

Peters Township Thespian Backers

12/11/24 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Lorraine Mszanski, Julie Collins, Brian Hyjurick, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Linda Malaspina, Dan Taylor, Maria Lusk, Tanya Kotonoglou, Molly McNally, Jacking Laughner, Erin Fallon, Margie Swellie, Joanne Gudenburr, Lisa Gensler, Lauren Poskie, Denise Blasey, Anne Gavorcik, Mary Elford, Kim Sarniak, Chad Jeswilkowski, Colleen Boland, Kristin Taylor

Julie Collins-President

- Welcome to new and returning members
- Coffeehouse Recap
 - Congratulations to everyone involved in the production of the show. It was a great showcase of our talent at PTHS.
 - Thank you to all of our parents that contributed their time and donations to the event. Recognition to the Coffeehouse committee for their planning and organization: Kristin Taylor, Jen McCabe, Margi Swellie, and Lisa Gensler. Everything went very smoothly and comments from the audience were very positive.
 - Beth Wilmus will be meeting with Dr. Pavlik later this week to address the technical difficulties with the sound and to discuss possible solutions for the future. The students should be commended for how well they adapted.
- Messages from Kelly Barefoot
 - Reminder for parents of seniors to only use the presale code on the day that ticket sales open.
 - Coffeehouse ticket price will likely increase next year. The increase will not be significant, but the current \$5 cost is low.
 - Musical program
 - Use QR code provided on agenda for ad form to purchase an ad
 - If you purchased an ad subscription, you still need to submit an ad for each show. Please email Kelly with the ad information.
 - As with the fall play, anyone who places an ad will receive a complimentary program.
 - Additional copies of are available for purchase. The program is substantial and printing costs are high. Spring musical programs will be \$8. A program pre-sale option will be listed in Ludus with ticket sales. Encourage family and friends to use the pre-sale code to purchase a copy, to help determine number of extra copies to order.
 - Remind those attending that the entire program is also available online, using the QR code.
 - Free paper copies of basic show program will be distributed by ushers.

- Field Trip (MJ, 11/26)
 - Lorraine Mszanski offered comment that our students were so well mannered and respectful during the entire field trip. She was impressed by their behavior and encouraged parents to pass the message along to their children.
 - Kristin Miller was in attendance and noted that a few Benedum ushers made a point of pulling her aside and complimenting our students on their demeanor.

Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski-Report from sponsors

- Holiday Gift Wrapping and Babysitting Fundraiser-Jeanie Cygrymus
 - Sunday, 12/15, 1-5 pm; See Sign up Genius for check in times for volunteering. Children must be picked up by parents no later than 4:30 pm. Everyone must exit the school by 5 pm.
 - 24 children have registered and 24 Thespians are signed up to volunteer
 - Julie Collins stressed that proceeds from this event will be directed to Troupe 185 account, not to Thespian Backers. Jeanie Cygrymus added that funds are used to support awards ceremony held at end of school year. That evening, the awards ceremony is followed by the banquet, which has financial contributions from Backers. More details will be provided as event nears.
 - Thespians receive fundraiser credit for the Troupe; meets requirement for participation in a fundraiser that benefits the community
 - Prize will be given to the Thespian Family group that has the most volunteers at the event (Jeanie explains that the officers assign Families of students at beginning of each year to help with troupe bonding).
 - Any students who would like to support the fundraiser but are unable to attend on Sunday should see Mrs. Cygrymus. Four students are helping by distributing flyers and help may be needed elsewhere prior to Sunday.

- Conference-Lorraine Mszanski
 - Need 2nd payment from some of the students. Those students were informed earlier that payment must be made today, as registration is due.
 - 12/15/24: Mrs. Cygrymus will log in to the conference site to register for workshops for the students. Students gave top 5 requests for workshops and will receive 3 based on availability.
 - Teacher Forms: Students must have forms signed by all teachers giving them permission to miss class on 1/2/24 and 1/3/24. Students must be in good standing in class to receive the signature. Forms must be submitted to Mrs. Cygrymus no later than Friday, 12/20. Any student who has difficulty with forms should see Mrs. Cygrymus.
 - Julie Collins asked the sponsors to review the timeline for conference
 - 1/2/25 at 6 am: students arrive at school
 - Sponsors check luggage, per district policy
 - Students and chaperones will load bus and depart for 5 hour drive

- Will stop for breakfast; students will need money to pay for own
 - Register upon arrival and stay all day at conference; back to hotel at night
 - Julie Collins will arrive day before conference starts and will check in to hotel so that group will not need to wait for check in after day at conference.
 - Each day is long; 8:30 am-10:30 pm.
 - Will arrive back to PTHS late on Jan. 4
 - Detailed itinerary will be sent as conference nears

