

Peters Township Thespian Backers

1/8/25 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jeanie Cygrymus, Lorraine Mszanski, Julie Collins, Brian Hyjurick, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Pamela Gasher, Jen McCabe, Linda Malaspina, Stacy Henderson, Colleen Boland, Julie Serenyi, Mike Pavlik, Amy Berner, Michelle Skillings, Joanne Gudenburr, Tony Paez, Sarah Paez, Lisa Gensler, Anne Gavorcik, Mary Elford, Amy Racunas, Dan Taylor, Margi Swellie, Molly McNally, Sally Jeswilkowski, Jackie Laughner, Erin Fallon, Tayna Kotenoglou, Denise Blasey, Michael Pavlik

Julie Collins (President): Welcome and call to order at 6:32 pm.

Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski-Troupe Sponsors

- PA Thespian Conference
 - 29 students attended 2 ½ day conference
 - Great experience of learning, competition and honors
 - Achievements of our students provided
 - Ava Blasey-Performance Hall of Fame
 - Matt Gavorcik-Technical Hall of Fame
 - Kristen Hyjurick-Excellence Hall of Fame
 - Sylf Martz and Maura McCabe-Improv Finalists
 - Ashley Berner, Nancy Gavorcik, Sophia Malaspina, and Jo Myers-2nd place in Costume Challenge
 - Kristen Hyjurick-All Star Cast for The Cast List
 - Julia Henderson-Elected as STO officer for 2025-2026
 - Thank you to parents who supported their children in attending
- Mamma Mia
 - Read Through to be held 1/9 at 3:15 pm (was rescheduled due to snow day)
 - Monday, 1/13, 6:30 pm: Parent meeting for all involved (cast and crew)-students should also plan to attend
- Babysitting and Gift Wrap Fundraiser
 - Students had fun and worked very hard to make event successful
 - Positive feedback from parents whose children attended
 - Approx. \$700 profit- will cover costs for all of the awards for awards night
 - Thank you to parents who donated supplies and volunteered
- Spring Play
 - Revised dates: 5/9/25-5/11/25
 - Will not have many rehearsals (approx. 20) due to timing of music trip to Dollywood
 - Auditions will be held while musical is still rehearsing so that rehearsals can start as soon as musical ends
 - Remind students that they need to be fully committed if they audition

- Play reading committee met and reviewed 4 shows. Voted unanimously for a farcical murder mystery. Title to be announced.
- Hall of Fame
 - Includes students from 1971 to present. Previously at old high school in the auditorium. New auditorium does not have a space to display. Wall of Fame to be constructed and displayed in hallway leading to theater. School's drama budget will cover the costs. Pictures from Hall of Fame will be made into a scrapbook and located in PT Public Library archives and also displayed on alumni night.

Julie Collins (President):

- Acknowledgements
 - Christmas party-Thank you to Pavliks for hosting and parents that volunteered to chaperone. Michael Pavlik commented that everyone had fun and students were polite and respectful guests. Noted that they would likely host again next year.
 - Conference-Thank you to Jeanie and Lorraine for all of their work to make the conference a positive experience. Julie noted that sponsors facilitated discussion on the bus ride home to reflect on meaningful experiences. She presented both with thank you cards on behalf of parents and students.
 - Parent volunteers-Thank you to parents that accompanied students at conference. Their time and support was needed and appreciated.
- Reminder that parents can join Backers and contribute to Patron of the Arts at any point in the year. Please pass this information along to any parents whose children may be new to theater.
- Dance Workshop fundraiser
 - For students in grades 1/8
 - Tentatively scheduled for 3/8, 12:30-3:00; awaiting school board approval
 - Dance captains and performers from Mamma Mia will teach a few numbers from the show. Will include a snack and t-shirt. Attendees will perform dances for parents at pick-up. More information to come.
- Information relayed from Kelly Barefoot
 - Mamma Mia program ads: scan QR code on back of agenda. Send pictures and comments to Kelly and she will design ad.
- Night of One Acts- 2/21/25, 7 pm
 - To be approved by school board at upcoming meeting
 - Currently there is no means to compensate sponsors for their time directing these productions
 - Julie suggested that \$10 donations are accepted for admission
 - Motion made by Joanne Gudenburr to collect donations at the door and that donations are split between Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski
 - Motion seconded by Anne Gavorcik

- Motion put to vote; attendees voted unanimously and motion passed

Becky Lipinski-Secretary

- December meeting minutes provided for attendees to review; also available on Thespian Backers website
- Motion to approve December minutes as written made by Jen McCabe
- 2nd motion to approve December minutes by Margi Swellie
- Vote was unanimous to approve minutes

Alan Skillings-Treasurer

- Financial presentation
 - Detailed financial report provided to attendees; also available on website
 - Coffeehouse profits were in excess of \$3,000
 - Valor payment system no longer used; PayPal will be used for upcoming donut sale
 - Motion to approve budget made by Molly McNally
 - 2nd motion to approve budget made by Joanne Gudenburr
 - Vote was unanimous to approve budget as presented
- Upcoming All-Clad fundraiser
 - Thank you to Taylor family for arranging generous donation of 10-piece All-Clad set of pots and pans to be raffled off at musical; drawing on last day of production
 - \$10 Tickets for families to sell will be available at Monday's Mamma Mia parent meeting
 - Tickets will also be sold at concessions
 - No basket raffle during musical; 50/50 will still be sold

Brian Hyjurick-Vice President

- NYC Senior Trip
 - Meeting on 1/17 at 5 am at PTHS; 5:30 depart
 - 3 cars will caravan. Brian will post a list of drivers/riders prior to 1/17 so changes can be made if needed
 - Amtrak does not provide a food service; Brian will bring bagged lunches
 - Refunds will be issued for families that have exceeded their cost through fundraising
- Volunteers needed for Mamma Mia
 - Backstage parents (with clearances), backstage cookies/veggies, concessions, steaming costumes
 - Please sign up as soon as possible; can use QR code or follow link in Band app
- Concessions donation
 - Please donate \$30 per family to fill concession stand; pay by check made payable to "PT Thespian Backers."

- Donate as soon as possible so that Denise Blasey can purchase items

Mandy Feitt: Parliamentarian

- Donut Sale: 2/8
 - Google form active for advanced sales
 - Pay by check, cash, or PayPal
 - Volunteer drivers will be needed
- By-Laws
 - Julie Serenyi and Michelle Skillings have volunteered to be on committee
 - Updates will be available in Band app
 - Discussion of by-laws to be held in February; membership will vote on them during March meeting

-Additional Comments: Jeanie Cygrymus

- Night of One Acts
 - Auditions to be held on Monday, 1/11, after school. Students can sign up for an audition time on Band app
 - Students can audition for both but will likely be cast in one performance
 - Follow Band app for monologues, rehearsal dates, etc.
- Points: Conference points to be added. NYC trip points will also be added after the trip. Jeanie will share spreadsheet of points to students. Please encourage students to review list for accuracy.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:02 pm

- Motion to adjourn made by Anne Gavorcik
- 2nd made by Dan Taylor
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment