**Applause!! Meeting Notes—September 26, 2023**

To begin the meeting, Carole Shellenberger, retired Fall Play director, introduced herself as one who would like to promote this group as the biggest fan club for our students involved in Penn Manor theatre. Producing the shows involves many tasks that the booster club can help to accomplish, and, of course, the more people we have involved to help, we lighten the load of the staff, so they can concentrate on the more artistic aspects of the productions, including (most important) teaching our “theatre kids” all things theatre.

The parents then introduced themselves to the group. A discussion about rebuilding with a new staff ensued. Missy Mintzer, current Fall Play director, expressed how proud she is that so many alumni are included in the new staff. She explained the large cast participation (53 plus about 30 crew members) and shared some details about the set design and how the ensemble will be used. She talked about the use of puppets, realism, and “cheese” in the context of the script.

**The following is a summary of the tasks Applause!! members can help with at this time:**

**Tech Week Meals**—Tech Week is the week leading into the actual performances. The cast and crew call is 3:00—9:00 on those days. The staff prefers that the 80+ students stay on campus for the duration (for sooo many reasons!). Therefore, they need to be fed. Amanda Cassidy has graciously accepted the role of chair again. She will set up a SignUp Genius to ask for help each day and for donations of food. We generally serve the meals between 3:30 and 4:00 since the kids need time to put on costumes and do makeup for the dress rehearsals.

**Rose Sale**—Wooden roses have replaced the real variety for this long-time fundraiser for Applause!! Patrons buy roses and have messages attached for sending to the cast and crew backstage. We also want to give the general school population a chance to send rose messages to each other before the actual show as a marketing opportunity. Therefore, we need volunteers to help the students sell the roses during the school day, help with wrapping the bundles of roses, and help selling them at the shows. Kristi Raugh has graciously volunteered to head up this committee again.

**After Party**—We like to celebrate the success of the cast crew, and staff and, also, to give them a chance to unwind with a party after the final show. We need volunteers who would like to help find a place that will consent to be open from about 10:30 p.m. until about 1:00 a.m. It also has to be very inexpensive and willing to cater to under 21’s. We could use theatre money for the rental, but the boosters need to organize it, chaperone it, and provide food and entertainment. It was suggested that we might need to explore the possibility of some sort of event insurance for some of the possible venues. We need volunteers to call different places and report back to the group. We need someone to volunteer to chair this committee.

**Props**—*Puffs* needs so many props. Many of them are common household items or things easily obtained from thrift shops. Missy will make a prop list available to anyone who wants to volunteer to collect props.

“Magical Sneak Peek” is the tentative name for a special event scheduled for November 4, tentatively from 2-4 p.m. No specific plans are available yet, but boosters would be needed to help with the event that day and with preparations before.

There was some discussion about resurrecting our Apple Dumpling fundraiser, which we haven’t had since COVID. Since then, our apple supplier has closed, and our pastry contact has moved away. Basically, we would have to start from scratch, but we are open to discussion.

Talking about fundraising led to a discussion of participation in the State Conference which will take place the weekend after Thanksgiving at North Penn High School from Thursday through Saturday. (Yes, the students would miss classes part of Thursday and all-day Friday of an already short week. Students must have a good academic standing to participate.) The basic cost is $110 for inducted Thespians and $125 for others. Then there would be costs for the hotel stay and the bus. It usually adds up to around $200. Missy suggested that students sell sponsorships to help offset costs. They receive a 25% credit in their accounts.

We have set two more meetings before the Fall Play. The next meetings will be held **October 10** **and November 7 at 6:30**. If anyone would like to be added to any of our task lists or if you have any questions, please contact Carole Shellenberger at kishell@aol.com.