

Peters Township Thespian Backers

11/13/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Lorraine Mszanski, Julie Collins, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Missy Meyers, Christie Kulbieda, Amy Racunas, Erin Fallon, Anne Gavorcik, Joanne Gudenburr, Sarah Paez, Julie Serenyi, Pamela Gasher, Tanya Kotenoglou, Matt Henderson, Lisa Gensler, Chad Jeswilkowski, Jen McCabe, Colleen Boland, Jan Fidler, Margi Swellie, Jackie Laughner, Maria Lusk, Jill Clydesdale, Molly McNally, Mike Zukowski, Liz Myers, Susan Tsou

Julie Collins-President

- Welcome to new and returning members

Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski-Report from sponsors

- MJ Field Trip update
 - 11/26: Meet at high school at 4:15, departing by 4:30
 - Dinner at Hard Rock Café: Reminder to ask students if they have submitted Google form with meal selection
 - Reminder about dress: will be walking a few blocks; dress warmly with appropriate shoes for walking; wear appropriate show attire
 - 11/20 at 6:30: Creative Conversations Trust Arts Event-free event but must register ahead. Look for link on Band app or online at Cultural Trust. Great opportunity for students to learn more about theater production.
- Conference: 1/2/25-1/4/25
 - Thespys: 3 judges
 - Can send a video entry this year, even if student is not going to conference
 - Can submit 2 entries if they are different formats (e.g. dance and monologue)
 - See Jeanie with any questions
 - Conference One Act
 - Students are possibly able to perform for parents the day before Christmas break; Jeanie will update as soon as confirmed
 - Rehearsals are going well, students are enjoying the material
- Holiday Gift Wrap/Babysitting: 12/15, 12-4 pm
 - Troupe 185 will hold this fundraiser for the first time, to build their student funds for upcoming parties and events
 - Students spent time at Troupe meeting discussing ideas and making plans; Jeanie is pleased at how they have taken responsibility and are excited about the planning. They have great ideas and ways to implement.

- Parents can drop off kids for babysitting while they run errands for a fee
 - Children must be potty trained
 - Parents will complete Google form to register and give necessary information
 - Troupe will divide into stations and rotate; they have chosen stations and will post on Band app. Students will sign up for station based on their interests (e.g. dance party, board games, movies, crafts, etc).
 - Gift wrapping will also be available in lobby. Students will have opportunity to sign up for wrapping station.
 - Will set up sign up in Band app before any advertising, to be sure there will be enough students available to help. Will need at least 25 student Troupe members.
 - Parent help will also be needed, to supervise and donate wrapping supplies; see Band app.
- Mamma Mia update
 - 67 students have signed up for auditions (11 are boys, more than expected)
 - 11/17: dance auditions from 12-4:30
 - Same day as band banquet; those students are encouraged to sign up for early spots
 - Nikki will teach routine and students will audition in groups of 6. They will perform dance twice then can leave
 - Reminder that music and scripts are not yet available but students will receive as soon as possible
 - 12/20, 3:30 pm: Note updated call back date
 - Reminder that not everyone will be called back and that students will not necessarily read for the part they want
- Evening of One Acts
 - 3 One Act Plays will be performed; one will be The Cast List (from Conference)
 - Jeanie and Lorraine will each direct one, will direct The Cast List together
 - Auditions will be in late January
 - Will have 10 rehearsals before the show
 - Students can be in up to 2 performances; if they are in The Cast List, they can be in one additional performance
 - If they have been cast for a musical lead, they are asked not to audition for an additional One Act; will still perform in The Cast List if they are in it
- Alumni Show
 - Jeanie and Lorraine are planning
 - Will include PT Thespian alumni and current students
 - All alumni will be invited back to perform songs from past shows
 - Will need a dance troupe of students willing to learn dances from shows they did not do
 - 5/31: One and only rehearsal day
 - 6/1: Alumni show
 - Reception to be held after the show; Backers have offered to assist in planning

- Alumni show will also incorporate a fundraiser for Troupe 185
- Students were informed at today's Troupe meeting and are very excited to be included

Becky Lipinski-Secretary

- October meeting minutes provided for attendees to review
- Motion to approve October minutes as written: Jen McCabe
- 2nd motion to approve October minutes: Joanne Gudenburr
- Vote was unanimous to approve minutes
- Next meeting is 12/11 at 6:30 pm
- Meeting signup sheet updated to include email changes only; please add if you are not receiving our emails

