



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

12/12/24 at 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committees: 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

Committee Chairs: Academic Support Committee (ASC) Chair: Tom Stauber; Health and Wellness Committee (HWC) Chair: Ann Payne; Hospitality Committee (HC) Chair: Priya Dodla; College Outreach Committee (COC) chair: Radha Somanchi; ANGP Committee Chair: Kareena Nair; ANGP Treasurer: Seema Singh; Reflections Chair: Meredith Caldwell

TJHSST Principal: Dr. Ann Bonitatibus

Others: SGA leader: Andrew Wang.

Total TJ PTSA members in attendance: 56

Location: Zoom

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Nell Janardhan
- II. Agenda Adoption: Nell Janardhan
- III. Approval of 9/19/2024 GM Meeting Minutes: Nell Janardhan
- IV. SGA Report: Andrew Wang
- V. Parent Liaison Report: Lee-lin Finkbeiner
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Dinesh Kumar
- VII. Student Club Support - Maggy Li
- VIII. Committee Reports - Catherine Li
 - A. Grad Celebration - Kareena Nair
 - B. Academic Support - Tom Stauber
 - C. College Planning - Radha Somanchi
 - D. Health and Wellness - Ann Payne
 - E. Therapy Dogs
 - F. Hospitality - Priya Dodla
 - G. Reflections - Meredith Caldwell
- IX. Principal's Reflections and Next Steps

Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the President called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- President Nell Janardhan welcomed the members, and provided logistical information for voting and asking questions on the Zoom platform
- The President reiterated that the meeting rules approved at the 9/19/24 GMM meeting will be adhered to. The rules were sent out in advance at the PTSA website and emailed to PTSA members. The highlights of the rules are:
 - GMM will use Robert's Rules.
 - Please be respectful and courteous at all times.

- Raise your hand (on Zoom) to request being recognized.
- Unmute and speak when recognized by the President.
- Any questions or suggestions can be sent on the Zoom chat. Maggy Li will monitor and route the questions as appropriate
- If time runs out, questions will be answered via email after the GMM.

Agenda Adoption

- The proposed agenda and time limits were published on the website and notified via the weekly membership newsletter.
- Motion to approve the agenda was proposed (Maggy Li), seconded (Catherine Li), and the agenda was adopted with 100% of the votes in favor
- Maggy Li will be the timekeeper to ensure adherence to the time limits in the approved agenda

Approval of 2024-9-19 GM Meeting Minutes

- The 2024-09-19 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 2024-09-19 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes; and the minutes were approved as presented.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report – Andrew Wang

- Homecoming event was a huge success, with \$14K raised for charity ('Helping hungry kids' non-profit organization) and 600 attendees
- Halloween events 'Teach or Treat' was much appreciated by students and staff
- Gratitude Grams organized during Thanksgiving week were a success
- Upcoming events include: Winter bash (Dec 13) – need volunteers, Gift Drive
- Andrew presented the quarterly financial report
- Suggestion to conduct a town hall to discuss the FCPS test re-take policy and provide feedback to teachers and students
- The SGA is appreciative of the TJPTSA support throughout the school year.

Parent Liaison Report: Lee-lin Finkbeiner

The Parent Liaison bridges communication between school and home by helping families get the information, help and resources that they need to ensure their children's academic and social success in school. Lee-Lin summarized her support to TJ families and school by:

- Making families feel welcomed, trusted and valued.
- Facilitating communication between families and school, and arranging interpreters if needed
- Providing information on TJ, FCPS and county resources
- Organizing or facilitating parent book clubs and support groups
- Working closely with school staff, including our social worker, psychologist and counselors.
- Promoting understanding of families' cultural diversity.
- Supervising the Wellness Room

Treasurer's report: Dinesh Kumar

- The treasurer – Dinesh Kumar – presented the budget vs. actuals-to-date, which is on plan.
- The balance sheet is strong, and the budget will allow for support to student clubs through appropriate approval processes
- The PTSA is very appreciate of the donations from members
- On behalf of the Executive Board, the Treasurer moved to adopt the proposed budget revision for 2024-25: to utilize the ANGP excess reserves of \$10,000 for ANGP. Since this motion is made on behalf of the Executive Board, a second is not required.
- Shikha Dixit asked a question about the ANGP funds and its use. Dinesh clarified that the motion was to utilize the accumulated excess (~\$35K in the current ANGP account) for the very purpose the donations were collected, i.e. for the ANGP. The motion is to use ANGP reserves of \$10,000 per year for the classes of 2025,2026 and 2027 ANGPs and fund the balance of the ANGP via regular fundraising expenses.
- **Motion to adopt the proposed budget passed with 94% of the votes in favor, and 6% abstained.**

