

## Peters Township Thespian Backers

### 2/12/25 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Jeanie Cygrymus, Lorraine Mszanski, Julie Collins, Brian Hyjurick, Alan Skillings, Becky Lipinski, Mandy Feitt, Lisa Gensler, Julie Serenyi, Joanne Gudenburr, Anne Gavorcik, Maria Lusk, Colleen Boland, Kristin Taylor, Dan Taylor, Chelsie Klein, Sally Jeswilkowski, Jen Fidler, Matt Henderson, Tonya Kotenoglou, Amy Racunas, Pamela Gasher, Erin Fallon, Molly McNally, Margi Swellie, Jen McCabe

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Julie Collins (President).

#### Jeanie Cygrymus and Lorraine Mszanski-Report from sponsors

- Evening of One Acts to be held 2/21 at 7 pm
  - Order of show will be *When Shakespear's Ladies Meet*, *Fire Exit*, Intermission, and *The Cast List*
- Jeanie Cygrymus is directing *Fire Exit* and notes that each actor has long monologues to learn. Lorraine Mszanski is directing *When Shakespear's Ladies Meet*. She asks parents to please help their students learn their lines so that they are well prepared for the show.
- A lot of freshmen and students who have not had a lot of experiences in lead roles were cast. Jeanie notes that they are working very hard and are excited to perform for everyone.
- Thespians that are not involved in One Acts are encouraged to attend and there is no fee for their admission. All other attendees are asked to give a \$10 donation for admission.
- Mamma Mia!
  - Jeanie reports that Act 1 was run in it's entirety and rehearsals are going very well.
  - Yard signs have been distributed and there are 2 extras available.
  - Cast and Crew Bio's: Reminder that ALL cast, crew, and orchestra should submit a bio. They are due on 2/25.
  - Ticketing information relayed from Kelly Barefoot by Julie Collins
    - 2/27: Ticket sales open for parents of senior thespian cast/crew
    - 2/28: Ticket sales open to public. This is when parents of all students can purchase.
    - Seats are assigned for this show
  - Teasers-To be held at McMurray Elementary and The Waters. May also be held at PTMS; Kelly Barefoot is seeking approval. Group that will perform teasers will include lead singers, 4 dance captains and 4 voice section leaders (18 students total). Jeanie asked parents to remind students that they need permission to leave school and will not likely receive it if they are not in good standing in

academics and attendance. Grades are checked every Friday. One issue continues to be excessive tardiness.

- Spring Play
  - Play Reading Committee (comprised of sponsors and student volunteers) read 4 plays and enjoyed all 4.
  - Committee voted to perform *This Murder Was Staged*. Play is a murder-mystery with comedy, and “everyone from cast to crew to even the audience becomes a suspect.”
  - Costumes will be present-day
  - 3/4/25, 6:30 pm: Auditions
  - 3/5/25, 2:30 pm: Call backs
  - Rehearsal will start the day after *Mamma Mia!* Strike
    - Remind students that if they are auditioning, there will be a lot of rehearsals in a short period of time, due to time off for spring break and while the music department is on their trip.
- Alumni Show
  - *Encore: Spotlight on Past and Present of PTHS Theater*
    - 32 Alumni (2014-2024) and 30 current students
  - Jeanie is contacting Alumni now to discuss solos, ensembles. Once Alumni has committed, other ensembles that need to be represented will be opened up to current students. They will learn the songs on their own. Nikki has agreed to do choreography for past shows. She will make videos with dance captains that are available and send to students to learn on their own. Ray Cygrymus will perform a song from *Fiddler on the Roof* to open the show.
  - All shows in that time period will be represented
  - A reception will follow; Backers will assist with planning

### **Julie Collins-President**

- *Beauty and the Beast* at PTMS
  - PTHS Thespians traditionally go as a group to support PTMS program; approximately 50 students and thespian parents have signed up to go on 3/1 at 2:30 pm
  - Table will be in the lobby to encourage 8<sup>th</sup> graders to sign up for HS Thespians. Their emails will be used to share information and invite them to the Thespians’ August picnic.
- *Mamma Mia!* Dance Workshop Fundraiser
  - 3/8/25 from 12:30-3 pm for children in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Students were given information at their Troupe 185 meeting today and signs ups were started. Can enter school at 12:00 to set up.
  - Shelly Belcher will send eblast with information to parents
  - Interested parents can find registration on [ptthespianbackers.com](http://ptthespianbackers.com). To register, parents should print, complete, and scan registration form and email to Julie. Payment is by check (mailed to Julie).

