



TJ PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

02/20/25 at 7:30 pm – 9:00 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

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

TJHSST Principal: Mr. Michael Mukai

Location: Google Meet

Agenda

- Call meeting to order
- Approval of prior meeting minutes in draft;
 - EB meeting on December 5th
 - EC vote minutes on Jan 8th
- Treasurer's report - Dinesh Kumar
- Committee Updates : if any
 - Grad Celebration - 5 mins Report from Kareena Nair & Deepika Sood
 - Academic Support - Tom Stauber
 - College Planning - Radha Somanchi
 - Health and Wellness - Ann Payne
 - Hospitality - Priya Dodla
- Principal's report - Mike Mukai
- Next EB (March 13) and GMM (March 20) Meetings.reminder
 - Next GMM Virtual: Thu, March 20th, - 30,45 mins for PTSA business (NC report) and 1:15 for Principal's report and q&a
- Adjournment

Call Meeting to Order

- A quorum was determined to be present and the president called the meeting to order (@7:31pm).

Approval of prior meeting minutes draft;

- The committee sought feedback on the draft meeting minutes from past EB meetings held on December 5, 2024 and the special EC meeting held on January 8, 2025 . These were all approved, with no suggestions or corrections.

Treasurer report – Dinesh Kumar

- Actual spending is in-line with budget, and all book-keeping activities are up-to-date. Spend rate is projected to increase, but not exceed the budget.
- For JDay, the PTSA expects a small credit from Fantasy World (for the cancelled Back to school event),
- The PTSA will provide financial aid for those needing it for the ANGP Hershey park visit. Also, reserves of 10,000 from the ANGP funds are now earmarked for 2025 (future board for 26 and 27). This was voted on by the membership during the December GMM
- President Nell Janardhan requested Treasurer Dinesh Kumar to provide an estimated ending balance as of June 30th for the next EB meeting. Dinesh will send the February-close account details in early March

Committee reports:

ANGP Grad Celebrations (Kareen Nair'25 and Deepika Sood'26): Report sent via email. Preparations are in full swing for the Theme park / Amusement park (likely Hershey Park) visit to celebrate our graduating class. This is the first time so it's hard to forecast. The committee expects anywhere from 150-300 students to attend, but will flex as needed and on-demand. We will have a clearer picture based on ticket sales by April.

Academic support committee (Tom Stauber): Tom Stauber facilitated a Zoom-based discussion with Mr. Mukai on his journey and the new TJ curriculum updates. The virtual meeting was well attended, and the PTSA has received good feedback from parents. The 'Navigating TJ Humanities' session will likely be delayed this year. Mr. Mukai asked for perspectives from Rising Senior parents on the call on specific course selections by the students. ~200 students chose the Senior Seminar/ Global studies, while ~300 chose AP Geography and AP Lit/Lang. Parents voiced their perspectives of having a stem-focused child, kids knowing exactly what they want, and that parents and their child likely did not spend as much time as needed to explore the Humanities offerings in detail (and could benefit from more information on the choices). Mr. Mukai acknowledged that the Senior choices are a good window into what the students want to do and the choices they want to make. Humanities 1 choices have yet to be made, and Humanities 2 options are being considered. Ann Payne underscored the importance of letting Upperclass parents know about the Senior course options and market those classes to the parents and students. SGA is organizing a town hall and is evaluating how best to organize (eg. by grade level) to ensure the maximum number of staff members can attend. Final date for the town hall is TBD. Nell Janardhan underscored the ideas of communicating the curriculum changes after we receive the finalized language from the county with the new options to choose from.

College outreach and planning: (Radha Somanchi) –Upcoming events include 'Completing the Junior package – dos and don'ts' (March/April '25) and a ' Panel Discussion with Senior Students: What Worked, What didn't' in June'25. We will invite Senior parents to share their perspective on balancing the tactical (counsellor suggestions) with the strategic (long term focus). Radha needs help from March to May and will recruit another committee member for running the Junior Packet panel.

Health and Wellness committee (Ann Payne): . The committee wrapped up 10th & 11th grade Parent Book Club sessions in January & February facilitated by parent liaison Lei-Lin Finkbeiner. Parent Support Group meetings facilitated by the school social worker Daniel Armstrong will be held in the spring. An evening session on 2/24 will address procrastination, and followed by sessions on managing anxiety and learning from the cultural stories and immigrant narratives.

Hospitality committee (Priya Dodla) Valentine's day event was very successful with sweet goodies delivered to staffs' doors. Planning is in progress for the Spring luncheon and the volunteer luncheon.

Membership and Fundraising (Julia Li): The Mock SAT form Princeton has 115 students signed up, and raised ~\$2,300 for the PTSA. We expect similar interest for PSAT practice tests. The Membership directory software A2Z has 10 years of member data that has to be purged, cleaned and wrangled, and Julia will propose a plan of action at the next EB meeting.

Principal's report (Mr. Michael Mukai): Mr. Mukai expressed his thanks to the FCPS, Superintendent Dr. Reid, Head of schools Dr. Ponce, Mr. Adam Smith and VA Department of Transportation for enabling the 'F=MA' physics competition to

be held at TJHSST on a snowed-out holiday. The parents appreciate Mr. Mukai engaging readily to convince FCPS administration of this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for students since this exam is administered synchronously once a year. The PTSA thanks Mr. Mukai for his leadership. TJ continues to earn recognition in all areas – the Girls Basketball team now boasts a nationally recognized district player of the year.

Upcoming GMM Meeting - After the PTSA portion, Mr. Mukai has graciously agreed to share his perspectives and experiences as both the Principal, and as a parent of college-going kids. He will also share some financial planning nuggets.

New Business:

- Catherine Li voiced 2 concerns:
 - Will college admission counselors recognize and appropriately weight the grades of students who took classes in 2024 vs 2025 whose curriculum and AP status changed in that period? Mr. Mukai said the curriculum profiles for each year are sent to the admission counselors to help normalize the perceived 'advantage' that the AP-level grades have over those who took the same classes last year and did not get the GPA boost.
 - Can a police person help marshal traffic at the entrance to the school in the mornings? Mr. Mukai will look into the matter and talk with traffic control for the police department, but reiterated that school personnel cannot guide traffic on Braddock.
- The EC discussed funding SGA or other initiatives for the school and Mr. Mukai recommended to contact Bethany Fortier and the school finance office for next steps.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary
Minutes Approved as __X__ Presented or _____ Amended on _March 13, 2025