



## TJ PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

10/17/2024 at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

### Attendees: Executive Board

**Executive Committee:** President: Neelam Janardhan; First VP of Programming and Events: Catherine Li; Second VP of Membership; and Fundraising: Julia Li, Third VP of Communications: Maggy Li; Treasurer Dinesh Kumar; Secretary: Sanjay Parthasarathy

**TJHSST Principal:** Dr. Ann Bonitatibus

**Committee Chairs and Co-chairs:** Academic Support – Tom Stauber, College Outreach and Planning – Radha Somanchi, Health and Wellness – Ann Payne, Hospitality – Priya Dodla

**Location:** Google Meet

### Agenda

- Call meeting to order
  - Approval of prior meeting minutes in draft;
    - [EB meeting on September 12th](#)
  - Principal's report - **10 mins**
  - Membership and Fundraising update if any (Julia) - **5 mins**
    - SAT Mock test in Aug and PSAT in Sep
    - Email to Non-Members
    - Data from School?
  - [TJ PTSA cultural celebrations grant vote](#) (and process Q&A)- **10 mins**
  - Committee Reports and Succession Plans:**25 minutes**
    - Appoint committee members where needed
    - Appoint Seema Lohia Singh as ANGP Treasurer
  - EC Succession planning Shadowing
    - NC kick off
    - EC members and appointed members email and access.
  - Communication updates if any Maggy =**5 mins**
  - Next EB and GMM Meetings.reminder - Nell - **5 mins**
    - Next EB meetings -**Thu, Dec 05 - In person or Virtual?**
    - Next GMM **Virtual: Thu, Dec 12**, - 30,45 mins for PTSA business and 45 - 1:15 for Principal's desserts
  - New Business
    - Cafeteria Microwave Question - **5 mins**
  - Adjournment
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## Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president called the meeting to order (@7:05pm).

## Approval of prior meeting minutes draft;

- The committee sought feedback on the draft meeting minutes from past EB meetings held on September 12 . These were all approved, with no suggestions or corrections.

## Budget (Nell Janardhan)

- The annual fundraising goal has been met/exceeded, thanks to the SAT/ACT mock test – reminder that the mock ACT will be held this weekend
- 766 members have joined PTSA to-date. Julia Li will sort/upload data from the school, and will continue to ping non-members bi-weekly to enroll in the PTSA

<<Tom Stauber joined at 7:20pm and Catherine Li joined at 7:25pm>>

## Committee reports:

**College outreach and planning:** (Radha Somanchi) – the College Outreach and Planning committee has organized a panel session on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – 50 questions in 90 minutes – to answer questions TJ students and parents have. Nell suggested that Radha share last year's panel discussion notes in PDF form with the registered attendees in advance.

<<Priya Dodla joined at 7:30pm>>

**Health and Wellness committee** (Ann Payne): The last book club meeting will be held Oct 18<sup>th</sup> for the fall. Expect sessions in Jan and Feb for 10<sup>th</sup> grader parents. Parents can borrow the book for the discussion – Maggi will continue advertising this borrowing option in the newsletter.

**Academic support committee:** Nell Janardhan suggested the ASC, COP and the H&W committees coordinate and collaborate to organize breakfast for the counselors during the Feb. counselor appreciation week. Suggestion for the ASC to connect with Sara-Genetin (TJ staff) for the best dates for the recognition event.

'Navigating TJ' event went well, had good participation. 'Navigating TJ Math and Science' is scheduled over Zoom for 7 pm on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> . Maggi will include the blurb in the newsletter (to be sent by Tom Stauber) asking parents to sign up and ask for questions in advance.

**Mental Health coalition** will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> (monthly) meeting on 10/24/24 and the meeting is open to students, Sara-Genetin and Dr. Bonitatibus who all usually attend the meetings

**Hospitality committee** (Priya Dodla) will start planning for the Thanksgiving celebrations and create a SignUpGenius for parents to contribute. Teacher gift bags to be planned a month before the appreciation events, and will post the SignUp Genius for the Teacher Appreciation Event in the Thanksgiving emails.

## Note:

1. We allocated \$1,000 at start of the year for lunches, gift cards, totalling a budget of \$7,000 for teacher appreciation.
2. Donations earmarked by parents for specific purposes should only be used for that designated purpose.

**Cultural celebrations:** Requests for grants have been received from the Black Students association and for Chinese New Year. The Board voted (Sanjay moved the motion to approve, and Dinesh seconded) unanimously in favor of awarding the grants in line with the cultural celebrations during the 2023-24 school year. Nell requested Maggi to reach out to the Chinese club to encourage they involve other relevant clubs (e.g. Korean) to increase the impact of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Nell clarified that expense reports are not necessary as this is not a reimbursement but a grant, and the grant request form will suffice for the \$500 grants proposed.

<<Dinesh Kumar joined at 7:45 pm>>

### **Principal's update**

Dr. Bonitatibus reiterated that clubs need to be encouraged to collaborate, and mutually figure out which club will lead which event. (e.g. The Hispanic club should collaborate with the Spanish speakers' club, Lunar New Year should be a multi-club event). Maggy Li echoed this sense of inclusivity. Dr. Bonitatibus encourage kids to start new traditions to celebrate their culture, recognizing the generational gap between current students and their parents/grand-parents who emigrated to the US multiple decades ago. We should provide agency and support to the students as needed.

Dr. Bonitatibus was glad the college outreach events went well and offered to be part of a future panel. School appreciated parents' support with Homecoming. In other news The Freshman class rocks and there are several engaged volunteers, we have several National Merit Scholars to celebrate, the PSAT/SAT test days went well.

Dr. Bonitatibus referenced the changes in administrative and staff assignments as detailed in her email to parents. Counselors and Ms. Gilchrest are meeting with the students and are very busy supporting the college applications. TJ counselors have not missed a deadline in 12 years!

Dr. Bonitatibus attended a panel session of college admission officers from Princeton, Yale, UVA. (Mr. Ketchum, Mr. Gilchrist and Ms. Genetin also attended parts of this panel discussion). She reiterated what she heard from the admission officials: Grade focus is misdirected. Officials look for authenticity and passion, and are very tuned to short-term resume building activities done by the applicants. For students – ask the college what the college can do for its students after graduation (e.g. alumni network access, free classes, etc.).

There were questions from a parent on whether more microwaves will ease the lunch lines. Dr. Bonitatibus and staff have studied the queuing situation during lunch, and do not believe this is an issue. The lines dissipate within 15 minutes, and the school has maximized the number of microwaves allowed by electrical code.

### **Planning for next meetings**

- The EB meeting in Dec maybe replaced by a board holiday dinner n-person, and will be used to plan the next GMM
- Chairs have started working on recruiting Vice Chairs and they are working on how best to put a succession planning process in place.

### **New Business**

- None

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary

Minutes Approved as   X   Presented or          Amended on   December 5, 2024