



John D. O'Bryant/BTHS Alumni Association Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Location: 2/17/2005 5:30:00 PM - 7:30:00 PM

John D. O'Bryant School teacher's lounge.

Attendees: Cynthia Fernandes, Greg Gamble, Elizabeth Miranda, Joel Stembridge, and Howard Leibowitz

Absent:

- **Discussion items: #1. Incorporating the Association\By-Laws**
 1. Greg informed the group that the association is officially incorporated and is called the John D. O'Bryant-Boston Technical High School Association. The association has a federal id number and the appropriate solicitation forms have been processed. Cynthia provided a hard copy of the by-laws for the group to review.

Action Items:

 - a. Greg will provide an update on the filing of the State PC form at the next meeting.
- **Discussion items: #2. Alumni Association Website**
 1. Cynthia informed the group that an RFP (request for proposal) with NetCasters (web hosting vendor) was currently being drafted for the alumni website.
 2. The group discussed the possibility of naming the website *www.tigeralum.org*.

Action Items:

 - a. Cynthia will update the group with a status on the alumni website at the next meeting.
- **Discussion items: #3. JDO Immediate Needs**
 1. Joel provided the group with a wish list of items that the school needs. The list was broken into 3 categories: Technology, Extracurricular Activities and Athletics. The biggest request involved funding for an athletic and academic awards ceremony that was previously held annually but hasn't occurred in years due to a lack of funding. The ceremony could cost \$10,000 to cover the cost for the caterer and the awards/trophies. Joel expressed frustration with the school's lack of technological materials since the JDO School's primary initiative is Math and Science.
 2. Cynthia indicated that having the wish list is a start but there is an uncertainty with regards to how the association should disburse funds to JDO since it is a public school.

Action Items:

 - a. Joel will investigate the disbursement of funds process from the association to the school and report any updates at the next meeting.
- **Discussion items: #4. NEASC Report**
 1. Joel informed the group that the school was just recently reviewed by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and there were a total of 80 recommendations on the

report, one of which included the need to upgrade/install new computers/hardware. Joel will be meeting with the Assistant Superintendent of BPS to discuss the NEASC report and future school budgets on 2/28/05.

Action Items:

- a. Joel will update the group on the meeting with the Assistant Superintendent at the next meeting

• **Discussion items: #5. The Voice of JDO**

1. Joel spoke of the lack of external support with regards to the JDOB School. There appears to be a sense of apathy from within the community since no one has really fought for the school's interest. Joel is currently revising the school's mission statement to include an overall focus on educating students that are well rounded in all subject matters and not just Math and Science.
2. Joel is also working with Northeastern staff members to develop a strategic plan for the school which will include focus groups for parents, teachers, students and alumnae.
3. Joel indicated that the school's alumnae are crucial with regards to this campaign for the school since they can contribute monetarily and provide mentorship to students with similar interests.

• **Discussion items: #6. Soliciting Support**

1. Liz recommended that we form small social functions (meet and greet sessions) to network with alumnae and provide information about the association and the immediate needs of the school.
2. Howard provided names of several alumnae who may be able to contribute financially to the association. Howard also suggested that we look to the Biotech industries since Massachusetts is the Biotech leader who tends to hire graduates of Math/Science schools. Howard also provided the group with a list of prominent associations and businesses (Hyams, EMC, BARR, and the Boston Foundation) in the community who may also be able to provide financial assistance to the association. Community leaders/alumnae like Mel King and Charles Yancey could also offer assistance.
3. Liz suggested that we also try to diversify the alumnae association so that we ensure that all groups are represented.

Action Items:

- a. The group will begin networking with various resources including local community officials, and entrepreneurs to solicit funding for the association.