



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

04/21/2022 at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committee: President Yvette Rivers, First Vice President Li Yang, Second Vice President Jun Wang, Treasurer Neelam Janardhan, Corresponding Secretary Hanning Chen, Secretary Laura Marschoun, TJHSST Principal Dr. Ann Bonitatibus. Committee Chairs: Academic Support Committee Haiyan Richter, Family Engagement Committee Shawna Yashar

Other TJPTSA Members (~67)

Location: In-person meeting at TJ Cafeteria

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Yvette Rivers
- II. Agenda Adoption: Yvette Rivers
- III. Approval of 3/24 GM Meeting Minutes (3 mins)
- IV. Principal's Report: Dr. Bonitatibus (10 mins)
- V. Teacher's Report: Betsy Sandstrom (5 mins)
- VI. SGA Report: Leon Jia (5 mins)
- VII. Treasurer's Report: Nell Janardhan (5 mins)
- VIII. Committee Reports (60 mins)
 - A. Bylaws/Governance
 1. Bylaws/Governance Committee LUOS Form Recommendation Overview
 2. Membership Dues Discussion & Vote
 3. President Elect Position Discussion & Vote
 4. Vice President Titles Discussion & Vote
 5. Meeting Notice Updates Discussion & Vote
 - B. Academic Support - Haiyan Chen
 - C. ANGP/Senior Celebration - Manaswini Sahu & Helen Deng
 - D. College Outreach - Par Rachakonda
 - E. Diversity - Michele Hyde
 - F. Family Engagement - Shawna Yashar
 - G. Nominating - Trina Bilal
- IX. Unfinished Business (5 mins)
- X. New Business and Announcements (5 mins)
- XI. Adjournment

Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president called the meeting to order (@7:01).
- The president reminded the assembly of the meeting rules:
 - Please be respectful and courteous at all times. This includes refraining from any kind of insults.

- Raise your hand to request to be recognized. Please do NOT interrupt our presenters.
- Only speak when I recognize you.

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 discussion of the proposed agenda. Mr. Davison moved to amend the New Business time from 5 minutes to 20 minutes. Mr. Jackson seconded. Mr. Davison and Mr. Jackson spoke for the motion. A vote was taken and the motion failed.
- 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.

Approval of 3/24 GM Meeting Minutes

- The draft minutes were sent out via email and have been available on the website. Since the minutes had 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 2022-03-24 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes, the minutes were approved as presented.

Principal's Report - Dr. Bonitatibus

- The school sent a News You Choose newsletter with a lot of year-end information:
 - May 31: Senior Prom at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. Barring severe weather conditions, the event is rain or shine. The cost for seniors was included in their senior class dues. \$50 for the non-TJ Senior guest.
 - June 4: Class 2022 graduation ceremony will be held at the Eagle Bank Arena. No tickets required.
 - Advised parents to pay any outstanding senior obligations; diploma will not be held, but the unpaid obligation might be sent to collection agencies.
 - Advised seniors to participate in the FCPS Seniors Survey which asks their college destinations and their non-FCPS emails for future communications. The seniors will lose their gmail account so if they want to keep their files, emails, and other digital artifacts, they need to do so prior to June 30.
- The school is busy preparing for next year's master schedule and plans to have that completed by the end of May. Counselors will contact students impacted.
- Q&A session: Mr. Davison asked if, in light of the recent court ruling, the principal is going to change her opinion on the current admission policy that is racist against Asians and apologize to the 30% Asian students who did not get in. The principal stated that the admission policy is the decision of the school board and the FCPS leadership. She stated that she did not make nor had any role in the decision making of the TJ admission policy. She further stated that she is an employee of FCPS and she follows FCPS rules, vision, mission, and objectives. She mentioned that she will support each and every student who comes to TJ regardless of their background or their personal circumstances.
- After Mr. Davison spoke without being recognized, the chair reminded him of the rules of the meeting and asked him to wait to be recognized. Mr. Davison continued to speak without being recognized.

- The Secretary moved to remove Mr. Davison from the meeting for repeatedly violating the meeting rules. It was seconded by several members. She spoke for the motion. Mr. Jackson spoke against the motion. Mr. Davison was given an opportunity to speak.
- The chair decided not to proceed with the motion to remove Mr. Davison from the meeting. The chair ruled that Mr. Davison's repeated disruptions were an intentional act to try to disrupt the business of the meeting and she would no longer recognize him. He was still welcome to stay and vote. The chair pleaded for him to stop disrupting the meeting.