- Julie will share promo pic so that parents can post on social media to advertise.
- Senior Recognition
  - Michelle Skillings (chairperson) needs one more volunteer; Joanne Gudenburr and Pam Gasher offered to help. Anne Gavorcik will again help with tech for locker displays.
  - All seniors who have participated in any thespian productions will be recognized

### **Becky Lipinski-Secretary**

- January meeting minutes were posted on website for attendees to review.
- Motion to approve January minutes as written made by Joanne Gudenburr
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve January minutes by Anne Gavorcik
- Vote was unanimous to approve minutes
- Scholarship Committee
  - Becky Lipinski (chairperson) needs at least one more volunteer, per by-laws. Ideally, volunteer should be a parent of a freshman or sophomore that can potentially continue in the role in 2025-2026, as senior parents cannot serve on the committee. Molly McNally offered to help. Role of the committee is to assist Jeanie Cygrymus in the process and present scholarships during annual awards ceremony. More details will follow in upcoming meetings.

### **Alan Skillings-Treasurer**

- Financial presentation
  - Note line items for expenses including small games of chance license, insurance, and remaining expenses from NY trip.
  - Motion to approve budget made by Dan Taylor
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve budget made by Lisa Gensler
  - Vote was unanimous to approve budget as presented
- Concession donations (\$30 per family) are still being collected for upcoming musical. Please pay by check, made payable to PT Thespian Backers.
- All Clad Raffle: Winner will be drawn during musical
  - Julie Serenyi asked if there was an ad that could be shared on social media. Julie Collins noted that by school policy, we can only advertise in the 2 weeks leading up to the raffle drawing. Look for a post to share in the band app in early March.
  - Each family is asked to sell 10 raffle tickets for \$10 each to win an All Clad cooking set.
  - Reminder that students are not permitted to handle any unsold tickets. Please pick up tickets from Alan to sell. Students can bring payment from sale with stubs. One check should be written to "PT Thespian Backers."

- Donut sale: Reminder that second sale scheduled for 2/8 was cancelled. Decision was made based on good participation in first sale, addition of gift wrap and dance workshop fundraisers as community service, and the busy schedule of the students as they prepare for the musical. Alan notes that we are in good financial standing without the second donut sale.
- PTMS Musical: Student thespians will be going on 3/1 to support. Board suggests that PT Thespian Backers cover the cost of our students' tickets to the show. Tickets are \$10 each and 32 students have signed up so far.
  - Motion to purchase student tickets at the cost of \$10 per student to attend the PTMS musical was made by Jen McCabe
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to purchase student tickets was made by Anne Gavorcik
  - Attendees voted unanimously to purchase student tickets

### **Brian Hyjurick-Vice President**

- Nominating Committee will need 2 additional members. Reminder that you cannot serve on the nominating committee if you have any interest in serving as an officer. Anne Gavorcik and Molly McNally offered to help. Brian reviewed process in which committee meets and discusses possible candidates for each position. Committee presents a slate of officers with one officer named per position. Additional members from the floor can also add their names for consideration. If that occurs, Thespian Backer members would vote on positions.
- Mamma Mia! Volunteer spots still remain. Important need is always backstage parents. Scan QR code or go to the Band app for information. Brian thanks those who have already signed up.
- NY Senior Trip Coordinators will be needed for next year. Lisa Gensler and Joanne Gudenburr volunteered. Will meet with Brian to review details and with Alan to discuss payments. Brian Hyjurick noted that the seniors' favorite part was the dance workshop with a dancer from The Great Gatsby.

### **Mandy Feitt-Parliamentarian**

- By-Laws committee convened to review and update by-laws. Committee included Mandy Feitt, Julie Serenyi, and Michelle Skillings. By-laws are reviewed every 2 years.
  - Some changes were made and some additions to add clarity to sections. The proposed by-laws will be emailed to members to review. The new by-laws will be voted on at the next meeting.
  - Mandy noted that all changes and additions are highlighted in red. She called attention to these specific changes/additions:
  - See Article 3, Section 5 regarding dues. No specific amount will be listed. Board will establish dues amount prior to the first meeting and will present to be voted on as part of budget.

- See Article 5, Section 2 regarding Nominating committee. Change to 3 members (from 4). Duties of nominating committee outlined and added language regarding ineligibility for officer if serving a concurrent role for PTHS Thespians.
- See Article 6, Section 1 regarding officer duties. Section was expanded to detail each officer's responsibilities for clarity.
- See Article 8, Section 6 regarding Scholarship. Details added that Troupe Sponsor will assist committee in selecting judges for scholarships and assuring non-discrimination. Added that seniors are only eligible if their family has been a member of PT Thespian Backers for at least 2 years.
- Senior Recognition and Volunteer Coordination committees added
  
- Mandy opened the floor for questions with discussion and there were none. Julie reminded everyone that they can email her with any specific questions.
- Cast Party-Mandy has volunteered to serve as chair for this year's committee. Tonya Kotonoglou and Becky Lipinski agreed to help again this year. Party will be held immediately after last musical performance.

**Meeting Adjournment: 7:16 pm**

- Motion to adjourn made by Lisa Gensler
- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion made by Amy Racunas
- Attendees voted unanimously to approve adjournment