****We have reached a significant milestone for memberships this year – 800 members!****

Student Club Support - Maggy Li

- During the 2023-2024 term, the PTSA board voted to return ownership of cultural celebrations to student clubs to foster a culture of engagement among our students and allow students to plan cultural celebrations to reflect a student-centered vision of inclusion. These changes were effective June 15, 2024.
- \$500 grants were given to the Spanish honor society (for Hispanic heritage month celebrations), Namaste club (for Diwali celebrations) and the Black Students Union (for Black History Month celebrations) through a structured application process shared with all clubs via the school.

Committee Reports - Catherine Li

Catherine Li, VP of events and programming provided an overview of event planning, and invited the committee chairs to highlight the accomplishments thus far, and the plans for the remainder of the 2024-2025 academic year

- **Grad Celebration** - Kareena Nair: The All Noite Graduation Party (ANGP) will be held on Thursday, 6/12 from 6pm-11pm at TJHSST. The date was moved to a weeknight since FCPS is observing a holiday that weekend. Kareena Nair and Deepika Sood are coordinating the ANGP planning and have received estimates from vendors. They plan to sell yard signs, Jefferson Cups, sculptures and tickets. The theme will be finalized after class councils communicate the 'vibe' they desire.
- **Academic Support** - Tom Stauber: The two 'Navigating TJ' discussions were well attended, with 98 participants at the kickoff, and 239 participants for 'Navigating TJ Math and Science'. Upcoming events include 'Navigating TJ Humanities (early February 2025), Counselor Breakfast/Lunch (early February 2025) and AP Snacks (May 2025 – need volunteers!)
- **College Planning** - Radha Somanchi: The 'Comprehensive college planning process' with school counselors and alumni parents was well attended. Alumni students will share their undergraduate journey Dec 17th. Upcoming events include 'Completing the Junior package – dos and don'ts' (March'25) and a ' Panel Discussion with Senior Students: What Worked, What didn't' in June'25.
- **Health and Wellness** - Ann Payne: The committee sponsored 3 sessions of the 9th grade Parent Book Club that were well attended, created interactive bulletin boards to highlight wellness topics, and supported student-led initiatives through the Mental Health Coalition. Upcoming events include 10th & 11th grade Parent Book Club sessions in January & February, Parent Support Group meetings in the spring.
 - **Therapy Dogs** – Anju Varghese: Alumni staff have volunteered their time to bring pet therapy dogs to school to help destress and create a calming environment at TJ. The committee will explore if hypoallergenic dogs can be brought in as well.
- **Hospitality** - Priya Dodla: The committee sponsored a welcome back lunch for teachers, a Thanksgiving luncheon for all TJ staff, all made possible with help from several parent volunteers – Thanks! Upcoming events include Holiday Gift bag stuffing on Dec 16th (Every staff member gets a bag filled with \$25 gift card and fun holiday candy); Valentine's Day Sweet Treats - Feb 14th; Spring Luncheon (Teacher appreciation) - April 25th; Teacher Appreciation week - May 5th to May 9th; End of the year Ice Cream Truck - June 11th
- **Reflections** - Meredith Caldwell: Reflections, a National PTA program, encourages students to express their artistic talents. 16 students submitted works of art this year across 5 categories including Film Production, Music Composition, Literature, Photography and Visual Arts. results will also be sent out in an upcoming PTSA newsletter. County and State winners will be announced in February.

Catherine Li wrapped up the events and committee reports with a shout-out to the parent volunteers, committee chairs and co-chairs for impacting the TJHSST student life through meaningful events. She reminded the team about the upcoming General Membership meeting dates (TBD Jan end, Feb 27, March 20 and May 1).

Nominating Committee – Dunia Pardo, Kokeb Kassa, Lisu Gu, Eric Chen, Jane Iyengar: Deadline to apply for TJHSST PTA Executive Committee leadership roles is Dec 31, 2024. Virtual interviews will be conducted Jan 10-15, 2025.

Adjournment

- The formal part of the General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.
- Dr. Bonitatibus provided her reflections of her years as the Principal and summarized next steps in the selection of the next Principal of TJHSST

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary.
Minutes Approved as _____ Presented or _____ Amended on ___February 27, 2025

DRAFT