dues modification; therefore, the motion was out of order.
- The president asked the parliamentarian to quote the specific section of the bylaws supporting his opinion and clarify which version of the bylaws applies (2019 or 2021).
- Mr. Davison raised a Point of Order and stated that the VAPTA has no authority to change TJPTSA bylaws adopted in 2019. He argued that the TJ PTSA 2019 bylaws are still in effect and are being used for this meeting
- The parliamentarian stated that he was instructed by the president on several occasions that the 2021 uniform bylaws superseded the 2019 bylaws.
- The president stated that he is not the authoritative source in this matter, and this is why he hired the parliamentarian for guidance.
- The parliamentarian stated that in his opinion the TJ 2019 bylaws should be considered
- The parliamentarian stated that the 2019 Bylaws and the 2021 Uniform Bylaws have similar Article 5 Section 8 provisions requiring 30-day notice to the members regarding a vote on dues changes.
- Mr. Davison moved to amend the motion on the floor, from a request for a vote, to a request for discussion of a change in the dues structure of the 2021-22 membership fees because if it was approved, the change would impact the budget proposal. It was seconded by Ms. Margulies.
- Mr. Davison mentioned that the funds required for PTSA programs should not be raised from membership dues, and lowering the dues will make the PTSA more accessible; therefore, it is important to have the discussion at this meeting.
- Mr. Torrico stated confusion about which version of the bylaws the TJ PTSA should be using.
- Ms. Croom stated that when the VA PTA Board of Directors, which is responsible for the bylaws of the association (per VA PTA Bylaws,) decided to use the uniform bylaws, it instructed local units to transfer their approved local unit's information in their bylaws to the new organizational structure form and any changes to what was already to their bylaws be brought back to the membership body to be approved. Therefore, the local units are still to abide by their approved bylaws, including the president-elect position.

- Poll was presented to vote on the motion on the floor to add discussion of proposed changes to the 2021-22 membership fee structure:
 - 32 (35%) voted in favor, 57 (63%) voted against, 2 (2%) abstained
 - Motion failed
- Mr. Davison moved for division of the house and a roll call vote. Ms. Margulies seconded. Poll was taken:
 - 11 (14%) voted in favor, 61 (79%) voted against, 7 (7%) abstained
 - Motion failed

Mr. Davidson moved and Ms. Margulies seconded before the motion was stated.

Mr. Davison moved to add an information item to the agenda to discuss the VAPTA SOA letter and the TJ HR report following the budget item.

- Mr. Davison spoke regarding his motion.
- Ms. Kilpatrick stated that the co-hosts' votes should be as private as possible.
- Poll was taken:
 - 14 (19%) voted in favor, 53 (74%) voted against, 8 (7%) abstained
 - Motion failed

Ms. Margulies moved to add to the agenda to create standing rules to have all the EC/EB meetings to be recorded and made available to general members. Mr. Davison seconded.

- Mr. Jackson stated his support for the motion.
- Ms. Marschoun raised point of order which Mr. Davison stated was out of order
- Discussion back and forth between Mr. Jackson and Mr. Davison.
- Ms. Marschoun tried to raise another point of order which once again Mr. Davison stated was out of order.
- Mr. Jackson re-stated his opinion supporting the main motion.
- Mr. Davison had his turn to speak again and stated his opinion in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Torrico stated that some people are better at speaking in public than others therefore he is concerned that the recording is more of a display of such ability than the substance of the discussion.
- Mr. Jackson stated his same opinion again in support of the motion.
- Ms. Margulies stated support for the recording
- Ms. Croom stated that as a private entity there is no provision in the governing documents that requires or otherwise compels the VA PTA to video or audio record meetings or to allow others to do so; it is not a practice of VAPTA and because it sets a precedent on a matter not addressed in the governing documents or past practice, they do not choose to permit this on an ad-hoc or situational basis.

