

Thespian Backers Meeting Minutes-1/10/24

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Kristianna Gizzi, Michelle Hoffmann, Becky Lipinski, Kristin Kulikowski, Joanne Gudenburr, Mandy Feitt, Lisa Gensler, Anne Gavorcik, Chris Gavorcik, Lyn Dempsey, Liz Bertsch, Sally Jeswilkowski, Colleen Gallagher, Tanya Kotenoglou, Gretchen White, Jeremy White, Dan Taylor, Kristin Taylor, Dan Taylor, Amy Berner, Margi Swellie, Stacy Henderson, Jen McCabe, Julie Collins, Deanne Gallagher, Mike Zukowski, Michelle Reyes, Amy Racunas

Jeanie Cygrymus

- Review of 1/10/24 student Troupe 185 meeting
 - Many students are missing meetings. Must attend to maintain active member status. If miss more than 3 meetings, student is not permitted to vote at meetings and will be ineligible for student awards
 - If a student needs to miss a meeting (e.g. doctor's appointment, work commitment), please email Mrs. C in advance to be excused
 - Mrs. C spoke with student leaders after meeting (head of lights, run crew, vocal, dance, etc)
 - Stressed importance of being inclusive, especially reaching out to freshman and new students
 - Assure everyone is participating
 - Leaders should command respect as part of their role; see a director with any problems
 - Leaders should be last to leave each night
- Conference Recap
 - One Act was well received by audience
 - Emma Collins-elected as State Board Officer for next year, to follow Annabella Gizzi upon graduation; honor for PTHS to hold this position
 - Congratulations to award recipients at Conference
 - Troupe #185 recognized by PA Thespians as a Gold Honor Troupe
 - Austin Koerbel: Performance and All Star Cast Hall of Fame
 - Annabella Gizzi: Excellence in Theater Hall of Fame
 - Natalie Zukowski: Technical Hall of Fame
 - Anna Hoffmann: Full scholarship to Rowan University based on her monologue performance
 - Thespies must have been submitted by 12/30; results will be received in early February; results will determine eligibility for summer festival in Indiana
 - One Act to be performed at 8th Grade Move Up Day on 3/1

- Spring Play-*Note date change*
 - 5/10 and 5/11 at 7 pm; 5/12 at 2 pm
 - Auditions 3/20 and 3/21
 - Thank you to play reading committee
 - 12-14 students participated, read 3 plays and discussed
 - Specific script chosen based on cast, includes an ensemble
- Mamma Mia: 3/27/24
 - School schedule has changed, students WILL have school on 3/28
 - Should arrive back to the school by 11:30 pm
 - One ticket remaining-\$80 ticket, \$35 bus and dinner-see Jeanie ASAP if interested
 - Dinner before show at Hard Rock Cafe

Kristianna Gizzi:

- Requested motion to approve meeting minutes as written from 11/13/24
 - Motion to approve made by Jen McCabe
 - 2nd made by Liz Bertsch
- Expenses: reminder that many occur in Nov/Dec
 - Expense to consider is additional tech director for musical, not covered by school
 - Must be voted on and renewed each year (according to by-laws)
- Mamma Mia
 - 2-hour workshop to be held at PTHS on 3/27 (day of show) in AM
 - Permission given by school administration for students to miss class to attend
 - Additional information to follow once cost and actors confirmed
 - Children of Backers will not be charged to attend
- Musical-All Shook Up
 - 3/14 and 3/15 at 7 pm; 3/16 matinee at 2 pm
 - Cast party-2 parents have volunteered to help; to be held after final show (3/16) in cafeteria
 - Extra funds from merchandise and concessions will be used; if no available funds, will charge students (in past, cost has been \$5/student)
 - Includes dinner, cake and senior speeches
 - Senior Rec: held opening night of Musical
 - Recognition is for all Senior Thespians, not just those in musical
 - Lockers decorated; yards decorated night before musical
 - Stage Crew: new addition to this year's musical
 - First set build is this Saturday (1/13)
 - Sign up on band app to volunteer (no mandatory tech build this year)
 - Applause Ads: new this year, additional fundraising effort

- Opportunity for students/family/friends to recognize cast and crew
 - Use QR code (form provided), cost is \$20 (check or Venmo), must make payment before submitting ad, max 20 words
 - Review student policies in Band app; reminder to enroll in Family ID to participate
 - 2/12/24, 8 am: Ticket sales begin online
 - Teasers: usually 1-2 songs, chosen by directors, to increase ticket sales
 - 8th grade Move Up Day, The Waters, and PTHS AM announcements
 - Props: Cari Williams will collect; will post list of needed items in band app
 - Gifts: Student thespian leaders will collect for directing staff
 - Schedule: Please follow band app for updates
 - Directors make every effort to be mindful of students needed for each rehearsal and will only call necessary cast
 - Students should assume they will be needed for every rehearsal beginning 3/1 but check app to verify
 - Changes will happen based on progress (e.g. choreography may need additional time, vocals may be ahead of schedule)
- Senior Trip
 - Names of actors for workshops will be provided soon and their bios will be posted in band app
 - All money for trip was fundraised by seniors and paid by their families; with exception of lunches, Backers funds not used
- Thespian Backers Board
 - All positions are available for next year
 - Please see Kristianna with any questions about responsibilities and time commitment
- Meatballs and Music: Music department fundraiser on 1/27
 - Encouraged families to support, as many thespians are also in music

Michelle Hoffmann

- Coffeehouse-successful event
 - Still finalizing profits, will update Backers once numbers are ready
 - Mugs were well received by attendees
- Membership: Reminder that last day to join Backers is 3/1
 - Note to families of Juniors: consider joining this year as students are ONLY eligible for Senior Scholarship if family has been a member of Backers for at least 2 years (i.e., join in Senior year, ineligible for Scholarship)
- Awards and Banquet 5/31/24
 - 5 pm: Awards at PTHS (led by Jeanie Cygrymus)

- Dinner to follow at Valley Brook Country Club (approx. 7 pm)
- Ticket cost for dinner to follow in upcoming meetings; DJ is booked
- Musical Concessions
 - Change in process for this year. Previously, parents used Sign Up Genius to choose items to purchase and donate. With rising costs, this became inequitable between families (i.e. cost of water vs candy).
 - Julie Collins: gave information on new donation process
 - Each family (cast + crew) to donate \$25 concession fee
 - Julie will collect and purchase items; keeping spreadsheet of items purchased/used
 - Pay Julie via Venmo or Check made payable to “Cash”
- Volunteers: Please check Band app for upcoming Sign-Up Genius for parent volunteers for musical (concession stand sales, backstage, etc); help is needed for successful show
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Becky Lipinski

- Upcoming meeting dates provided at bottom of agenda, website, and band app
 - 2/14, 4/10, 5/8 at 6:30 pm in LGI (*no meeting in March)
- 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
- Senior Scholarships: Applications will open in March; will award 4-6 scholarships, based on financial status of Backers

Kristin Kulikowski

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting
 - Motion to approve budget: Deanna Gallagher; 2nd by Joanne Gudenburr
- Fundraisers
 - Coffeehouse Concessions profit >\$3800, CH programs profit approx. \$350
 - Donut Sale 2/10/24
 - Reviewed changes to process
 - Google Form to be used to submit orders
 - Can order donuts to be delivered to a local address other than your own
 - Can prepay using Venmo
 - 2/5/24: Presale closes
 - Students must have a role in Donut Sales
 - Participate in sale + Sell 5 dozen OR
 - Opt out: if unavailable, family can make \$50 donation to Backers to opt out of sale
 - Price increase to \$12/dz this sale, due to rising cost of donuts

Motion to Adjourn made by Jen McCabe, 2nd by Kristin Taylor