



## TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

03/24/2022 at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

### Attendees:

Executive Committees: President Yvette Rivers, First Vice President Li Yang, Second Vice President Jun Wang, Treasurer Neelam Janardhan, Corresponding Secretary Hanning Chen, Secretary Laura Marschoun, TJHSST Assistant Principal Volita Russell.

Committee Chairs: ANGP Chair Helen Deng, Academic Support Committee Haiyan Richter, Diversity Committee Michele Hyde, and Family Engagement Committee Shawna Yashar.

Other TJPTSA Members (54)

**Location:** TJHSST Cafeteria

### Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Yvette Rivers
- II. Agenda Adoption: Yvette Rivers
- III. Assistant Principal's Report: Volita Russell (10 mins)
- IV. Teacher's Report: Betsy Sandstrom (5 mins)
- V. SGA Report: Leon Jia (10 mins)
- VI. Nominating Committee: Yvette Rivers (30 mins)
- VII. Committee Reports (30 mins)
  - A. Academic Support - Haiyan Chen
  - B. ANGP/Senior Celebration - Manaswini Sahu & Helen Deng
  - C. College Outreach - Par Rachakonda
  - D. Diversity - Michele Hyde
  - E. Family Engagement - Shawna Yashar
  - F. Bylaws/Governance - Penny Dunlop
- VIII. Treasurer's Report and Budget Revision Approval: Nell Janardhan (15 mins)
- IX. General Membership Meeting Minutes Approval (15 mins)
- X. Unfinished Business (5 mins)
- XI. New Business and Announcements (5 mins)
- XII. Adjournment

### Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president called the meeting to order (@7:00)
- She shared the good news that the VAPTA Board of Directors had voted the previous weekend to release the TJ PTSA from probation

- She then reminded the assembly of the meeting rules

### **Agenda Adoption**

- The proposed agenda has been sent out and published on the website a few days prior.
- The First VP moved to approve the proposed agenda and was seconded by the Second VP.
- The Secretary moved to limit debate on the agenda to eight minutes and was seconded by the Treasurer.
- This motion was not debatable. The chair raised the motion to the general membership. By a show of green cards provided to members upon sign-in, the motion to limit debate on the agenda to eight minutes passed.
- The president opened the floor for the discussion of the proposed agenda. As there was no further discussion, the president asked the assembly to vote for the main motion. By a show of green cards, the proposed agenda was adopted.

### **Assistant Principal's Report: Volita Russell**

- Thanked PTSA for all their recent support of cultural celebrations: Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Mardi Gras; as well as for sponsoring chat with counselors
- Commended TJ teachers and students for creating and maintaining a culture of belonging with dignity as the school transitioned through the various COVID mitigation protocols including masks being optional. Everyone has the opportunity to exercise their right and comfort level. She appreciated the respect that has been shown by all.
- Reported the success of the Mentorship Showcase, thanked the parents for the donations and volunteers that supported TJ Mentorship Showcase.
- Thirty-three TJ students presented their 26 outstanding research projects in mid-March at the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair. An astonishing 19 of the 26 earned a First Place prize designation in their categories, and the remaining seven earned either a Second or Third Place prize. In addition to the category prizes, 20 TJ projects earned over 40 different specialty society prizes from science and engineering organizations totaling thousands of dollars in cash and prizes. Six TJ students received Grand Prize awards and will attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta in May. Two additional students are Grand Prize alternates.
- A student was awarded 7th Place in this year's Regeneration Science Talent Search. She received a \$70,000 award for designing a video-assisted workflow recognition program to monitor laparoscopic gallbladder surgeries in real time, verify the surgeons' actions, and flag errors so immediate corrective action can be taken. Her work was inspired after a close cousin died from a preventable surgical mistake by a "tired, overworked, underpaid surgeon in India." Her new system is five times faster than similar systems used currently.
- Assistive Technology Club was featured on CNN for their partnership with local elementary schools for their commitment with low incidence communicators, nonverbal students or those with minor verbal abilities.
- A student performed at the Kennedy Center as a member of the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, and she shared a link to her solo performance. The piece she played was Time Pieces for Clarinet and Piano.
- Several TJ musicians competed against hundreds of students throughout the state and won seats in the All-Virginia Band and Orchestra.
- Earlier that day, the NBC's TODAY show aired the story about the work of a TJ student who has collaborated with FCPS curriculum experts, including Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Specialist Deborah March, to see more notable women included in the teaching of history.
- Tutoring: A new program for all FCPS students will be launched by mid-April. Students will have unlimited access to 24/7, on-demand, online tutoring support services through Tutor.com at no cost to

families. Students can connect online any time, any place, and in most subjects for however long they need. Tutoring may be on-demand and/or scheduled at a time convenient for the student and/or family. Parents will have to opt out if they do not want their child to access the services.

