

Thespian Backers Meeting Minutes-2/14/24

Attendees: Kristianna Gizzi, Becky Lipinski, Michelle Skillings, Kristin Kulikowski, Joanne Gudenburr, Lisa Gensler, Amy Racunas, Alan Skillings

Kristianna Gizzi-President

- Requested motion to approve minutes from meeting on 1/10/24
 - Motion by Joanne Gudenburr, 2nd by Alan Skillings
- Information relayed from Jeanie Cygrymus, as she was unable to attend
 - Next student meeting to be held 2/21/14; delayed due to several students on music trip
 - Reminder that students must stay in good standing with student troupe to vote and be eligible for awards
 - Points: Mrs. Cygrymus is gathering making a list. Please submit as soon as possible.
 - Induction: All freshmen (over 20) have met criteria for induction at this year's ceremony
- New upcoming opportunity
 - One Acts to be directed by Malea Bode (former PTHS thespian/student director)
 - Will give more opportunity for acting, especially for students unable to participate in spring play
 - Two One-Acts will be performed on an evening later this spring
 - More information will be provided to students and Backers
- Review of upcoming expenses
 - \$1,531 Tech Director for musical
 - \$1,018 Tech Director for spring play
 - Snack/treats for all cast and crew on 3/1 and
 - \$338 for Senior Rec yard signs
 - Cast party-no charge for students this year, all covered by Backers
 - Several parents have volunteered to plan and oversee
 - \$1,968 Mamma Mia
 - Additional \$400 has been provided for 2nd bus
 - \$6,000 Senior Scholarships (6 to be awarded this year)
 - Cost TBD: Mamma Mia workshop
 - To be held 3/27 during school day
 - 2-4 cast members will instruct song/dance workshop
 - Will know cost once we know number of cast members instructing
 - No charge for those students whose parents are Backers
 - Banquet meals for 32 seniors to be covered by Backers

- One Act Performance from Conference
 - 3/1 (~11:00 am) during Move-Up Day for 8th grade students
 - Includes cast and crew
 - Will miss approximately one hour of class
 - See Band app for rehearsal schedule

- All Shook Up
 - 3/14 and 3/15 at 7 pm; 3/16 matinee at 2 pm
 - 3/1 (2 pm): Teaser at McMurray Elementary
 - Students must bring an early dismissal note from parent to attend
 - Must provide own transportation to/from McMurray Elementary
 - Likely perform 4 numbers for students
 - Will arrive back to PTHS at approximately 3:15-3:30 pm
 - Senior Rec: To be held on opening night for all thespians, regardless of their involvement in musical
 - 2/12 at 8:00 am: Ticket sale opened online
 - Approximately 900 tickets have been sold since sale opened; this is more tickets than sold during the same time period last year
 - Likely to draw large crowds due to familiarity of music
 - Props: Cari Williams is organizing
 - Watch Band app for any items that you can donate
 - Gift Collection for production staff by Wendy Edgar
 - Students will receive more information at upcoming student meetings and on app
 - Sitzprobe: 3/7 rehearsal
 - Students should expect longer rehearsal night
 - Attendance reminder: no absences will be excused after 3/1

- Mamma Mia: 3/27/24
 - Please remind students to dress appropriately for show (i.e no jeans)
 - 3:45-Depart high school
 - 5:00-Dinner at Hard Rock Café
 - 7:30 pm-show
 - Tickets, meal, and transportation have been included in fee
 - Students only need to bring money if they are planning to buy show merchandise

- 5/31 (5:00 pm): Senior Recognition for Awards Night
 - All seniors are invited to participate on stage for Senior recognition with parents
 - Google form will be posted for seniors to complete
 - Watch Band app for further information (arrival time, Google form)

- Spring Play-“Little Women”
 - 5/10 and 5/11 at 7 pm; 5/12 at 2 pm
 - Take note of 5/12 show added at 2 pm (Mother’s Day)
 - Auditions 3/20 and 3/21
 - Mrs. Cygrymus has indicated that she would like to make casting decisions by the end of audition week
 - Costume help will be needed; remind students to talk to a director/producer if interested in helping
 - Buchanan script will be used for show
 - Please remind students that several male parts are available
- Senior Trip
 - Positive feedback given by students and parents
 - 44 students attended
 - Cost was approximately \$850/student and \$950/adult
 - Intent is to continue tradition with seniors each year
 - Suggested adding a Trip Coordinator position starting next year
 - Coordinator will oversee fundraising and communicate with parents, students, and travel company
 - Educational Performance Tours was used as travel company this year and trip was well planned
 - Coordinator can either be a board member but is also not necessary
- Thespian Backers Board
 - A few parents have expressed interest in serving on next year’s board
 - See Kristianna or another board member with any questions about roles and responsibilities

Becky Lipinski-Secretary

- Relayed information from Michelle Hoffmann (VP), who was unable to attend
 - 3/1 is deadline for joining Backers
 - Reminder that a parent must be a backer for at least 2 consecutive years for their student to be eligible for senior scholarship
 - Please see any board member with questions about membership
 - Awards/Banquet-to be held 5/31 (5 pm at PTHS, approx. 7 pm dinner)
 - Start with awards ceremony at high school, then dinner at Valley Brook Country Club
 - Remind students to carpool if possible to dinner, as parking was crowded last year
 - Further details will be provided in early march

- Volunteers-Please watch Band app for Sign Up Genius
 - Consider serving as Backstage parent or ironing costumes as they are much needed for successful musical
- Please note meeting schedule: no meeting in March
- See Becky after the meeting if you are not receiving emails from Thespian Backers
- Senior Scholarships: Applications will open in March-April; deadline will be in May

Kristin Kulikowski-Treasurer

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting
 - Motion to approve budget: Alan Skillings; 2nd by Joanne Gudenburr
- Updates
 - Mamma Mia tickets purchased
 - Erin Bonai-gift card for providing student headshots
 - Donut Sale was held 2/10/24
 - Michelle Skillings relayed that sale ran smoothly and students were very involved and helpful
 - Reviewed changes to process
 - Google Form to be used to submit orders

Ending Comments by Kristianna Gizzi

- Please consider involvement for next year, such as serving on a committee
-

Motion to Adjourn made by Alan Skillings, 2nd by Joanne Gudenburr