



TJ PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

01/05/2023 at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Attendees:

President: Yvette Rivers; First VP of Programming and Events: Pratyush Nutalapati; Second VP of Membership and Fundraising: Yehong Zhou; Third VP of Communications: Laura Marschoun; Treasurer: Neelam Janardhan; Secretary: Qingying Lu; Academic Support Committee (ASC) Chair: Haiyan Richter; ANGP Committee Chair: Mary Alice Heretick; College Outreach Committee (COC) Chair: Parvathi Rachakonda; Diversity Committee (DC) Chair: Michele Hyde; Hospitality Committee (HC) Chair: Colleen Bucher; Health and Wellness Committee Chair: Renee Rodriguez

Location: Google Meet

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- Approval of 12/14 EB Meeting Minutes
- National Merit Concerns
- Treasurer's Report
- General Membership Meeting
- Nominating Committee Timeline
- Student Recognition
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president called the meeting to order (@7:01).

Approval of 12/14 EB Meeting Minutes

- Since the minutes had all been distributed electronically in advance and there was no objection, the minutes were not read aloud during the meeting.
- The minutes were approved as amended.

National Merit Concerns

- Meeting by Dr. Reid with parents on 1/3/23, Tuesday
 - An independent firm is hired to investigate
 - Dr. Reid promises to meet with parents after investigation results are obtained
- Dr. Bonitatibus will attend the upcoming GMM but she won't be able to talk about this matter due to the ongoing investigation

- What should be the PTSA's role in this?
 - Yvette: PTSA needs to provide a neutral platform for sharing concerns and for educating parents
 - Par: facilitate discussion of different opinions; while investigation is ongoing, we can educate parents on PSAT, commended award, etc.; A concern is that we won't be able to work on other important things with the administration since they will be busy with this issue.
 - Renee: Counselor has contacted colleges her son applied to let them know his commended status
 - Pratyush: Received calls from parents expressing their anger on this issue; Parents feel like PTSA is not responding to parents' concerns; PTSA is seen as a tool of the administration; Parents' outrage was a result of cumulative concerns related to the TJ administration
 - Nell: PTSA should be cautious about making a statement; better to wait until investigation results comes out; Focus on leveraging committees to educate and alleviate parents' anxiety
 - Colleen: PTSA's role should be listening; we don't have all the data; we have a huge opportunity to educate people; shouldn't make a statement since it can be taken out of context
 - Michele: Her son is affected. It's not just about this commended award. It's really about trust. If PTSA is going to make a statement, we should address the bigger issue. Suggest taking a poll to obtain parents' opinions/concerns.
 - Ally: Educate parents on the role of the PTSA - neutral platform
 - Yehong: Likes the Poll idea. Some parents see PTSA as a tool for the administration
 - Mary Alice: Educate parents on the role of the PTSA and PSAT and other related information; The timing of the poll was important. Sending the poll in the field during a time when emotions were high could result in people focusing on the immediate issue instead of answering the questions with a more long term vision in mind. Thanks to Yvette for waiting to respond until receiving board input.
 - Haiyan: Need to be cautious about the timing of the survey since parents might not have all the correct information
 - Laura: statement takes time to make; good survey is hard to design
 - Yvette: TJPTSA needs to do an annual membership survey; we can expand to allow parents to provide feedback on school overall; Does anyone have any objection to conducting this survey? Board will have the opportunity to provide feedback.
 - Mary Alice: what would be the corrective actions after the survey? Need to consider
 - Pratyush: it's valuable to collect information.
 - Par: Support survey idea. It's a function expected of PTSA.
 - Yvette will draft the annual survey and will send to the board for feedback.

Treasurer's Report

- Met PTSA membership revenue goal
- Almost met teacher appreciation revenue goal
- Michele: how to differentiate which event people are donating to (for Diversity Committee events)? Nell will respond offline.

General Membership Meeting

- Updates to Draft Agenda
 - Yvette proposes to increase new business time from 5 mins to 15 mins for parents to express their opinions regarding the National Merit situation
 - Think about the option of making general membership meetings members only for future meetings
- Documents to be sent in advance
- Email Timing addressed
- Are non-members without TJ affiliation allowed to attend the GMM?

- Laura: didn't last year
- Yvette: suggest to only allow members and current TJ students, parents, and staff to attend for the upcoming meeting
- Michele: suggest to limit journalists
- Colleen: suggest only members be allowed to ask questions or make comments

Nominating Committee Timeline

- Yvette presented the proposed timeline document to be distributed to members and shared at the GM meeting
- Renee: pleased with the timeline
- No objections

Student Recognition

- In Newsletters or other areas
 - Yvette: would like to have as much student recognition as possible
 - Laura: hard to predict work; hard to determine the criteria; might leverage the PTSA website
 - Par: Providing a template; hard to determine which are worthy
 - Renee: allow anyone to recognize; proposed quarterly recognition
 - Nell: Sustainability is an issue
 - Michele: submit to website with Laura to moderate; with links in the newsletter
 - Pratush: hard to moderate the website; should allow anyone to do it
 - Yehong: Need to open to all; will be too much; validation is important
 - Ally: Newsletter and website wouldn't be good options. How about Facebook?
 - Nell: Need to consider potential liability in processes
 - Renee: Will post the question to students in the mental health coalition
 - Yvette: parents can address preferences in survey

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Printed directory distribution
 - Allow students to pick up in the daytime
- Addressed how PTSA can help SGA get volunteers for Winter Bash
- ANGP kickoff meeting on 1/23
- Lunar new year celebration on 1/25
- Black history month celebration on 2/17

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned @9:03 pm

Minutes Prepared by Qingying (Ally) Lu, TJHSST PTSA Secretary

Minutes Approved as _____ Presented or X Amended on ___February 8, 2023___