

Thespian Backers Meeting Minutes-8/30/2023, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Kristianna Gizzi, Michelle Hoffmann, Becky Lipinski, Kristin Kulikowski, Michelle Skillings, Traci Powell, Anne Gavorcik, Kristin Taylor, Amy Berner, Lyn Dempsey, Rochelle Koerbel, Lish Gensler, Jen McCabe, Amy Mattes, Julie Collins, Carolyn Dudek, Tawnya Kotonoglou, Margi Swellie, Stacy Henderson, Tara Fee, Renee Ho, Joe Cataneo, Danielle Pavlik, Marian Abdelmalak, Sally Jeswilkowski, Heidi Todd, Deanna Gallagher, Natalie Severns, Mandy Feitt, Liz Bertsch, Mike Zukowski, Joelle, Koucoumaris, Jillian Klinar, Cari Williams, Michelle Reyes, Shannon Hemmingson, Jill Throckmorton, Jill Kriz, Kristine Kolarosky

Jeanie Cygrymus:

- Student Meeting-held today, well attended, and led by their student board
 - Handbook discussed; all students must sign back sheet (to Jeanie)
 - Backers Historian role explained-collect pictures and make scrapbook
 - Students requesting donation of scrapbooking supplies; bring to rehearsals or meetings
 - Activity Fee: All students must submit form at \$10 to Jeanie
- Point System: new procedures for submitting points, Jeanie offered to stay after to review points system with new parent members.
 - Students will now submit Google form
 - Attendance to outside shows now earns 10 points. To collect, form must include review of show and a picture (playbill, student at show, or ticket)
 - Freshmen can submit programs from middle school productions
- Conference: Will perform 1 Act show this year
 - May not have a student director this year due to lack of student experience. Will provide opportunity for students to help and learn director role at conference
 - Oct 17: Audition for Juniors and Seniors only
 - IF there is enough room for additional students, Sophomores will be invited by Jeanie according to points (this was explained to students at meeting)
 - November 30-Dec 3-Conference
 - Note: begins on Thursday; students have permission for early dismissal
 - Must be in good standing academically to participate/attend
 - November 29, 7 pm: Preview night for parents
- Field Trip: Dinner and Show-Mamma Mia
 - 3/27, 80 tickets are available; sign up online (date to be provided)
 - Students from all grades are invited to sign up for a ticket

Kristianna Gizzi

- Welcome to parents

- Review role of Thespian Backers
 - Provide support to students (food, cast parties, help organize volunteers for shows, concessions at shows, assist with costumes, field trips, etc)
 - Please ask any board member for more information
- Band app-Please follow for updates throughout the year on all activities, including sign ups, schedules, etc. QR Codes for band app links were provided on back of meeting agenda. October is our audition month (conference, Coffeehouse, Musical). Band app is best resource of information
- Fall Play-Directed by Mr. Cygrymus
 - September 11, 6:30 pm-Parent meeting in auditorium
 - Ads: Support the Troupe, thank you to Colleen Gallagher for organizing program
 - Complete form and submit payment by September 11 to be included in Fall program. Form available at meeting and on Thespian website with more information
 - Rochelle Koerbel and Cari Williams are additional producers
 - September 15-Tickets on sale online, assigned seating
 - September 8-Fall play merchandise orders due
- Important Dates: Please refer to handout provided at meeting. Also located on our website, ptthespianbackers.com
- Spirit Wear Sale: New for this year, allows recognition of our program (especially during conference and other events). Form available on the Band app
 - Funds applied to each grade separately for their future Senior Trip (more details below)
 - Online store closes Sept 15
- Review of Committees: Help always welcome. Committees may be all year or for one event. Help will also be needed for next year's board, as 3 members will leave
- Family ID: All must register; helpful in case of medical emergencies, to contact family quickly, aware of medical issues in advance
- Patron of the Arts: Akin to Cultural Trust of Pittsburgh
 - Elevates the level of our productions
 - Helps support salaries of professional staff
 - Allowed us to increase number of scholarships we provide (from 4 to 6)
 - Can use to purchase extra equipment not covered by district
- P-Rade: September 20, 2023
 - Last year we won best float
 - All students welcome, whether inducted yet or not
 - This year's theme is 50's to correlate with our spring musical
- Senior Panos
 - All will have pano pictures taken on 9/28 at 5:00
 - Wear jeans and white t-shirt, can add a prop

- Panos given at banquet
- Senior Trip
 - 28 seniors going
 - 3 days, 2 nights in NYC-2 workshops, 2 shows
 - Hoping to start a tradition for future seniors
- Arts Signing Day-new event starting this spring
 - For all graduating seniors that will pursue any field of art study in college (art, theater, music)
 - More information will be provided
 - Kristianna Gizzi and Cari Williams will set up
 - Pictures taken with student and parents (similar to athletic signing day)
- Recognized Mrs. Cygrymus' participation in the production of Steel Magnolias
 - Students planning to support her by attending performance

Michelle Hoffmann

- Backers' Membership dues
 - Support treats during productions and rehearsals, allows for field trip discounts
 - Benefits to members: discounts, dinner for banquet is covered for backers' senior, etc.
 - Please submit form (provided at meeting and online) and payment of \$100 as soon as possible but no later than 3/1/24.
- New Board members will be needed next year
 - Current board is available to answer questions about any duties
 - Benefits: getting to know the kids, understanding the production process, provides support to the shows for great experience and performance
- Concessions-thank you to Julie Collins for heading committee for this year
 - Please use band app to sign up for donations and volunteer
 - Can bring donations to the school or drop at Julie's house
- Backstage parents: help is always needed during each show
 - Monitor, keep kids organized and quiet
 - Must have clearances up to date
- Coffeehouse committee
 - Group of 4 is ideal; will need 2 new members next year
 - Work with Mrs. Wilmus to provide food/drinks and other needs
 - Volunteers needed for shows

Becky Lipinski

- Upcoming meeting dates provided (6:30 pm)

- 8/30, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13, 1/10, 2/14, 3/6*, 4/10, 5/8

Kristin Kulikowski

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting. Ending balance just under \$30,000. Line items indicate expenditures and upcoming needs. Reach out to Kristin with any questions
 - Motion to approve budget: Shannon Hemmingson; 2nd by Julie Collins
- Fundraisers
 - Fall Fundraiser is “Set the stage for fall”
 - Prize is Traeger Pro 780 Grill (value approx. \$1000), 7 piece All Clad set (donated by Taylors, approx. value \$500). Additional items provided by Ace Hardware including grill cover, sauces, rubs, etc. Ace will also deliver and set up if winner within 5 mile radius of the store.
 - Tickets are \$20 each, each family asked to sell 10 tickets to support Troupe. Please pickup your tickets from Kristen after the meeting
 - Donut Sales-reduced from 3 to 2 sales this year
 - All students must help with both sales and also earn points. More information to be provided.
 - November 18, 2023 and February 10, 2024-sale dates
 - SnapRaise: Fundraiser for Seniors to support Senior Trip

Michelle Skillings

- Update on regulations
 - As of 7/10/23, Thespian Backers now registered with PA as a 501C3 entity
 - Next step is to send required documentation to IRS
 - Once approved, Backers can implement Dine and Donate fundraising
- Costumes
 - Any help is appreciated
 - Benefit to helping backstage is seeing production process

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn made by Liz Bertsch
- 2nd to motion made by Anne Gavorcik