



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes

03/20/25 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 Yellepeddy; ANGP Committee Chair: Kareena Nair

TJHSST Principal: Mr. Michael Mukai

Others: SGA leader: Jocelyn Hui and Jaydon Sun

Total TJ PTSA members in attendance: 114

Location: Zoom

Agenda (7:00pm – 7:50pm)

- I. Call to Order and Welcome: Nell Janardhan
- II. Agenda Adoption: Nell Janardhan
- III. Approval of 1/30/2025 GM Meeting Minutes: Nell Janardhan (1 min)
- IV. SGA Report: Jaydon Sun (10 mins)
- V. Principal's Updates: Mr. Mukai (10 mins)
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Dinesh Kumar (5 mins)
- VII. Nominating committee report (5 mins)
- VIII. Committee Reports - Catherine Li (15 mins)
 - A. Grad Celebration - Kareena Nair & Deepika Sood
 - B. Academic Support - Tom Stauber
 - C. College Planning - Radha Yellepeddy & Mara Marshall
 - D. Health and Wellness - Ann Payne & Liz Das
 - E. Hospitality - Priya Dodla
- IX. Adjournment

7:50 pm - 9:00 pm

- X. Guiding the College Journey: Insights from Principal Mukai as a Parent

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:
 - GMM will use Robert's Rules.
 - Please be respectful and courteous at all times.
 - Raise your hand to request being recognized.
 - Stay on mute, till called upon by the President.
 - Messages sent via Zoom will be monitored and routed by Catherine Li and Maggy Li
 - Send any ideas and suggestions for next year via chat to the host

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 98% of the votes in favor, and 2% abstained
- Maggy Li will be the timekeeper to ensure adherence to the time limits in the approved agenda
- Since the secretary would be joining 15 min late, Harini Parthasarathy was appointed to take meeting minutes in the interim

Approval of 2025-01-30 GM Meeting Minutes

- The 2025-01-30 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 2025-01-30 TJ PTSA GM Meeting Minutes; and the minutes were approved as presented.

Student Government Association (SGA) Report – Jaydon Sun

- Jaydon, the current secretary at TJ, discussed the various initiatives and events organized by the Student Government Association (SGA).
 - The upcoming Town Hall meeting to be held on the 8th period on March 21st; (possible topics – changes to courses, grading, mental health). Upperclassmen's town hall had good turnout,
 - The Commons initiative to provide power towers, microwaves and printers
 - The Lunch Line initiative to ease congestion
 - The Middle School Leadership Conference held the prior weekend
- Jaydon also mentioned the upcoming SGA elections, J-Day celebrations, and the Student Rep to the School Board elections. He emphasized the importance of planning and logistics in these events.
- The SGA is appreciative of the TJPTSA support throughout the school year.

Principal's report – Mr. Michael Mukai

- Mr. Mukai followed-up on Jaydon's report – microwaves were added/replaced in the cafeteria and measures to ease congestion in the lunch lines were implemented.
- Mr. Mukai addressed the upcoming AP tests, and made a request for help with proctoring.
- A high number of respiratory illnesses has been reported among students – Mr. Mukai encouraged students to stay home when sick, eat well and rest up.
- Mr. Mukai appreciated the PTSA's efforts for community and school support.
- Mr. Mukai stressed that parents and students do not have to wait for committee/GMM meetings to ask questions – please raise them with the counselors.
- Nell (President) thanked Mr. Mukai for his initiative, and expressed interest for the PTSA to continue the deep collaboration with him, the teachers and the staff at TJHSST

Treasurer's report: Dinesh Kumar

- The treasurer – Dinesh Kumar – presented the budget vs. actuals-to-date. Expenses are on track.
- PTSA has exceeded its revenue goal and plans to repurpose some funds for student support. Dinesh will propose a budget amendment at the next GMM on May 1st, based on the requests from stakeholders and the revenue position.
- The balance sheet is strong, and the budget will allow for support to student clubs through appropriate approval processes.

- The PTSA is very appreciative of the donations from members.
- Nell reminded the attendees that 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.
- PTSA has continued to support cultural celebrations through Student Club Support grants and the application forms and process have been shared with the clubs via the school. So far, we have provided grants to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Diwali, Russian New Year, Lunar New year, Black History Month, Taste of TJ, and the MSA is currently planning the Eid celebration.

Nominating Committee Report – Jane Iyengar

- Dunia Pardo, Kokeb Kassa, Lisu Gu, Eric Chen, Jane Iyengar are the members of the nominating committee for leadership positions for the TJPTSA's 2025-2026 school year. The deadline to apply for TJHSST PTA Executive Committee leadership roles was Dec 31, 2024. Virtual interviews were conducted in January.
- The following slate of Executive Committee leadership candidates was vetted, voted on, and brought forward:
 - President: Catherine Li
 - 1st Vice President of Programming & Events: Kokeb Kassa
 - 2nd Vice President of Membership & Fundraising: Ye (Maggy) Li
 - 3rd Vice President of Communications: Thomas Stauber
 - Treasurer: Dinesh Kumar
 - Secretary: Raji Madhuvana
- Nell thanked the nominating committee as they continue the process leading up to the election on May 1st at the in-person General Membership meeting in the TJHSST cafeteria.

