



## **STATESMEN THEATRE BOOSTER MEETING**

### **February 16, 2022**

#### **Booster Board**

President – Jenn Brunner

Vice President – Bonnie Campagnuolo

Treasurer – Kristen Hollenbeck

Secretary – Dixie Welch

**Director of the Theatre Department** - Bernie DeLeo

#### **President's Welcome**

Jenn Brunner opened the meeting and welcomed Booster attendees. Jenn kicked off asking attendees to offer kudos, which were extended as follows:

- Jenn offered kudos to the five playwrights and directors of the One Acts. She was very impressed with their extraordinary efforts and courage to put their plays on stage.
- Bernie offered kudos to Abby Brunner for her leadership. It was great to watch her run the show.
- Dixie offered kudos to Shirley and the theatre-gram team. There must have been record sales at the One Acts and the pretzels were enjoyed by all.
- Abby gave kudos to the booster board and to Mr. DeLeo for bringing dreams to life.

#### **International Thespian Honor Society Board Report**

Abby Brunner presented the ITHS report.

- ITHS is assigning points for Acting Out and VHSL tomorrow. Students should see points by next week.
- Students should collect outside activities for ITHS as well. Reminder that students get up to 5 points at end of year for outside activities.
- Acting Out Talk Back Session yesterday went well.
- During Frog & Toad, ITHS will look for more opportunities for cast and crew to socialize and have fun.
- VHSL – Marshall tied for 1<sup>st</sup> at VHSL Regionals.
- ITHS is in need of underclassmen who are interested in helping with publicity and social media. All grades really encouraged but ITHS is looking for underclassmen who may want to learn the role and take a greater leadership as upperclassmen.

## Director's Report from Mr. DeLeo

### One-Acts:

- He is thrilled with how the One Acts went and enjoyed seeing students take control.
- He held a talk back to determine what went well and what we could do better.
- Notable feedback is that Tech had many “deer in the headlight moments”. Tech would like more guidance from directors. Next time, we need to have more tech meetings before the show to ensure the Tech crew has clear expectations and tasks.
- Students were thrilled. Everyone wants to do it again.

### VHSL:

- Mr. DeLeo is really happy with the VHSL play. Marshall tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place. The tie breaker is based on quality points; Chantilly beat us by 4 points. This also happened last year.
- We've gone to the regional round in last 3 years and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> twice. That makes us a top program in the Region.

### Field trips:

- A field trip to see Fiddler of the Roof at Capital One Hall is planned for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Email/papers are coming out tomorrow. We will need students to commit and pay quickly – a one-week turnaround. Price is \$26 per ticket. Everyone will meet at Marshall and take the bus. Otherwise, students will get lost, show up late, etc.
- He will need a couple of chaperones. The Board gets first priority.

### Frog & Toad:

- Callbacks are in process.
- Online auditions were held. Online auditions are the norm in industry, so this is a good process to teach students how to effectively audition online.
- Cast list will come out over weekend.
- The show is going to be fun and exciting. Tech classes are reading scripts, listening to music, and brainstorming ideas. There will be a lot of fun challenges for the tech crew in this show.
- You should experience a variety of shows while at Marshall over a 4-year period. We haven't done a children's show. We want the feeder schools to bring the kids on a field trip to come see the show. We plan to have puppets and all sorts of fun things with the hope this show will inspire the younger generation and serve to feed the theatre program in coming years.
- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be on Monday.
- Dates for Frog & Toad:
  - Tuesday and Wed, April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. These shows will only be advertised at the feeder schools for field trips.

- Opening night for the general public will be Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
- Friday, April 29 - We will have two shows – a sensory friendly show at 4:30 pm and an evening show at 7:30 pm
- Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> – No show due to prom
- Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm
- Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> matinee time TBD – 4:00 pm (ish) and an evening show at 7:30 pm
- Saturday matinees are an hour-long version of the show. Full performance, evening shows is a two-act 90 minute show.
- Parent Volunteer opportunities:
  - Feed the kids on Fridays and Saturdays
    - This show has a large orchestra, which will be on the back of the stage. We will need to feed the orchestra kids as well.
    - We will comp them t-shirts. We want them to feel like part of the show.
  - Hoping to sell concessions and will need support for sales
  - Publicity:
    - Dixie would like parent support with publicity
    - We may try to do “field trips” to feeder schools, libraries etc for short performances
    - We may ask local libraries to set up Frog & Toad book displays with flyers
    - Posters in the community
    - Working with the feeder schools on field trip plans
  - Might need a truck to go to Home Depot. He can take tech students and show them how to buy lumbar.
  - May need seamstresses. Lot of costumes for this show.
  - Merchandise & booster seat rental sales
  - Box office sales
  - Theatre-gram sales
  - Parent volunteers to serve as ushers for the feeder school matinees
  - Program support from Mary. We will need to determine if we want to sell program ads.
  - We invite faculty the first night of the show. We need parent volunteers to feed faculty before the show.
- The boosters are purchasing 72 booster seats for the little kids.
  - We will set up a table for attendees to rent a booster seat for a fee, similar to merchandise sales.
  - We will need parent support for this.
- There will be an official cast party on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday after the show at the Brunner house.

- The cast does not need to be here for spring break. The crew can come in if they're here (optional, not required).

### **Mid-Year Budget review**

- Budget looking good. Supporters have been extraordinarily generous. Our fundraising is slightly ahead, and we still have a nice little bump of income coming from a matching corporate gift.
- Theatre-grams. We hit it out of the park for the One-Acts – truly an extraordinary level of sales. One point of feedback is that we need to better organize the “dump”. Theatre-grams were piled high making it difficult for cast and crew to find their theatre-grams. Theatre-gram sales are making up for the fact we're not selling concessions. Jenn is ordering more theatre-gram cards.
- Actual Income is \$13,000 thus far. Acting Out made \$3,093 and sold 449 tickets total (223 students).
- Expenses:
  - Expenses total \$5,500 on a budget of \$21,000 however expenses are coming with Frog & Toad including the booster seats; staff costs for music and band directors, a keyboardist and someone to play banjo; publicity/ad costs; photographer and more. We are also purchasing permanent banner signage for the theatre program including a feather flap outside door 13, a pop-up banner outside the box office and actual signage above the box office. Signage costs between \$700-\$900. One parent asked about purchasing a marquee. The Board may look at that next year.
  - One Acts didn't spend anywhere near their budget.

### **President's Request:**

- We need help from some parents of seniors to plan something special to celebrate them at the show.
- May 23rd @ 7:30 pm is the end of year celebration. We will elect new officers at that meeting. We also need a scholarship committee for nominations. Parents on this committee should not have a senior in the program. Scholarships will be announced at the end of year celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Attendees were invited to BJ's to socialize.