



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

04/18/24 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committees: President: Neelam Janardhan; First VP of Programming and Events: Laura Marschoun; Second VP of Membership and Fundraising: Julia Li; Third VP of Communications: Maggy Li; Treasurer: Seema Lohia Singh; Secretary: Sanjay Parthasarathy

Committee Chairs: Academic Support Committee (ASC) Chair: Partho Banerjee; Health and Wellness Committee (HWC) Chair: Elizabeth Das; Hospitality Committee (HC) Chair: Colleen Bucher; College Outreach Committee (COC) chair: Radha Somanchi

Principal: Dr. Ann Bonitatibus

Others: Academic Support Committee (ASC) Vice-Chair: Sridhar Maddaluri; SGA leader: Allison Zhang; and 34 other members. Total TJ PTSA members in attendance: 47

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom with advance registration by attendees

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Nell Janardhan (5 mins)
- II. Agenda Adoption: Nell Janardhan (5 mins)
- III. Approval of 2024-02-15 GM Meeting Minutes (3 mins)
- IV. SGA Report (10 mins)
- V. Principal's Remarks: Dr. Ann Bonitatibus (10 mins)
- VI. Faculty Report (5 mins)
- VII. Newsletter and Communications - Maggy Li (5 mins)
- VIII. Membership & Fundraising - Julia Li (5 mins)
- IX. Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget Amendment: Seema Lohia Singh (10 mins)
- X. Committee Reports (45 mins)
 - A. Academic Support Committee – Partho Banerjee/Sridhar Maddaluri
 - B. ANGP Committee – Laura Marschoun, Michele Hyde, Monica Kumar
 - C. College Outreach Committee – Radha Somanchi
 - D. Diversity Committee – Michele Hyde
 - E. Health and Wellness Committee – Elizabeth Das
 - F. Hospitality Committee – Colleen Bucher/Priya Dodla
 - G. Nominating Committee
- XI. New Business and Announcements: Nell Janardhan (5 mins)
- XII. Adjournment

Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the President called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- The President introduced the Executive Committee members

- The President reminded the assembly of the meeting rules that were sent out in advance, and highlighted a few of them:
 - GMM will use Robert's Rules.
 - Please be respectful and courteous at all times.
 - Raise your hand on Zoom to request being recognized.
 - Only speak when recognized by the President.
 - Enter any questions in Zoom's chat window, and they will be read out by the meeting monitor

Agenda Adoption

- The proposed agenda was published on the website and notified via the weekly membership newsletter. Motion to approve the agenda was proposed, seconded, and the agenda was adopted with 97% in favor.
- 96% of the attendees were in favor of limiting the debates on any agenda items to 10 minutes.

Approval of 2024-02-15 GM Meeting Minutes

- The 2024-02-15 GMM draft Minutes were available on the TJ PTSA website, and notifications of the minutes were sent via newsletter posts and dedicated email.
- The President solicited comments/corrections to the minutes. There were no comments nor corrections to the 2024-02-15 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes; and the minutes were approved as presented.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report – Allison Zhang

- Elections for 2024-2025 Student Government Association (SGA) officers and Class Council officers were conducted in April.
- SGA is excited for the events being organized for the Teacher Appreciation week and the breakfast on 4/26/24 with the teachers.
- Active involvement of the Mental Health Coalition (MHC), Human Relations Committee (HRC) and Student Advisory Council (SAC) were appreciated
- Jefferson Day (J-Day) planning is in full swing, and the TJPTSA's support is welcomed, with potential for the TJPTSA to provide the budget and contract support for the bounce-house/inflatables planned for the event.
- TJ Stars event on 5/21 will be an exposition of senior research projects

Principal Remarks - Dr. Ann Bonitatibus

- Dr. Bonitatibus recapped the 4/17 preview for prospective students and parents of class of 2028, with ~550 students notified of admission to TJ. She thanked PTSA volunteers and parents for providing their help and interacting with the parents at the preview night.
- The master schedule is in works, and should be available in the next two weeks
- Dr. Bonitatibus recognized the achievements of TJ students, including 5 Gold and 21 silver key awards for writing, awards for the DESMO computer challenge and the China talent competition.
- TJ students continue to excel in International Science and Engineering Fairs; several students advanced from regionals to nationals.
- Daniel Armstrong, the TJ school social worker, was recognized with a school social impact award
- The students enjoyed the solar eclipse – the school provided safety glasses and viewed the Eclipse through different means including colanders, hydrogen solar scope, and pinhole cameras
- The TJ Namaste team received the Fairfax Peace Award and also organized 2 shows for i-Nite (International Night)
- The last 2 cultural celebrations for the year – Holi and Eid – were well attended and appreciated.
- Thank you to the volunteers and to TJPTSA for the Donuts for the staff and for the principal's coffee event in March
- The logistics and operations student team is doing a great job with social media to keep everyone informed
- Dr. Bonitatibus is instituting a 360 degree feedback approach for teachers. She is teaching a class on ethical leadership and is really appreciating the challenges and the opportunities that teachers face every day
- Many visitors were hosted at TJHSST the past 2 months, including teachers and students from New Jersey, Cape Town and Finland. 30 students and six teachers from Finland really enjoyed their visit and appreciated what TJHSST does for the students
- FCPS district leaders met with staff to baseline the education climate, and had good discussions on inspiring students and commitment to excellence. They were impressed with the high level of preparedness, the collaboration, the emphasis on student and teacher safety, and teacher creativity. They quoted that 'Faith and Grace' were being given in school.

- The staff and school are looking forward to honoring our seniors as they get ready to graduate. Many exciting events are being planned to provide affirmation and accolades for their hard work through High School.
- A question was asked on the chat channel: "Will grading scales change at TJ and how will it impact the students?" Dr. Bonitatibus replied that the 10 point grading scale in FCPS will have no impact to TJ and no adjustments are needed

Faculty report (Mr. Bass)

- Mr. Bass mentioned that April 22nd will be the fourth quarter catch up day
- Mentorships are in full swing with 50 students who applied and are spending time on Wednesdays Fridays and half days and Mondays with their mentors.
- Summer school will run from June 24th to July 26th and will be all virtual. Mr Bass is the summer school principal

Newsletter and Communications - Maggy Li

- Ms. Li reminded the members to read the 'This week at TJ' newsletter, preferably on a computer since it has a lot of content.
- Please respond to the annual survey – link are in the newsletter – and it helps our programming for next year.

Membership & Fundraising - Julia Li

- The membership committee is not actively advertising for memberships but families are still signing up
- ACT and SAT mock tests were administered
- The second fundraising mock ACT paper test was held on March 2nd;
- The digital SAT was debuted by the College Board in March. A mock up test by Princeton Review was held on April 13th and was in high demand. The fee charged was \$20/student. 85 students have signed up. Parents and students will be eligible for 30 minutes of free consultation. We expect to provide future discounts for TJ PTSA members in the future
- The gift matching and sponsorship program brings lots of value to the community – please remember to look at the matching programs in your corporations to enable sponsorships for a variety of organizations within TJ including the TJ Academic Boosters
- Nell thanked Julia and Maggie for all the hard work this year.

Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget Amendment: Seema Lohia Singh

- Treasurer presented her report. PTSA Revenue and spending plan are on track
- Treasurer proposed a change to the budget to support the J-day celebrations with \$5000 funding that is available because we exceeded our revenue goal.
- The motion to adopt the proposed budget amendment was presented. Per policy, the motion does not have to be seconded. We polled the audience for any questions - and none were asked. It was decided to adopt the proposed budget revision with 94% in favor and 6% abstained.
- In parallel the SGA evaluated their budgets and have formally requested the TJPTSA to sponsor the inflatables for the event.

Nominating Committee Report

- Dunia Pardo presented the Nominating Committee Report and announced the slate of candidates for the upcoming Executive Committee elections

Committee Reports

- **Academic Support Committee - Partho Banerjee and Sridhar Maddaluri**
 - AP exams and students are being supported with snacks during exam breaks
 - Need more parents to volunteer! Please sign up via SignUpGenius to help during the AP exams May 6th through May 17th; please volunteer to help proctor the exams - as of now we have only 38 of 144 slots have been filled. Request for parents to please sign up and help out the community.
- **ANGP (All Night Graduation Party) - Laura Marschoun**

- Laura Marshoun, Michele Hyde, and Monica Kumar are co-leading the ANGP committee for the ANGP event to be held on June 8. The timeline has been previously shared for all the events leading up to ANGP
- Need 150 volunteer parents - only 43 positions have been filled. Urgent request to underclassmen parents to step up to help during ANGP. Also need two volunteer leads for the Friday setup and for the Sunday morning cleanup
- Nell thanked Laura, Michelle and Monica for all their efforts to make ANGP a success
- **College Outreach Committee**
 - The college outreach committee held a panel discussion on April 17th that was well received with ~160 participants engaged over a 2 hour session
 - Next, the committee will plan a session with senior students describing their journey at TJ
- **Diversity Committee – Laura Marschoun for Michele Hyde**
 - 7 events organized this school year were very well attended. The last one - Eid celebration - was held the previous Friday
 - Thanked all the parents who donated and volunteered. Praised the students who performed and educated others about their culture and heritage
- **Health & Wellness Committee - Liz Das**
 - The Health and Wellness committee works closely with student services to addressing requests that contribute to the mental well-being of our students - for example, puzzles are being setup to students de-stress
 - 2 workshops conducted: 'Body Doubling' on 3/15 to improve executive functioning, and 'It's different now" on 4/15 to highlight the student survey results and empower parents to help their students
 - Therapy dogs coming to TJ next in a few weeks!
 - We're conducting a survey next week and invite your feedback
- **Hospitality Committee – Colleen Bucher**
 - Colleen shared the sign up genius for the May 2nd teacher appreciation luncheon and the April 28th volunteer appreciation potluck
 - Thank you to Priya Dodla for her help and initiative.
 - Need volunteers to help with Teacher Appreciation Week events - please sign up!!

New Business and Announcements

- No requests for items or discussions

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary.

Minutes Approved as ___X___ Presented or _____ Amended on ___May 23, 2024___