

## Theater booster club meeting minutes

Tuesday September 22 6:30-7:30 PM Middle School IMC

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kris Maynard

In attendance: Christine Omodt-Lopez, Susan Johnson, Lisa Grathen, Shannon McMonigal, Becky Keran, Kris Maynard, Julie Hart, Anna Sullivan, Tina Howe, Annette Hilger, Miki Schneider, Julie Engleson, Annie Platek, Amy Donovan

Students: None

**Approval of minutes:** No prior minutes- first meeting of the year

**Finance/budget report:** Becky discussed changes whereby Community Ed will receive the gate and fund productions. The role of the boosters will be to support and supplement production costs as requested by the directors; where needed funds exceed the budget provided by Community Ed, directors will request funding from the Boosters. Between this and the new performing arts center, it's difficult to predict a budget for this year and boosters will need to remain flexible. We have a holdover from previous years that we can use for this year and moving forward, and will focus more on fundraising and securing sponsorships so we have the funds needed to supplement production budget.

Our fiscal year is July-June. Becky shared income and expenditures from so far this fiscal year, which included a refund of script fees from Hairspray, income from Taste of the Grove, and the Cub Foods fundraiser.

**Director Reports:** Annie shared director reports as provided her by Jodi and Jim. 80 kids auditioned for Footloose and 50 were cast- there are tech opportunities for kids who were not cast. Cast list is up!

Jodi and Jim purchased show music through iTunes, which is legal. Need someone to make 45 copies of the CD before Thursday. **Julie and Paul Engleson** volunteered to do this (Thanks Julie!)

Student representatives to the Boosters will be Ren Johnson and Amy S. Kaitlyn Knight will be the Spotlight student representative.

We need a parent liaison to Spotlight—**Lisa Grathen** volunteered—thanks Lisa!

Spring Play has been confirmed and it will be... Into The Woods!!

Rehearsal Schedules will be posted on the theater website [www.simleytheatre.org](http://www.simleytheatre.org). A password is required and will be provided to all parents of cast and crew. Annie believes the schedule will also be posted by the auditorium.

First meeting for tech and cast will be this Thursday Sept 24 after school in the auditorium.

**Community Ed Report:** Annie received tech specifications for the new theater and shared them with Jim and Jodi. She also has the seating chart, which will be needed to set up Seat Yourself.

Much of the tech equipment is included so there is less that we will need to purchase than anticipated.

Per a decision made last year, the boosters will be purchasing two new laptops for the directors. We've been asked to hold off on this until we're in the new theater. Boosters will purchase and donate to Community Ed, which will allow the computers to be under the district service plan and provide more marketing tools.

Theater budget- this is based on last year's income and projected revenue from more seats in the new theater. The budget it intended to cover everything that has to do with production costs as well as salaries and benefits.

ACT productions- the Boosters help support these productions by doing concessions. Winter and probably Spring shows will be held at Simley. Dates of Winter show are Dec 17-18.

### **Fundraising Report:**

- TOTG- Christine reported that the Taste of the Grove was a success and we sold out by 7:05. Thank you notes have been sent to the restaurants, and wall plaques are being made and will be delivered to each of the restaurants. We will also deliver a survey to them at the same time.
- Cub Bagging- Becky Keran shared that the cub bagging fundraiser was also a success. It took a long time to get the date for this and it was difficult to get kids to volunteer over labor-day weekend, but enough kids showed up and it went great.

### **Old Business:**

- VP Nominations: Kris requested nominations for VP. Miki Schneider volunteered. Christine Omodt-Lopez made a motion to accept Miki's nomination. Becky Keran seconded. Unanimous vote- **Miki Schneider** is our new VP. Thanks Miki!
- Parent Meeting Oct 19: Kris introduced the parent meeting that will be held on October 19 and asked parents to please attend and share their experiences with the boosters. Boosters will play a more significant role in this meeting than in the past. We will be seeking several new coordinators (see new business). Annie passed around the volunteer form that gets shared at the meeting. Lisa Grathen initiated a conversation about the need for stronger language around volunteering. We will change the language to volunteering at least once per show as an expectation (not a requirement, but more than a suggestion). Tina Howe shared that as a new parent, she wouldn't know that she was expected to volunteer and this language doesn't come across as too strong.

### **New Business:**

- Kris introduced the coordinators we're looking for this year: Concessions, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Website, Cast Meals, and Taste of the Grove. **Susan Johnson** volunteered to do Concessions and is looking for a co-chair (thanks Susan!). Other coordinator roles will hopefully be filled at or shortly after the parent meeting.

- We had a brief discussion of some other new ideas for boosters that received general support, including the idea of basket raffles at each show as a fundraiser (a Footloose basket that has the movie, soundtrack, some other Footloose-related things). Audience members can enter the raffle by purchasing a ticket. We will hold a parent meeting for each show, and put together a parent newsletter with contact information, what is needed for the show, how to sign up to volunteer, etc. We discussed the possibility of a “proud parent of a smiley theatre student” t-shirt to sell to parents. Some parents would prefer to buy the show t-shirts.
- We have a Simley Theatre Booster Club facebook page—please like the page as we can use this to get information out to parents. Share it with your friends whose kids are in theater as well.
- Discussion of an opening night “gala” of some sort for our first night in the new performing arts center. Annie commented that she’s been asked to think of ideas for the grand opening of the PAC, which might be prior to our opening night. She will stay connected with the boosters about this, but we will also plan something for our own opening night.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM