

Peters Township Thespian Backers

10/7/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Lorraine Mszanski, Beth Wilmus, Julie Collins, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Mike Pavlik, Danielle Pavlik, Lauren Poskie, Amy Berner, Jen McCabe, Sally Jeswilkowski, Joanne Gudenburr, Dan Taylor, Kristin Taylor, Susan Tsou, Stacy Henderson, Julie Serenyi, Tanya Kotonoglou, Colleen Boland, Molly McNally, Heidi Todd, Lisa Gensler, Margi Swellie, Liz Myers

Julie Collins (President)

- Welcome to new and returning members
- Introduction of Beth Wilmus, director of upcoming Coffeehouse event. Beth has been teaching and involved in Theater department for 25 years.

Beth Wilmus (Coffeehouse Director)

- Review of Coffeehouse as annual variety show with pertinent information
 - Theme is “The Eras Pour” -stressed that this does not mean the show is based on Taylor Swift. Rather, using the excitement from the Eras Tour to celebrate the Eras of acts that have performed in Coffeehouse over the past 25 years.
 - Acts can be singing, dancing, dramatic monologues, poetry. Bands are preferred over solo acts as more students can be involved and adds to variety.
- Important dates were reviewed but stressed that they can change. Students and parents should continue to check Band app for updates
 - **10/16: Leadership interviews**, 2:35 pm in Room 112
 - Positions include: Stage manager, Light/sound, Student Director, Rehearsal Assistant, Head of Tech
 - Student should complete Google form to be considered
 - **10/22: Audition meeting** to review expectations
 - **10/28-10/29: Auditions** in 10-minute timeslots
 - Students should prepare as if the performance was the next day
 - Acts should be family friendly and students must submit lyrics/script
 - Sign up for time slot and include name of song/act (students will be able to see others’ sign ups to avoid choosing same song)
 - Students involved in Senior Music Showcase should choose a Monday audition time
 - 10/30: Host Auditions, 2:35-4:00 pm
 - 11/4: Mandatory student meeting
 - 11/5: Coffeehouse parent meeting (date may change); members present voted to have virtual meeting
 - 11/24: Mandatory tech day, 12:00-4:00, cafeteria
 - 12/3: Mandatory dress rehearsal for Act 1

- 12/4: Mandatory dress rehearsal for Act 2
- 12/5-12/7: Performances at 7:00 pm, cafeteria
 - NOTE: If football team in playoffs, these dates will change
- Kristin Taylor and Jen McCabe (CH Chairs)
 - Reviewed role of Backers (concessions)
 - Desserts, hot cocoa, coffee, and tea; students will be servers
 - Parent volunteers needed; they stressed that you can still watch all of the performances and it is a fun/easy way to help; Thursday is most important night to have volunteers since cafeteria needs to be ready for school on Friday; watch for Sign up Genius
 - New mugs were purchased to commemorate 25th CH
- Programs: Mrs. Wilmus and Julie Collins provided information to members regarding programs for all performances this year
 - PT Backers managed programs for past several years. This year, school has resumed responsibility for designing, ordering, printing, distributing.
 - Cost of printing has tripled
 - Full-color printed programs will be available in print and online; QR code will be available to access it
 - Free copy of program will be given to anyone who has purchased an ad; they will be set aside at ticketing or concessions
 - Additional copies will be available for purchase as souvenir for small fee; 50 were ordered for sale for Romeo and Juliet
 - Folded, black and white programs with basic information (production, no ads) will be given out at the door to everyone
 - Number of programs to print is difficult to estimate; discussed adding a presale for upcoming shows on Ludus, so that they can be purchased with ticket
- Supporting local programs
 - 20 students from Canon-Mac's theater program will be coming to the play on Sunday to support our Troupe 185
 - Beth Wilmus proposed working together with other local programs to form interschool/troupe opportunities such as workshops and outings
 - Canon-Mac is performing A Christmas Carol 11/14-11/17; suggested our students attend to support them

Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski (Troupe 185 Sponsors)

- MJ Field Trip-November 26
 - MJ the musical, dinner at Hard Rock Café
 - \$115 deposit was collected per attendee
 - Balances: \$0 due if parent is a Backer; \$39 due 10/11 if parent not a Backer
- Improv Workshop-10/23 at 6:00 pm (approx. 1 hour). Mia Taylor will conduct workshop