- **Summer Programs:** The assistant principal ended her report by describing summer school opportunities, enrichment modules, etc. Academic Info is posted on the school website. Enrichment and MSTI details will be published next month.

### **Teacher's Report: Betsy Sandstrom**

- A sincere thank you from all the faculty to the PTSA for thoughtful messages in their mailboxes as well as treats on Valentine's Day
- She then recognized teachers who did above and beyond teaching the students
- Ashley Jones sponsors the TJ Red Cross Youth Task Force which is conducting a blood drive the following day at school
- Armond Bass provided the faculty and staff with Mentorship Showcase Live Link. Faculty and staff were happy to be provided this opportunity
- Cynthia van de Kamp sponsors the Investigative Science Outreach club (ISO). Over the weekend (Mar 19), the club successfully organized their 9th Invitational Science Fair for grades 5 to 8. The club invited all schools in Fairfax County to participate in the fair. During the year the club teaches the kids how to do a good project, how to measure results, how to use statistics, etc.
- Jane Iyengar sponsors SGA. She has a background in Education Leadership and Administration. She is happy that new faculty member, David Anderson, has recently joined her as co-sponsor.
- Thom Larson, Biology and Chemistry teacher, sponsors the TJ Contract Bridge Club. They have several volunteers from the Arlington Chapter of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) who come and provide lessons as well as play hands with the students. They also sponsor ACBL-sanctioned tournaments several times a year
- Rachel Mills and Kathy Phillips, Geosystems Teachers, sponsor a new activity called TJ Unplugged, which is designed to get students away from their phones and computer screens and participating in unstructured, outdoor, social activity. Unplugged is offered every 8th period block, accommodating 56 students each day.
- Few teachers are sponsoring 8th-period and club activities that are much more labor intensive than others. They include Ilsa Tinkelman and Scott Savran for Model UN and Jennifer Seavey for various forms of speech and debate clubs
- Patty Lister has been busy all year preparing for iNITE with student leaders
- Jayne Matricardi shared her instructional and art skills with colleagues on March 3, the early release day. The faculty appreciated the warm welcoming environment she and her Art Honor Society students created

### **SGA Report: Rushil Umaretiya and Vibhu Kuriti**

- Organized MS Leadership Conference which was attended by 30+ students from all 6 counties
- The TJ Talent Show is scheduled for the following day. It would be the first in 4-5 years
- Freshmen Class organized a 40+-team volleyball tournament and raised over \$800 for their class
- SGA went to the Student Advisory Committee meeting with the FCPS Superintendent to present technology issues that students face
- JDay is scheduled for for June 3rd
- SGA and the GSA Club are sponsoring a Pride Month event
- Collaborating with the admin to develop some SEL lessons

### **Nominating Committee**

- The TJ PTSA will hold PTSA Officer elections during the May 26th General Membership Meeting
- Per TJ Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is required to compile and recommend a slate of officer candidates to present at the April General Membership meeting. Per TJ Bylaws, the Nominating Committee must have five members
- An online nomination process for the Nominating Committee was conducted. The president thanked the members who nominated themselves for this Nominating Committee
- Ms. Bilal, Ms. Li, Ms. Monaco, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Sawant are nominated
- The president then proceeded to ask the assembly if there were any further nominations from the floor
- Since there were no further nominations, the committee is comprised of Ms. Bilal, Ms. Li, Ms. Monaco, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Sawant

### **Academic Support Committee Report - Haiyan Chen**

- Reported successful Navigating TJ and Coffee with Counselors events
- About 80+ parents and a few students attended the Coffee with Counselors event
- Navigating TJ Math and Science is planned for mid April
- In May, this committee will organize AP exams snacks. Historically, the school administered about 3500 exams during the 2-week period