Teacher's Report - Betsy Sandstrom

- At the last meeting, she shared mainly extracurricular activities that took place during the 8th period; in this meeting, she shared activities that happened during the classrooms.
- All the IBET students participated in the Shakespeare Festival: few groups were involved in Martian Farming (planting mustard seed in Martian soil); others were working on developing tech components that would answer questions related to what they are learning in their IBET.
- Some of the Junior World Languages classes are involved in units on the environment and after studying some of the environmental topics, they are developing simple solutions to the problem in the language countries.
- One world language class has the students write newsletters in different languages. The articles will have all the features of actual newsletters but they do not have to be factual.
- Microbial Genomics and Bioinformatics students are using the tools they are learning in class to analyze all of the sequence data that has been generated to date in the Jefferson Memorial Project collected in the Biotech Senior Research lab. This is a great example of how a research-based elective is supporting higher level studies at the senior research level.

SGA Report - Lion Jia

- Reported a successful Talent Show with 30-40 acts and 200+ people came.
- Commented on the lost institutional knowledge and emphasized that everything the school communities did and will do for the remainder of this year really matters because after his class (2022) leaves, no other class remembers what these events are.
- SGA Officers are part of the superintendent student advisory council and they have been in communication with the superintendent all year long. Leon is the chair for the Health and Wellness Committee and he is working to develop the budget to make the school lunches better. Other SGA officers are working with the technology to improve the FCPS On initiative.
- June 4: JDay. A big event for the school at the end of the year. Activities include: basketball tournament, spirit day contest, clubs will have opportunities to open up booths for promotions and fundraising efforts.
- SGA election is coming up, he will accompany the next president attending the next PTSA meeting.
- Teacher appreciation week is coming up, keep up with the effort of the study guide resources, etc.
- SGA is also developing resources, initiatives, and guidelines for the clubs and class councils.

Treasurer's Report - Nell Janardhan

- Stated that the budget report showed the actual as of April 10th compared to the budget adopted in the March 24th General Membership meeting. Report was sent out to members via email on April 17th, for advance review.
- Total revenue was around \$74,000; which consisted of 75% of the PTSA revenue target and 91% of the ANGP revenue target. 55% of the PTSA revenues came from the membership dues and 27% from the donations.
- The report reflected expenses through April 10th for \$39,000. ANGP expenses were around \$18,000 or at 27% of budget. PTSA expenses were at 31% of budgeted and student club funds would be disbursed this month. Clubs had been notified of their status.
- We currently have around \$98,000 in the bank across both accounts.

Bylaws/Governance Committee Report - Thyaga Nandagopal

- Mr. Nandagopal started by summarizing the purpose and the works of the committee.
- The assembly then discussed each of the four topics. The first discussion was regarding the membership dues.
 - Current dues structures: \$40 per adult member, \$10 per student and per TJ staff member, as well as \$10 for the printed directory.
 - Based on the members' survey, the committee's recommendation for next school year was to keep the current dues structures but give each member household a free printed directory as long as the supply lasts.
 - Mr. Jackson stated that the TJ PTSA dues is one of the highest in the state and asked the justification of the amount. The committee representative answered that the survey indicated that most participants did not have any objection to the dues amount. A member brought up a suggestion to consider a lower dues amount for the second adult in the household. After sufficient discussions, the committee representative moved to include in the adult membership dues, a free printed directory for each household, as long as the supply lasts. By a show of green cards, 25 members voted for the motion and 13 members voted against. The motion to include in the adult membership dues, a free printed directory for each household, as long as the supply lasts passed.
 - The members then discussed the idea of having a lower due amount for the second adult in the household. A member asked if a lower membership due will result in an increase of the membership participation. Mr. Nandagopal stated that based on brief research in the surrounding areas, it does not seem the case, if anything it seems that the schools with higher dues have better participation rates. After further discussion, a motion was brought to the floor to reduce the membership dues of the second parent to \$20. Because this motion will change the LUOS Form, a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is needed to pass the motion and a rising vote method will be used.
 - 51 members voted in favor of the motion, 1 voted against. The motion to reduce the membership dues of the second parent to \$20 passed.
- The next topic of discussion was regarding the President-Elect position.
 - Mr. Nandagopal stated that the uniform bylaws are phasing out the President-Elect position, so this position will only exist for up to one more year. Currently TJ PTSA has no President-Elect. If the members vote to keep this position, the current board will appoint a president-elect and that person will be the president for the upcoming year. Based on the survey result, the committee is not comfortable to make any recommendations regarding this question.
 - The chair, based on the request of the board, provided some background information on this question.
 - Mr. Semonsen moved to eliminate the President-Elect position effective immediately. It was seconded by several members.
 - The president opened the floor for a discussion and there were several members asking for some clarification and few expressed their opinions.
 - After discussion, a vote was taken. Because this motion will change the LUOS Form, a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is needed to pass the motion and a rising vote method will be used.
 - 60 members voted in favor of the motion, 0 voted against. The motion to eliminate the President-Elect position effective immediately passed unanimously.
- The third topic of discussion was regarding the Vice President Titles.
 - Mr. Nandagopal stated that in order to better reflect the responsibilities of the vice presidents, the bylaws/governance committee recommended a change to titles of the vice presidents and to make the Correspondence Secretary to be a 3rd Vice President of Communications.
 - On behalf of the Bylaws/Governance Committee, he moved to change the titles of the First VP of Training to become First VP of Programming and Events and the Second VP of Fundraising to become Second VP of Membership and Fundraising and moved to make the Correspondence Secretary position to be the Third VP of Communications.
 - After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. Because this motion will change the LUOS Form, a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is needed to pass the motion and a rising vote method will be used.