- Free and no sign ups, students can just show up.
- Encourage students to attend; many students who usually do tech participated last year and loved it
- Conference: To be held Jan 2-4 at West Chester University
 - Troupe will perform a one act, "The Cast List"
 - Auditions will be held on 10/17 6:30-8:30 pm; students will perform a scene with a partner and a monologue; sign ups will be posted in Band app
 - 10 Sophomores with top number of points were also invited; they will provide tech and can participate in workshops
 - Thespys: Awards presented at conference
 - Student must be an inducted thespian to enter; do not need to be at Conference
 - Video submission is judged and scored; those scored "excellent" advance to next round; See PA Thespians website for more information
- "Evening of One Acts"-approved and will be held in February (date TBD)
 - 3 to be performed: Lorraine and Jeanie will each direct one + conference One Act
- Troupe 185 Fundraiser: Holiday Gift Wrap and Babysitting
 - Dec 15, 1-5 pm
 - Held at school; opportunity for fundraising as required by troupe by-laws and provides funds for student account
 - Gift wrapping by students; community can bring in gifts and have them wrapped, donation jars available
 - Babysitting: Parents can sign up in advance on google form with important information; stations will be throughout school for various kid activities
 - Parent volunteering will be needed: donate wrapping supplies, be available to supervise stations (will need clearances)

Alan Skillings (Treasurer)

- Financial presentation
 - Referred to budget outline provided to attendees
 - Note the following lines:
 - \$4,440 collected for fall raffle so far; please turn in money and unsold tickets ASAP
 - \$740 collected for Concessions
 - \$28,646.70: current balance (not including PayPal)
 - Requested motion to approve budget as presented
 - Motion by Liz Meyers, 2nd by Dan Taylor; attendees voted unanimously to accept budget as listed

Brian Hyjurick (Vice President)

- NYC Senior Trip-1/17-1/19

- Deposit was paid; 20 person minimum usually required; travel agency made an exception to take our group of 14 (8 seniors) and give same experiences
- Students will submit preferences for any Broadway or off-Broadway shows; top 4 will be given to travel agency
- Cost \$1,541/person and includes: Amtrak transportation from Harrisburg (will do caravan to Harrisburg); 2 shows, breakfasts/dinners, 2 workshops, Museum of Broadway, cast party, backstage tour of Radio City Music Hall and more
- Leave approx. 5 am from PTHS and return Sunday night; students will not miss any school days (long weekend)
- Basket raffles: held at each show to help raise funds
 - Asked for parent donations of any items that can be used (new, unused items and gift cards); can drop off at Brian's house
 - Baskets valued at approx. \$100 each
 - Students approaching local businesses to request donations (have letter from Backers to present)
- P-rade: 10/16, students arrive at 5 pm at Rolling Hills park to decorate float
 - Thespians will have float with Mamma Mia theme to highlight spring musical; watch for Band app for details about what to wear, bring, etc
 - Info to new parents: great event to support our troupe; food trucks, parade at 7 pm
- Romeo and Juliet volunteers
 - Brian expressed his appreciation on behalf of Backers board and play directors for the parent response; all but 2 volunteer opportunities have been claimed
 - If you volunteered to bring water, thank you but there is no need. Backers have plenty of water left over from picnic and other events to have backstage

Becky Lipinski (Secretary)

- September Minutes-printed copies made available for attendees; also online
 - Vote to approve September minutes:
 - Motion made by Jen McCabe; 2nd made by Kristin Taylor
 - Member vote: unanimously approved
- Connect with us
 - Visit our website for information: www.ptthespianbackers.com
- Troupe 185 Fundraiser: Gift wrapping and babysitting
 - Stressed importance of having parent support; will be appreciated by students as they fulfill their fundraising requirements for membership
 - Not a Backers fundraiser; we are helping them build their account to fund their own activities.
 - Students will be doing majority of work and parents are support/supervision

Mandy Feitt (Parliamentarian)

- Donut Sale-11/9/24 and 2/8/24
 - Troupe will sell 325 dozen
 - Signups are open for drivers and students
 - Online sales have started; will close on 11/4
 - Use Google form to order; can prepay by credit card online or with check at delivery
 - Selling for \$15/dz; cost to us is \$7.75/dz. Cost to buy at Krispy Kreme is \$15.50.
 - Students must participate in 2 fundraisers this year
 - To participate in Donut fundraiser: Sell 10 dz OR Sell 5 dz + volunteer OR \$75 buy-out (student can only use buy out option 1x, not both sales)
 - Students also in Room 100 will not be able to volunteer for this sale; can participate with buy out/presale options OR volunteer at Gift Wrap fundraiser + next Donut sale

Meeting Adjournment: 7:30 pm

- Motion to adjourn made by Dan Taylor
- 2nd made by Joanne Gudenburr
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment