



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

01/30/25 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 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

TJHSST Principal: Mr. Michael Mukai

Others: SGA leader: Joeclyn Hui and Jaydon Sun

Total TJ PTSA members in attendance: 60

Location: TJ Cafeteria

Agenda:

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Nell Janardhan
- II. Agenda Adoption: Nell Janardhan
- III. Approval of 12/12/2024 GM Meeting Minutes: Nell Janardhan
- IV. SGA Report: Jocelyn Hui and Jaydon Sun
- V. Treasurer's Report: Dinesh Kumar
- VI. Student Club Support Update- Maggy Li
- VII. Committee Reports - Catherine Li
 - o Grad Celebration - Kareena Nair
 - o Academic Support - Tom Stauber
 - o College Planning - Radha Somanchi
 - o Health and Wellness - Ann Payne
 - o Hospitality - Priya Dodla
- VIII. Nominating Committee report
- IX. Principal Welcome. Q&A. Meet and Greet

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
- 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:
 - o GMM will use Robert's Rules.

- Please be respectful and courteous at all times.
- Raise your hand to request being recognized.
- Speak when recognized by the President.

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 2024-12-12 GM Meeting Minutes

- The 2024-12-12 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 2024-12-12 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes; and the minutes were approved as presented.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report – Jocelyn Hui and Jaydon Sun

- Winter Bash event was a huge success, and the PTSA donated to the event that gives students an opportunity to wind down before the Winter break. Events included Karaoke, Trivia, Gingerbread house decorating, Spirit week (PJ Day, Candy Cane Day, Ugly Sweater Day, Rep Your Holiday, Movie Character Day), and food catered by Panda express.
- Winter Holiday Toy Drive in the TJ Nobel Commons was held 12/4 - 12/8, with 50+ donations sent to the nonprofit Mobile Hope
- SGA is working with SPAC to host a Town Hall sometime in February or March
- Each Class Council assembled a team to decorate their AP's door from November 22nd to December 13th, the winning class (as voted by the teachers) received \$250 to fund prom activities
- Upcoming events include 'TJ's got talent' on 2/21/25 and the Middle School Leadership conference
- The SGA is appreciative of the TJPTSA support throughout the school year.

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 projected revenue will likely exceed the baseline. Dinesh requested help to sustain fundraising.
- Dinesh has trued-up the \$200 variance in the budget draft proposed at the GMM on 12/12/24
- The PTSA is very appreciate of the donations from members

Student Club Support - Maggy Li

- The PTSA is actively supporting several student clubs through a structured grant application process shared with all clubs via the school.
- Grants were given to the following clubs/celebrations;
 - Hispanic Heritage Month (Hispanic Community Club)
 - Diwali (Namaste Club)
 - Russian Old New Year (Russian Culture Club)
 - Taste of TJ (Class Council 2025)
 - Lunar New Year (a collaboration between the Asian Awareness Club, Korean Culture Club, Vietnamese Student Association, Japanese Cultural Club, and Chinese Honor Society) and
 - Black History Month (Black Student Union)

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 and Deepika Sood: Given the unexpected FCPS school holiday during the traditional graduation weekend, the chairs conducted a poll of students on Jan 15, 2025 to assess how they would like to celebrate their special day. The majority votes was for a trip Thursday, 6/12 from 8am – 10pm to an amusement/theme park (likely Hershey). Kareena Nair and Deepika Sood are coordinating the ANGP planning

and have received estimates from vendors. TJ25 Graduation Store is now open to support the fundraising efforts for the TJ25 GRAD Trip. Items available for purchase include Yard Sign, Jefferson Cup and the TJ Sculpture.

- **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 changes (13 February 2025), Navigating TJ Humanities (date TBD) and AP Snacks (need volunteers!) - May 2025
- **College Planning** - Radha Somanchi: The 'Comprehensive college planning process' with school counselors and alumni parents on 10/23/24 was well attended. Alumni students shared their undergraduate journey on Dec 17th. TJ Alumni students shared their unique experiences – from Settling into their Campuses, learnings from their high school and What's been the same and what changed since high school graduation. 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 4 sessions of the 9th and 11th grade Parent Book Clubs 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 (1/31/25 and 2/14/25), Parent Support Group meetings (2/24, 3/14 and 4/4). The committee also plans to provide lunch for the Student Services team during Counselor Appreciation Week, and to continue supporting staff wellness activities and student-led initiatives
- **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! Holiday Gift bags with \$25 gift card and fun holiday candy were given to each staff at TJ. Upcoming events include: 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. The Hospitality committee expressed their thanks to the TJPTSA and the generous parents for making these wonderful events possible. One PTSA member requested that food be labelled if they contain peanuts – and the hospitality committee agreed to continue doing so.

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 (March 20 and May 1).

Nominating Committee – Dunia Pardo, (Kokeb Kassa, Lisu Gu, Eric Chen, Jane Iyengar are the other members): Deadline to apply for TJHSST PTA Executive Committee leadership roles is Dec 31, 2024. Virtual interviews will be conducted Jan 10-15, 2025. The TJ PTSA Nominating Committee will present its report and slate of recommended candidates to the membership at the next general PTSA meeting on March 20, 2025.

Adjournment

- The formal part of the General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.
- Nell Janardhan invited the new TJHSST Principal Mr. Micahel Mukai to introduce himself, share his journey as a parent and as a principal, and address the changes in work for the TJHSST curriculum.
- Mr. Mukai previewed the changes, and how they will help normalize and position TJ students' scholastic performance better, specifically when college admission officers comparatively assess applicants across all schools.
- Mr. Mukai will present the changes again in a webinar forum on February 13, 2025.

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary.

Minutes Approved as X Presented or Amended on March 20, 2025