- 56 members voted in favor of the motion, 0 voted against. The motion on the floor passed unanimously.
- Last topic was Meeting Notice Updates
 - The current LUOS Form has several parts with unspecified information, for example the number of days of notice required for calling the regular meeting for the Executive Board.
 - On behalf of the Bylaws/Governance Committee, he moved to update the LUOS Form to modify the notices for the EC and EB meetings. The proposed updates are as follows:
 - Executive Committee - Days Notice - Special Meeting (2 days)
 - Executive Committee - Minimum number of meetings per year (6)
 - Executive Board - Days Notice - Regular Meeting (5 days)
 - Executive Board - Days Notice - Special Meeting (3 days)
 - After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. Because this motion will change the LUOS Form, a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is needed to pass the motion and a rising vote method will be used.
 - 53 members voted in favor of the motion, 0 voted against. The motion on the floor passed unanimously.

Academic Support - Haiyan Chen

- She reported a successful Navigating TJ - Math and Science event. It was held virtually a night prior and was attended by 70 parents. The event had 4 panelists from TJ Math and Science Departments.
- She stated that the next event will be AP Testing Support and informed the parents that it would require a significant number of volunteers to help proctor the tests, deliver the snacks, and provide general support.

ANGP/Senior Celebration - Manaswini Sahu & Helen Deng

- Chair was not present and did not send a written update prior to the meeting

College Outreach - Par Rachakonda

- Chair was not present and did not send a written update prior to the meeting

Diversity - Michele Hyde

- Chair was not present and did not send a written update prior to the meeting

Family Engagement - Shawna Yashar

- Chair had left the meeting and did not send a written update prior to the meeting
- A member of the Health and Wellness sub-committee gave an update:
 - The following week is Stress Less Laugh More Week and the students are planning various activities.
 - Therapy Dog event is coming back and few parent volunteers are still needed.

Nominating - Trina Bilal

- She thanked all the candidates who submitted their self-nominations for the 2022-23 TJ PTSA Executive Committee. She mentioned that all of the candidates were qualified and described the processes the committee used to select the final slate of candidates.
- The Nominating Committee's slate of candidates are:
 - President: Yvette Rivers
 - First Vice President: Pratyush Nutalapati
 - Second Vice President: Yehong Zhou
 - Third Vice President: Laura Marschoun
 - Treasurer: Neelam "Nell" Janardhan
 - Secretary: Qingying "Ally" Lu
- She then informed the members that the Nominating Committee process is not the only way to be considered for a role on the Executive Committee. Any TJPTSA members can run from the floor for the 2022-2023 TJ PTSA Executive Committee. The steps are as follows:

- Sunday, April 24th through May 8th - Floor Candidate Self-Nomination Submission Period
- Tuesday, May 10th - Notice will be sent to all members with information about all candidates including those recommended by the Nominating Committee and those who intend to run from the floor.
- Thursday, May 26th at 7 PM in Cafeteria - Conduct election of officers at the in person General Membership meeting, allowing all candidates to speak up to two minutes.
- To vote in the election, an individual must sign up to be a member before the May 26th General Membership meeting starts.

ANGP/Senior Celebration - presented by First VP Li Yang

- Call for underclassmen parents to volunteer as the Senior parents will be very busy with the graduation ceremony that day.
- ANGP ticket sales will end April 30th.

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business and Announcements

- Mr. Jackson stated his resolution and moved to approve his resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Davison. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. Mr. Jackson's motion did not pass.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned @8:46 pm

Minutes Prepared by Laura Marschoun, TJHSST PTSA Secretary
Minutes Approved as _____ Presented or _____ Amended on ___Month xx, 2022___