### **ANGP/Senior Celebration Committee Report - Helen Deng**

- Regular price ticket sales will end on April 30
- Parental consent form will be sent in the near future
- More volunteers from underclass are needed, signup will be sent after spring break

### **College Outreach Committee Report - Par Rachakonda**

- The chair sent a written report and was read by the president
- The committee met with the Director of Student Services to discuss this year and early next year's events
- TJ Alumni Panel - A Discussion on Career Pathways is scheduled for April 12 (virtual)
- TJ Senior Panel - College Destinations is planned for end of May
- TJ Alumni Panel on College Experience is being planned for the Fall

### **Diversity Committee Report - Michele Hyde**

- Reported successful cultural celebration events: Lunar New Year on Feb 4 and Black History Month celebration on Feb 25
- Invited students, staff, admin and parents to the Holi, Festival of Colors event, scheduled on Mar 31
- Updated the website (<https://tjptsa.com/committees/>) to better reflect the current focus of this committee.

### **Family Engagement Committee Report - Shawwna Yashar**

- Hospitality - Teacher Appreciation Week (1st week of May)
- Health and Wellness - Successful walk week event, about 450 mileage submissions
- Mother's Day gift event and joint support with the Academic Support Committee for the AP Exam weeks
- Plan to support the SGA on their JDay event by contacting food trucks and providing more carnival-type of entertainment. Parents donation and volunteers are needed.

### **Bylaws/Governance Committee Report - Penny Dunlop**

- The report was emailed to the members and posted on the website few days prior to the meeting
- The chair read the report and took questions from the members
- A member asked why the Nominating Committee was only tasked to identify and recommend 1 person for each officer position. The chair answered that it is in the current bylaws and a local unit such as TJ does not have an authority to change it.
- The president mentioned that members do have ability to give inputs to the VAPTA Bylaws Committee few months before the VAPTA Annual Meeting
- Another member mentioned that she filled the VAPTA Bylaws Revision Recommendation Form before it closed earlier in the month

### **Treasurer's Report and Budget Revision Approval: Nell Janardhan**

- The treasurer presented the actuals (revenues and expenses) compared to the revised budget approved in the Jan 27th General Membership meeting
- The treasurer presented the proposed budget revision. Summary of the Proposed Revisions: Funding the Shakespeare Performance Festival (\$3,900), Increasing General Donations Target Revenue (From \$7,000 to \$9,000), Funding Student Club Requests (From \$1,000 to \$3,000)
- Impact of Proposed Changes:
  - EB approved a step and repeat banner for \$500
  - All the proposed changes above will result in a net increase in spending of \$4,400 compared to the Jan 27th adopted budget
  - TJ PTSA current bank balance is \$98,415 (ANGP ~\$45,091 and PTSA ~ \$53,324)
  - TJ PTSA ending bank balance based on the proposed changes will be \$33,921.39 versus \$38,321.39 proposed on Jan 27th
- The treasurer moved to adopt the proposed budget revision and no second was needed
- The president opened the floor for the discussion of the proposed budget revision. As there was no further discussion, the president asked the assembly to vote for the main motion. By a show of green cards, the proposed budget revision was approved

### **General Membership Meeting Minutes Approval**

- The draft minutes were sent out via email and have been available on the website. Since the minutes had all been distributed in advance and there was no objection, the minutes were not read aloud during the meeting
- As there were no corrections to the 2021-09-09, 2021-10-14, 2021-11-11 and 2022-01-27 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes, the minutes were approved as presented

### **Unfinished Business**

- None

### **New Business and Announcements**

- A member mentioned about a chatter in a class group about the differences in the content and details of the communication between individual counselors to their groups of students. Some counselors gave very detailed communication to the students and parents while others did not send any to the parents and sometimes did not send any communication to the students
- The president advised the parents to bring concerns that affect a large number of students to the PTSA and she will try to convey the concern to the school admin or faculty

**Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned @8:30 pm

Minutes Prepared by Laura Marschoun, TJHSST PTSA Secretary

Minutes Approved as \_\_\_x\_\_\_ Presented or \_\_\_\_\_ Amended on \_\_\_April 21, 2022\_\_\_