- Mamma Mia
 - Vocal auditions held; approximately 70 students auditioned
 - Several new boys auditioned and are joining tech crew
 - Call back list will be posted Friday-Saturday
 - Call backs to be held 12/20 at 3:30 pm
 - Expect more singing at call backs than in past; call backs are usually scenes to see how actors interact with each other
 - Cast list to be posted over break
 - Mr. Cygrymus, Mrs. Cygrymus, Nikki Uram (choreographer), and Mr. Perrotte will do call backs
 - Tentative rehearsal schedule has been posted in Band app
 - New Band app will be added for Mamma Mia cast and crew after cast established
 - Tech Team or Leader positions-applications are due 12/13
 - Some of the tech positions can also be part of cast

- Evening of One Acts
 - Auditions: early January
 - Will be ~70 rehearsals
 - 2/21: Show night
 - Great opportunity for additional theater experience

- Play Reading Committee
 - 4 scripts will be reviewed: 2 classic plays (Anne of Green Gables and 12 Angry Jurors) and 2 comedy-mysteries (to be named)
 - Time will be limited to approximately 5 weeks to prepare for play due to music trips and spring break

Becky Lipinski-Secretary

- November meeting minutes provided for attendees to review; also available on Thespian Backers website
- Motion to approve November minutes as written made by Joann Gudenburr
- 2nd motion to approve November minutes by Tanya Kotenoglou
- Vote was unanimous to approve minutes
- Jeanie Cygrymus asked if any additional details should be made regarding Sunday's Troupe Fundraiser
 - Becky thanked parents who have generously donated gift-wrapping supplies; stressed that gift boxes are current need
 - Parent volunteers will be appreciated; few spots are remaining
 - Emphasized that parent involvement will be minimal, as students will be wrapping and interacting with children. One parent needed per station as general supervision and to step in if there are any emergencies.
 - Age-appropriate activities will be set up at each station by Backers in advance such as dance party, holiday movies, board games, active games, crafts, etc. Snack will also be provided.
 - Parent asked question regarding cost; fee for babysitting is \$25/child, not per family. Gift wrapping will be by cash donation. Donation jars will be provided throughout the area.
 - Becky asked parents to share flyer on social media and with family and friends. Hopeful that this fundraiser will be successful and held annually.

Alan Skillings-Treasurer

- Valor system is no longer available for payments. Alan and Julie moved quickly to transition payments to Square for Coffeehouse so that credit card payments could be accepted. Will not continue with Square; Alan will be exploring other options.
- Financial presentation
 - Donut sale: additional payments have been collected and checks deposited, adding another \$400 to profits.
 - Coffeehouse concessions: \$ 5,535.76 received, expenses were \$1,000. Exceeded income and less spent than expected.
 - Note that NYC Senior Trip lines are money out/money in to pay bills associated with trip
 - Upcoming fundraiser: Donut Sale in February
 - Motion to approve budget made by Dan Taylor; 2nd motion made by Joanne Gudenburr; attendees unanimously approved budget as presented

Brian Hyjurick-Vice President

- NYC Senior Trip
 - Brian expressed gratitude to Amy Racunas for her dedication to fundraising
 - Recognized The Blasey Family and The Cygrymuses for their contributions to the Afternoon of Music Fundraiser at 1781.
 - Talent from Ray Cygrymus and Scott Blasey were appreciated and enjoyed by many patrons on 11/24
 - Event raised approximately \$1200 for trip. Portion of food sales were donated as a Dine and Donate fundraiser. Additional cash tips were given throughout the afternoon.
 - \$1200 raised allows for \$155/student discount for trip
 - \$275/student discount given for those whose parents are members of Thespian Backers
 - Last payment of trip will be waived due to discounts; some families will be receiving refund for portion paid
 - Students and parents attending trip will leave on 1/17 (early in morning)
 - Some highlights
 - Day 1: See Great Gatsby and attend a dance workshop
 - Day 2: See Hadestown, sightseeing
 - Day 3: Attend workshops and tours and depart; arrive back at PTHS late on Sunday night
- Holiday Party: 12/20 7-10 pm at Pavlick's Home
 - Will need a few parent volunteers to chaperone

Julie Collins-Additional Comments

- *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And then some)*
 - Production moved from Elizabeth to South Park Theater 12/12-12/15
 - Brian Hyjurick commented that he attended last weekend and that the show was excellent
 - Encouraged anyone available to go enjoy the show and support our Thespian leaders. Directed by Lorraine Mszanski, cast includes Ray Cygrymus, props by Jeanie Cygrymus

Meeting Adjournment: 7:12 pm

- Motion to adjourn made by Anne Gavorcik
- 2nd made by Lisa Gensler
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment