

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 7:00 pm, DCM Offices

Board Business:

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. Attending: Gigi Devanney, Evelyn Spratt, Jennifer Palinkas, Heather Jennings, Kait Weber, Sarah Brown, Rory Geissler, Alyssa Kalisch, Charlie Jennings

- Next meeting: Feb. 24th, 7pm
- Review prior meeting minutes

Public Session

- Student board members shared that not all contract stipulations are being followed by all BC members. Discussion about contract wording and the rules set forth in the contract. Clarification needed on Ballet Chesapeake's zero tolerance policy for bullying. Students will reach out to 2 alums each and discuss how dancing with BC helped shape their future either in or outside of dance. Kait sending contact info so students can start that process.
- BC is starting a partnership with ATI Physical Therapy. They would like to schedule future seminars with us (parent observation week, prior to summer intensives, August Workshop) so they can meet parents and dancers. ATI would provide training for our teachers and guidance on what to do during an injury. James is our point of contact.
- Presence at future Chamber of Commerce events is needed. Upcoming event in February.

Executive Director's Report

- Less Tessier is sponsoring Ballet Chesapeake this season. Discussion on if a company can sponsor a specific student and the overwhelming response was no, but we could designate the funds to go to our scholarship fund. BC owes DCM 4 months rent and \$10k. DCM gave BC \$25k to help with Nut expenses. Discussion about revamping sponsorship/grant forms and creating video clips that market our teachers, classes, students, performances, facility, etc.
- Made a profit for Nutcracker, receiving a check for \$37k. We are \$2k under budget for spring production. Kait and Brianna created a costume budgeting plan and have a 3 year plan for Nutcracker costumes. Discussed advertising Brianna to DCM families and Kait will ask permission to share her information.
- 36 auditioned for Sleeping Beauty children's cast and 30 accepted. This is an increase from 2024 production. Guest dancer for Sleeping Beauty is from Goucher. Gigi has ideas she will share with Kait to help revamp the Spring program.
- Discussed ideas for a new Spring production to add to the mix. 2026 Spring production will be Cinderella. Spring production budget reviewed and approved.
- Commissioning Adrienne Kully to decorate old pointe shoes for senior gifts. She will incorporate each dancer's main roles into the shoe for us to present at the Spring show.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