- Ms. Dunlop stated that one does not need to record meetings and is why we have minutes prepared by the recording secretary.
- Mr. Davison stated that every single School Board meeting is recorded.
- Ms. Cox moved the previous question. A member seconded it.
- Poll to end debate:
 - 66 (87%) voted in favor, 7 (9%) voted against, 4 (4%) abstained
 - Motion passed
- Ms. Keating introduced herself and reminded everybody that the main focus of the TJ PTSA is the students and the community and that everyone should move on and forgo the mechanics of the rules. She moved to suspend the rules to have the principal's report. This motion was ruled out of order.
- Poll on agreeing to Mr. Davison's standing rules imposed to the EC/EB meetings:
 - 10 (13%) voted in favor, 64 (81%) voted against, 5 (6%) abstained
 - Motion failed

Ms. Keating moved to suspend the rules to recognize the principal so she can deliver her report and then return to the discussion on the agenda:

- 80 (94%) voted in favor, 4 (5%) voted against, 1 (1%) abstained
 - Motion passed
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- Principal delivered her report:
 - She reminded everyone about the conversation that she had with Mr. Jackson and that he had agreed to address the members.
 - Mr. Jackson addressed his interview with the Wall Street Journal. He mentioned that he was misquoted and that he will send an email to the WSJ for corrections
 - She updated the status of Covid: it has been 3 weeks without any cases
 - FCPS will take input from the communities regarding random testing, with parents' approval, of the students who have not been vaccinated. Not-fully vaccinated staff and winter athletes will be required to do random testing.
 - She reported a successful homecoming event
 - Fall athletics came to a conclusion and Senior Nights were a success.
 - Performing Arts clubs have been having a good season.
 - Fall Musical (School of Rocks) was a very successful event. March 12, 2020 was the last time the TJ community came together for their Spring Musical
 - Challenge Success Team will have a few asynchronous online events and a few in-person events. She reminded everyone that the goal for the CS Team was to stress the importance of sleep, to decouple workload from rigor, and to manage expectations.

- TJ will continue to work to utilize the federal grant, ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund. The grant will be used mainly in academic areas, such as tutoring, both after school and weekends.
- An internal survey went to the students on their feelings about their academics, asking if there are any changes behaviorally and cognitively about their way of learning. The result will be shared in about a month.
- FCPS has also given their yearly Youth Survey; as well as the SEL Screener Survey
- She shared the following to the chat previously and she re-stated her comment:
 - *My heart is breaking for our community. We have wonderful children, returning to school and doing their best in a pandemic, going through triumphs and challenges, connecting with amazing teachers and coaches, and are deserving of our focus. May we find common ground to focus on giving our best for our children?*

Mr. Davison moved to suspend the rules to allow the SGA President to deliver his remarks. No objection was raised and no poll was taken

- Unfortunately, the SGA President was not in attendance at that time.

Ms. Cox moved to extend the meeting so all the agenda items could be addressed. A few members seconded it.

- The president asked the parliamentarian whether they could extend the meeting since the agenda had not been approved and the original call of the meeting was 7-9 pm. Mr. Berke answered that since the agenda has not been approved there is no limit on how long a meeting can last until there is a motion to adjourn and is approved by the members.
- Mr. Davison moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Margulies seconded it. This motion was ruled out of order as Ms. Cox was still on the floor.
- Poll to suspend the rules to extend the meeting so all the agenda items could be discussed:
 - 65 (84%) voted in favor, 12 (16%) voted against, 0 abstained
 - Motion passed
- Ms. Carey moved to suspend the rules and appoint Mr. Berke as the presiding chair for the remainder of the meeting
- Mr. Davison raised a point of order stating that the bylaws do not allow that.
- The president ruled the motion is improper.
- The secretary appealed the decision of the president.
- Mr. Berke opined that the assembly can do it if the motion passes.

- Poll to suspend the rules and appoint Mr. Berke as the presiding chair for the remainder of the meeting:
 - 73 voted in favor; 12 voted against, 2 abstained
 - Motion passed
- Mr. Davison raised a point of order stating that none of the meeting's votes were legal as there is no provision in the 2019 TJ Bylaws that allow electronic votes during general membership meetings.
- Mr. Berke declared that at that time, he was not in condition to serve as presiding officer but he could continue to serve as parliamentarian.
- Mr. Davidson raised a point order and restated that the 2019 Bylaws do not allow any of the electronic votes.
- Mr. Jackson ruled that there is no mechanism in the A2Z platform to vote, therefore it could not be used as a voting mechanism and moved to adjourn the meeting as the parliamentarian was not able to take over presiding over the meeting
- After more debates, dominated by Mr. Davison from the floor, Mr Jackson unilaterally closed the Zoom platform at 9:35 pm.

Minutes Prepared by:

Laura Marschoun, TJHSST PTSA Secretary

Minutes Approved as _____ Presented or _____ Amended on _____