Alan Skillings-Treasurer

- Financial presentation
 - Set the Stage for fall fundraiser: \$6,559.90 profit (exceeding expectations by approx. \$300)
 - Donut sale: \$1,882 profit so far; additional checks have been received and will be added; profits should exceed \$2,000 for this sale
 - Concessions: \$2,357.84 profit
 - Summary: all profits have been above expectations. Thank you to the many parent volunteers that have contributed time and support to make fundraisers so successful
 - Backers' subsidy for Conference has been paid
 - Will note NY trip funds going in and out
 - Upcoming fundraiser: Coffeehouse
 - Motion to approve budget: Molly McNally; 2nd by Joanne Gudenburr; attendees unanimously approved budget as presented
- Holiday parties for Troupe 185
 - Alan led discussion of adding amendment to budget to allow a line item for Troupe parties (e.g. bonfire, Halloween, Holiday, etc)
 - Goal is to provide funds to cover food, drinks, etc for each student party. Currently, students bring \$5 to party to cover pizza but host parent assures that they have everything they need. With funding, it will not be necessary for students to bring \$5 and parent can better oversee expenditures.
 - \$300 from Backers/party should cover everything needed
 - One parent expressed that it would be appreciated so that students do not need to worry about having cash at party
 - Motion to add line item to budget to allow \$300 for upcoming Holiday and other parties as needed: Joanne Gudenburr; 2nd made by Liz Myers; attendees unanimously approved and motion passed

Julie Collins-introduced Coffeehouse committee: Jen McCabe, Kristen Taylor, Lisa Gensler, Margi Swellie and thanked them for their efforts

- Jen McCabe-Chairperson, presented update
 - 11/24: Mandatory tech rehearsal; order of show performances to be announced soon
 - 12/5-12/7: Scheduled dates of show, at 7:00 pm
 - 12/5 and 12/7 only-if PT football in playoffs that weekend; in this instance, all kids will perform in both shows
 - Sign up Genius will be updated to include concession donations
 - Please review and consider donating; will be specific requests for pies, etc
 - If donating non-perishable, bring to 11/24 rehearsal
 - If donating perishable items, drop off at Jen's or Kristin's, in cooler on porches
 - Biggest need will be hands-on volunteers for shows
 - Will be able to step out of station to watch your child's performances
 - Sign up is open now; question raised by a parent regarding show schedule before signing up to volunteer. Jen noted that if you'd like to change your sign up after show order released, can check for openings
 - Stations are easy and parents usually have fun
 - Will also need volunteers to wash tablecloths and set up/clean up
 - Senior Skit-Reminder that students must be in attendance for rehearsal on 11/20 at 4 pm; there will be no make-up and students that do not attend the rehearsal cannot perform in skit

Julie Collins- update from Beth Wilmus

- Coffeehouse Tickets will go on sale on Saturday, 11/30
 - 8 am: senior parents can use code to buy; 12 pm: open to everyone
- Parents who have submitted an ad and have not yet paid can give checks to Julie; Julie is tracking ad payments
- Reminder that Canon-Mac is performing A Christmas Carol this weekend; students interested in sitting with the PT Thespian group can bring \$5 to Mrs. Wilmus. They will meet before the show.

Mandy Feitt-Parliamentarian

- Donut Sale
 - Recognized each of the drivers that volunteered
 - Thank you to everyone that helped at the sale to make it go so smoothly
 - Sold 280 Dozen donuts; had 6 families use buy-out option
 - Student volunteers were very helpful; less available this sale due to Room 100 out of town
- 2/8: Next Krispy Kreme sale

- Look for signups in the new year
- Students that could not volunteer this past weekend should plan to attend, as buyout can only be used once

Julie Collins-Additional Troupe updates

- Gifted fundraiser: 11/16 10-5 pm
 - Mention Thespians and 20% of sale will go toward Senior class trip
- Afternoon of Music Fundraiser: 11/24 at 1781 Club
 - Starting at 11 am, mention Thespians and 10% will be donated to Senior class trip
 - 1-5 pm-Music by Ray Cygrymus and Scott Blasey; Julie thanked them for their time and talent donated to the troupe for the event
- Thank you to Amy Racunas for all of her work organizing the fundraisers to support the senior trip
- Holiday Party will be 12/20 from 5-8 pm
 - Mike and Danielle Pavlik have offered to host, 668 Scenic Ridge Drive, Venetia
 - Parent volunteers will be needed to chaperone-watch for band app request
 - Julie noted that Halloween party held at her home went very smoothly. Kids had fun and were respectful. Parent chaperones were appreciated. Pictures from party can be found on Band app.
- Brian Hyjurick could not be present for meeting but sent updates
 - 12/11 at 5:30 pm: Senior parent meeting for those whose children are going on NYC trip (before regular Thespian Backers meeting).
 - Backers will make next payment to travel agency and calculate deduction for each student after all the fundraising events are completed
- *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And then some)*
 - Production at South Park Theater 12/5-12/8
 - Mon River Arts theater in Elizabeth 12/12-12/15
 - See South Park Theater website for details and tickets
 - Lorraine Mszanski-directing; Ray Cygrymus-cast; Jeanie Cygrymus-props
 - Please consider attending if available to support our Thespian leaders
- Called attendees' attention to list of upcoming dates and QR codes on reverse of agenda
- See any board member or sponsor with questions

Meeting Adjournment: 7:10 pm

- Motion to adjourn made by Anne Gavorcik
- 2nd made by Liz Myers
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment