

Thespians Backers Meeting Minutes-11/13/2023, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Kristianna Gizzi, Michelle Hoffmann, Becky Lipinski, Kristin Kulikowski, Erin Fallon, Michelle Reyes, Colleen Gallagher, Shannon Hemmingson, Margi Swellie, Amy Berner, Tonya Katenoglou, Deanna Gallagher, Rochelle Koerbel, Anne Gavorcik, Chris Gavorcik, Kristin Taylor, Dan Gavorcik, Lisa Gensler, Amy Racunas, Amanda Feitt, Nancy Sampson, Danielle Pavlik, Cari Williams, Lyn Dempsey

Jeanie Cygrymus

- Review of 11/13/23 student Troupe 185 meeting
 - Improv class held 11/7 and well received by students
 - Thespians Thanksgiving: Will be held at Feitt home. Student board will send details (day/time/food).
- Activity Fee: Must be paid prior to participation in any thespian activities (Coffeehouse, Conference, meetings, parties, field trips, etc); check with Jeanie if you are unsure if you have paid
 - Activity fee is only paid once per year and is a district requirement for participation in a club
- Mamma Mia: 3/27/24
 - Dinner before show at Hard Rock Cafe
 - 2 buses, can take 80
 - Mrs. C has 3 tickets left: Contact her to purchase; first 3 to confirm with payment can purchase the remaining tickets
 - Backers to contribute \$2,040 toward field trip
 - Children of Backers members have no remaining balance
 - Mrs. Cygrymus urged members to share information about Backers membership to any parents who have not joined, so that they can receive benefits of discounts

Kristianna Gizzi:

- Fall Play Review
 - Board expressed gratitude to parents who volunteered time and donated to concessions
 - Directors and producers relayed that the show was well received
 - Frankenstein was highest attended fall play in 2 years
 - Backers Patron of the Arts funded additional Tech Director (\$1,018)
- Conference
 - 11/28 at 7:00 pm: Preview night

- One Act and Thespy's to be performed
 - All students and Backers encouraged to attend
 - Forms and balance due by 11/15
 - Bring to rehearsal or front office
 - Forms are mandatory from district to attend
 - Medications must be in original packaging
 - Workshop selection: Students can read descriptions on PA Thespians website
 - Students can go to 3 workshops
 - Need to submit top 5 choices
 - Mrs. Cygrymus will register online and make every attempt to secure students' top choices but registration happens quickly as all Thespians in PA attending will also be online
 - One Act will be performed to 8th graders on Move Up Day
 - Props: Mrs. Cygrymus will send list of needed items
 - Biggest need is caps and gowns for graduation scene; will use black, red or white
 - Also will need clipboards and pencils
 - Backers contributed \$3,000 to trip; funds provided will allow for discount for children of Backers.
 - Video of performance will be taken and shared with parents
- Coffeehouse
 - Michelle Hoffman showed new mug to members (12 ounce mug with new logo)
 - Can purchase mug and bring it to each show for refills
 - Kristianna Gizzi provided info re: division of responsibilities for CH
 - PTHS Presents (PTSD): production of performances
 - Troupe 185/Parent Backers: Food/beverages, organize space
 - 11/24, 8 am: Ticket sale begins on Ludus
 - *Online presale for parents of seniors on 11/20 to buy tickets for one night, other nights to be purchased with general sale
 - Select table and number of seats, NOT seat assignment
 - Ads for program due Monday
 - If prepaid, see Colleen for any changes
 - 11/18*: Mandatory tech day
 - *If PT football still in playoffs, Tech will be 11/17 after rehearsal
 - See Mrs. Wilmus ASAP with any conflicts
 - Cari Williams noted cast list is on Band app-please have students check for spelling and give names of Bands performing
 - 11/16: Dress rehearsal after school (performers can leave after their acts)
 - Schedule note: If football still in playoffs, will move Friday evening show to Saturday matinee. Schedule adjustments will be made after Dec 1 football game

- All Shook Up-Musical
 - Cast list will be posted to Band App next Thursday or Friday
 - Cast party: to be held after Sunday matinee in cafeteria
 - Volunteers will be needed, see Kristianna or Michelle
 - Considering different food for party instead of pizza, will update
 - Senior Rec: held opening night of Musical
 - Michelle Skillings has generously offered to again help with decorations for lockers
 - Recognition is for all Senior Thespians, not just those in musical
 - Stage Crew: new addition to this year's musical
 - Sign up will be posted
 - Group will work on set
 - Performers/tech will not be required to work on set, but can if they have availability to be on Stage Crew
 - ALL involved in musical will be required at strike as in the past
 - Can be on Stage Crew without involvement in musical (i.e. help with set build, then done)
 - 1/3: Parent meeting, rehearsals begin
 - Scripts: to be distributed before Christmas so that students can begin reviewing
 - Students will not have to return scripts this year
 - Policies
 - Costumes: All performers pay \$25 costume fee to defray costs
 - Family ID: Must be registered to attend any rehearsals
 - Grades: Reports sent to directors/producers every Friday; cannot attend rehearsals if not in good standing
 - Cannot attend rehearsal if absent from school
 - Miss >3 rehearsals: forfeit role in musical
 - Will need to move actors if anyone out of musical due to attendance
- Spring Play
 - Friday evening, Saturday evening, Sunday matinee
 - More details to come
- Senior Trip
 - Last payment due 11/17-see Band app for details
 - Voted to see Aladdin and Chicago
 - Cast party with Aladdin and workshop with Chicago
 - Received \$500 grant from tour company based on educational benefits
- Panos: 29 seniors received, 27 were paid for by Backers (children of members, at cost of \$1,485)

Michelle Hoffmann

- Coffeehouse-additional information provided; see Michelle or committee with questions
 - Volunteers: Sign Up Genius will be sent after 11/20 schedule is posted by Mrs. Wilmus
 - No pizza this year as it is not cost effective (poor sales in the past)
 - Popcorn, desserts, drinks available
- Mamma Mia and Conference: next events that are being supported by Backers
 - Reminders to join Backers by 11/30 to receive discounts (Venmo or Check)

Becky Lipinski

- Upcoming meeting dates provided at bottom of agenda, website, and band app
- Be sure to sign in so that we can record your attendance
- See Becky after the meeting if you are not receiving emails from Thespian Backers

Kristin Kulikowski

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting
 - Motion to approve budget: Kristin Taylor; 2nd by Shannon Hemmingson
- Fundraisers
 - Fall Fundraiser: Set Stage for Fall
 - Profit of \$6,836
 - Expressed gratitude to parents for supporting
 - Donut Sale held 10/28
 - Profit of \$1,125
 - Thank you to Mandy Feitt for organizing and running sale
 - Thank you to Skillings family for tireless work to organize routes
 - Colleen Gallagher expressed that it was most smoothly run sale for which she has volunteered
 - Mandy Feitt reported that students were very involved and helpful
 - Sale so successful that we oversold number ordered (325 dozen)
 - For next sale, will close 1 week prior
 - Thank you to volunteers, feedback from parents, community and PA
 - Thespians organization has been positive for donut sale

End of Meeting Remarks made by Kristianna Gizzi to give feedback from directors and producers regarding Thespian productions. Noted how supportive and encouraging all students have been toward each other, despite high level of stress and competition during season of auditions. Please pass message along to students.