

HMS Theatre Boosters Minutes- November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Officers present: Manal Megahed, Dannielle LaRosa, Gemma Starkie, Amanda Lowe, Shannon Wise

Student officers present: Hannah Clements, Esri Lowe, Lulu Megahed, Meena Megahed, Nikki Metz

Booster members present: Heather Metz, Chrysta Wood, Rengin Morro, Hollis Clapp, Adrienne Wasserman, MaryElla Bradley

Manal welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for helping with the many events that went on in November. It's been a busy month!

Mr. Pafumi gave his Director's Report- End of the quarter grading has included a 50-question open notes quarter test for the theatre appreciation students. The advanced class test was their One Act performance of *Life, Death and Everything in Between*. This was a student -empowered piece that was performed by advanced theatre students at HMS and at Art Space. Mr. Pafumi gave the students guidance and structure, but allowed them to be creative and create something new and original on this year's theme of "Rites of Passage". The students learned how to take this show from one performing space to another performing space, which helped them learn problem solving and flexibility as actors- asking "how will we do this?" instead of saying "this can't be done". There will be a field trip coming up on December 1 with Theatre Appreciation students to the Synthetic Theatre to see *Hansel and Gretel*. The second quarter will focus on improv ensemble work- groups will be chosen to compete in the improv competition. Teams will be posted by the end of November. A large sum of grant money was donated by the county to fund the purchase of 10 lavalier mics that will be used for the musical in the spring. Boosters will pay for the installation of the new equipment. Mr. Pafumi encouraged parents and students to go and see live performances in the next several weeks at HHS, South Lakes, Next Stop and other area theaters. Students will be writing critiques on live performances which will be due January 15.

The student officers went to the Herndon Library this month to read to the children and perform a live song that they had written for them as a part of a county-wide reading initiative. They shared their experience of the One Act performances- it helped them learn to work better in groups, resolve conflicts, and grow together as an ensemble. Students are now choosing their own improv groups. The students had a wonderful experience with Kevin, currently acting in *The Book of Mormon*, who came to give a workshop last week with the theatre students.

Shannon handed out the October minutes and they were approved by all members present.

Dannielle presented the treasurer's report- it was a very successful month with a net income of \$1,302.00 from the Talent Show ticket sales, concessions, and merchandise. Earnings from the Dining for Dollars event have yet to be recorded because the check

from Chipotle has yet to be received. We need to continue working on increasing our booster memberships. Of our approved budgeted amount of \$1,100 for mic purchases, we will currently only need \$200 for the installation fee. We plan to use the remaining \$900 on other purchases throughout the year, when voted upon and approved by the membership. A check in the amount of \$560 will be due in December to pay for the two partial scholarships to our spring NYC trip.

The next New York trip payment is coming up- \$200 will be due by December 8. Final payments must be done by March. Mr. Pafumi assured that people could choose to skip the December payment and pay both December and March payments in March.

A guest artist will come in April-June to work with the advanced theatre students in the commedia dell'arte acting style (character acting, masks, traveling troupe concepts). Mr. Pafumi has a partnership with the Traveling Players Ensemble (TPE) and they will be providing one of their teaching artists to our theatre department to produce acting vignettes and scenes at HHS and ArtSpace in June. Boosters are being asked to provide our name as a partnering group on a grant application for the guest artist and to offer a nominal donation. We will be required to file a 1099-MISC in January 2019 to report any fees paid to our guest artist, if those fees exceed \$600.

Three tax returns were filed for the past 3 years and we are in good standing. Once our three tax returns have been processed by the I.R.S., we will file the correct paperwork and pay the required \$400 to change the form of our tax exempt organization from a Private Foundation to a Public Charity.

Gemma Starkie gave an update on our membership. We've gone from 9 Booster members to 25 over the past month. She encouraged us to keep working to bring in more members. A Booster email needs to be composed to send to everyone who has joined thanking them for their donation and providing tax information for their records. A suggestion was made to send another letter out to parents who have not yet joined- there are roughly 145 students enrolled in the theatre classes with approximately 50-60 actively involved students. Mr. Pafumi suggested a goal of getting 50 families involved in Boosters. Suggestions were made to do more advertising for becoming booster members at future HMS Theatre performances. Ex.- "Join the Boosters- we'll Grandfather you in!" Possibly inviting grandparents to become boosters as well.

Amanda reported on our 1st Dining for Dollars event at Chipotle. \$235 was raised. The next Dining for Dollars will be at Caba in Reston next Tuesday, November 21 from 6-10pm. The December D4\$ will be at Mellow Mushroom on Dec.12 from 4-7pm. We will receive 10-15% of Booster members sales from Caba and 10-15% at Mellow Mushroom from all their sales that evening.

Manal opened up discussion on lessons learned from past events:

1. Review of Talent show- It was difficult to reach out to parents of talent show participants because of the quick turn around time between the auditions and the performance- how can we reach out to everyone more quickly? Could we give out the leaflet with info at the auditions? Lesson learned from Scott- he was glad he turned the event over to the Boosters as a fundraising event and wants to do this again next fall. He

wants to revisit how we do the afternoon talent show- should it be a closed show, or possibly do a 2-night show instead of an afternoon show open to all students? Friday afternoon's show was very problematic with audience behavior- most likely because the show was free to anyone who wanted to come in. Friday afternoon activities were cancelled and so many students came but didn't seem to care about the performers (booing, etc). We need to find a way to help regulate behavior more in the future- possibly charging a small ticket fee, or having after school activities held so that only people who really wanted to be there would attend. Jess suggested a possible solution- that the afternoon talent show be offered to only drama students or an invite-only. Another suggestion- could an announcement be made at the beginning of the show by the principal about audience etiquette- a one-strike and you're out policy. Perhaps tickets could be obtained by students who signed up and/or paid a dollar to go. This would prevent people wandering in who don't want to be there. Boosters present felt that the afternoon performance was an opportunity to teach students audience etiquette and didn't want to do away with the afternoon show next year. Friday night's show was a much more positive experience, since everyone present paid for tickets and wanted to support the performers.

2. Student lock-in- Parents reported that the students had a great time- Manal thought the kids were all very well behaved- no trash was left outside. Booster parents present had a good experience- food donations were great with some even left over. A suggestion was made that next time we could ask for an extra dish of food and take it straight to the custodians. Mr. Pafumi felt the lock-in went well and was good for bonding and working on the project- possibly could have been ended earlier- 2-9pm instead of 2-10pm. Thought it was good that it was held at the school and not at someone's home.

3. One Act- there weren't enough forks for the pie, the hot chocolate was a bit chaotic. The talk-back was received well- was good to have a cross-generation conversation on tough topics. Next year, the South Lakes/Herndon football game will be held at HHS so we might want to not hold the performance on the same night.

December 1 will be the first Improv competition at Kilmer Middle School- the event starts at 7pm. Teams will be formed by the end of the month- up to 24 students will be placed on 4 different teams. All students are invited to go and support the teams. Information will be sent out soon with more details.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm- the next meeting will be December 5t at @ 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Wise, Secretary