

Peters Township Thespian Backers

5/22/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Kristianna Gizzi, Michelle Hoffmann, Becky Lipinski, Kristin Kulikowski, Michelle Skillings, Kristin Taylor, Alan Skillings, Brian Hyjurick, Julie Collins, Rochelle Koerbel, Cari Williams, Anne Gavorcik, Margi Swellie

Jeanie Cygrymus (Sponsor)

- Introduction of new co-sponsor: Lorraine Mszanski
 - Lorraine is current executive director of South Park Theater. She is familiar with our program and excited to join the creative team. She has experience in choosing shows, grant writing, directing, and many other aspects of theater show production. She holds a theater degree. She has choreographed for South Park High School musicals and worked with River Arts in Elizabeth and Little Lake Theater.
 - Board and attendees welcomed Lorraine and look forward to working with her.
- Little Women
 - Jeanie expressed that the play was well received by the audience and community. She relayed that this show was one of the most tech-heavy shows done by PTHS. It required significant work by stage crew and especially noted run crew's effort to manage all of the on stage props Classic plays can be difficult to perform and the cast excelled at the challenge. Many thanks to parent volunteers that helped make the show a success and congratulations to entire cast and crew.
- Induction Letters
 - Given to students eligible for induction by earning at least 10 thespian points this school year
 - All freshmen earned at least 10 points this year (first time for our troupe)
 - Inductees also include some sophomores and juniors
- Final Points
 - List recently updated to include most recent events
 - Points signify students' status: Honors, National Honors, International Honors
 - Please see Jeanie with any questions about points or designation
- Awards Night: Held 5/31/24, 5:00-Awards ceremony (PTHS), 7:00-Banquet (VBCC)
 - Hall of Fame: Plaques made by J and D Engraving
 - Seniors: Arrive no later than 4:30 to get ready for Senior Recognition, first event
 - 28 senior this year, our largest group ever
 - Awards ceremony will begin promptly at 5:00 pm
 - Seniors will receive panos on their way off of the stage, handed out by board
- Conference
 - To be held in January 2025

- Site is West Chester University and must be held while college students are on break
- Students will leave school on 1/2/25 (first day back from holiday break)
- PTHS will perform a One Act
 - Presents a challenge, as rehearsals must be held prior to holiday break. Jeanie will explore any opportunities to meet during break.
- Will only be available to Juniors and Seniors, per Dr. Pavlik. In the past, sophomores were invited according to number of points earned and space available. Missing school immediately after break is not ideal, so additional students will not be attending.
- Jeanie and Lorraine will both attend
- 2024-2025 Productions
 - Fall play has tentatively been set-Romeo and Juliet, directed by Kelly Barefoot and to be held the second weekend of November
 - Coffeehouse-December 6-8
 - Spring Musical: To be held one week later due to other scheduling conflicts (3/20-3/23)
 - Mr. Cygrymus, Nikki Uram, Mr. Perrote will again lead
 - Spring Play: unsure of date at this time. Spring Break (4/14-4/21) and music trip (4/23-4/27) dates will limit availability for rehearsals. Little Women was produced in 5 weeks and was a challenging timeline.
- Jeanie extended her appreciation to Backers Board for their support and parent volunteers for their contributions.

Kristianna Gizzi (President)

- Requested approval of minutes from 4/10/24 Backers Meeting
 - Motion to approve by Anne Gavorcik; 2nd motion by Cari Williams
- Vote on 2024-2025 Tech Director Salaries, Fall and Spring Plays, totaling \$2,036
 - Total Director Salaries paid for 2023-2024: \$4,049
 - Fall Play: \$1,018
 - Sponsor/One Act for Conference: \$1,000
 - Musical: \$1,531 tech director, \$500 carpenter
 - Spring Play: \$1,018
 - Explanation provided by Kristianna: District funds one director (Sound/Lights or Set) in fall and spring. In 2017, vote added to by-laws for Backers to provide the funding for an additional tech director
 - Question presented by Julie Collins regarding Thespian Backers responsibility to pay this additional salary. Additional discussion held where other members asked availability of Drama Fund. Kristianna expressed that Drama Fund has paid for Independent Contractors to perform additional work for productions. Questions regarding payments to/from this fund should be publicly available and can be directed to Stephanie McLaughlin in the front office. Michelle Skillings offered that additional funds were needed for costumes for each production and that she personally provided the funding needed.

- Rochelle Koerbel made motion that Backers do not provide funding for additional tech director for 2024-2025 school year. Second motion made by Julie Collins. 5 additional members voted in favor of this motion and it was passed.
- Vote on 2024-2025 Slated Backers Board
 - President: Julie Collins
 - Vice President: Brian Hyjurick
 - Secretary: Becky Lipinski
 - Treasurer: Alan Skillings
 - Parliamentarian: Mandy Feitt
 - Trip Coordinator: Brian Hyjurick
 - Motion made by Kristin Taylor to accept slated board as officers. 2nd motion made by Anne Gavorcik. Vote was unanimous to accept slate as officers for upcoming school year. Kristianna extended her congratulations and appreciation.
- Committee Heads needed for next year-Kristianna notes upcoming freshmen parents may be interested
 - Concessions: Denise Blasey is willing to serve as a co-chair if another is added
 - Fundraisers
 - Donut Sales-per by-laws, students must participate in a fundraiser, does not have to be donut sales but this one is well received by community
 - Banquet
 - Senior Rec (work during musical with yard signs and lockers and at awards night)

Michelle Hoffmann (Vice President)

- Banquet Information provided
 - Attire: students choose to wear formal dress, parents just need dress acceptable to Valley Brook Country Club (no jeans)
 - Parking should not be an issue, as there are no other scheduled events at VBCC
 - Timing: Seniors arrive by 4:30 to prepare, show will begin promptly at 5:00
 - Many seniors and much to present, time will be limited
 - Pano distribution to seniors on their way off stage after recognition, by board
 - Thespian gifts: given at end of banquet as students are leaving Valley Brook

Becky Lipinski (Secretary)

- Senior Scholarships: 6 will be presented at Awards Banquet
- Please provide any changes to email address or contact information
- Band apps will close in June
 - Kristianna stated that Band apps need to be closed at end of school year. Each director will start new Band app during new school year. Julie Collins asked if it

could remain open so that previous information could be referenced. Kristianna and Julie will discuss further and explore options to keep a few accounts open.

Kristin Kulikowski (Treasurer)

- Budget spreadsheet provided at meeting
 - Motion to approve budget: Julie Collins; 2nd by Rochelle Koerbel
- Concessions profit at Little Women was \$1,751

Upcoming Dates: Provided by Kristianna Gizzi

- 5/31: Thespian Awards Night (at PTHS) and Banquet (at VBCC)
- 8/18, 1-3 pm: Annual Thespian Picnic at Rolling Hills Park
- 2024-2025 Backers Meetings: held 2nd Wednesday of each month
 - Confirmation of dates/times will be announced by board

Thank you: Extended by Kristianna Gizzi on behalf of Board to Committees and all of the Parents that helped to make it a successful year for the students.

Meeting Adjournment: 6:45 pm