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: As outlined in the prior GMM minutes, the Grad celebration will be a trip to Hershey park on Thursday, 6/12 from 7:45am – 10:45pm..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.
 - Yard Sign, Jefferson Cup, Ornament - Sales closed. Products ordered. Pickup is planned for mid/late April.
 - TJ Sculpture - In Progress. Sales close on April 24th. Vendor is responsible for deliveries.
 - GRAD Trip tickets - \$75 and \$85 tickets sold! Selling tickets for \$95. Sales close on May 1st.
 - Decisions pending - Book charter buses and pay a deposit, if applicable
- **Academic Support** - Tom Stauber: The three 'Navigating TJ' discussions were well attended, with 98 participants at the kickoff, and 239 participants for 'Navigating TJ Math and Science' and 'Navigating TJ changes' held with Mr. Mukai on 13 February 2025). Upcoming events include AP support help – need proctors (170+ slots), Snacks, and volunteers! - May 5-16, 2025. Be on the lookout for a Signup Genius in PTSA weekly email (starting March 31st). The Navigating TJ Humanities has been moved out due to scheduling conflicts and the curriculum changes.
- **College Planning** - Radha Yellepeddy: Upcoming events include 'Demystifying the Junior packet – dos and don'ts' (virtual panel on April 9th) and a "Panel Discussion with Senior Students: What Worked, What Didn't" in June '25. Ummara Marshall, co-chair will be moderating the Junior Packet panel and Radha will be moderating the final Panel discussion with senior students..
- **Health and Wellness** - Ann Payne: The committee sponsored 6 sessions of the 9th , 10th and 11th grade Parent Book Clubs that were well attended, and has created interactive bulletin boards to highlight wellness topics. The committee has hosted two Parent Support Group meetings on anxiety and executive functioning and has supported student-led initiatives through the Mental Health Coalition. The committee also celebrated Counselor Appreciation Week and School Social Work Week. Upcoming activities include a final Parent Support Group meeting on 'Cultural Clash: Defining the impact of your story and utilizing its strengths to build comfort and confidence in parenting'. This event will be held in-person on Friday, April 4, 9:00 - 10:30 am in TJ's Franklin Commons. The committee will continue to support staff wellness activities and student-led initiatives in 4th quarter.

- **Hospitality** - Priya Dodla: The committee celebrated Valentine's Day with Sweet Treats!! Upcoming events include a 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 thanks to the TJPTSA and the generous parents for making these wonderful events possible. The committee is organizing a volunteer appreciation event on May 3rd at a local park.
- **Reflections** – Meredith Caldwell: The Reflections program has come to an end for the year. Hearty congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's PTSA Reflections program. Click the link [TJ Award Notice](#) to view the students' artwork
 - Congratulations to TJ's County-Level Reflections Award-Winners of the national PTA Reflections arts program:
 - Visual Arts - **Christina Oh** - *Award of Merit*
 - Photography - **Evan Cafaro** - *Award of Merit*
 - Literature - **Grace Im** - *Award of Excellence*
 - Music Composition - **Jaeyoon Kim** - *Award of Excellence*
 - Film - **Luke Caldwell** - *Outstanding Interpretation*
 - For a complete list of County-level winners please use the following link [Fairfax County Reflections Winners](#)
 - We would also like to commend **Luke Caldwell** who received the *Award of Excellence* at the State-level competition.
 - To see a full list of Virginia State Winners see the flyer at [Virginia State Winners](#).
 - If you would like to get started early, the theme for next year is **I Belong!**

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 on May 1st.

Nell encouraged parents to reach out to the Muslim Student Association for the upcoming Eid event participation.

Adjournment

- The formal part of the General Membership Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.
- Nell Janardhan invited the TJHSST Principal Mr. Micahel Mukai to share his college journey as a parent and thanked him for the 2 sessions addressing curriculum changes.
- Mr. Mukai discussed several topics of interest to parents and students including parenting tips, college application advice, financial aid pathways, college application support, communications planning and upcoming events
- Nell proposed collecting questions from parents via a Google form by May 1 and creating a FAQ to be published on the PTSA website subsequently.
- The next PTSA meeting will be held in-person at the TJHSST School Cafeteria on May 1st, starting at 6:30pm. Topics will include budget amendments, elections, and a session with the principal.

Minutes Prepared by Sanjay Parthasarathy, TJHSST PTSA Secretary.

Minutes Approved as X Presented or Amended on May 1, 2025