

GALWAY PTSA MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2024 @6.30pmET

Cock N' Bull, Galway, NY

CALL TO ORDER: Kara Reed @ 6:45pm

AGENDA:

- Effusive and heart-felt thanks to all who helped last year!
 - Volunteer spotlights on Trisha Hopper and Heather Berlin
 - Chair recognition: Helen Christopher, Hillary Clemens, Christine Gauss, & Emma Obern
- Treasurer's Report
 - 2024-2025 Budget Review
 - Biggest change is an increase to insurance for dance (to protect for new studio)
 - Also allocation of funds for new website and software fees
- Dance:
 - Updates on last year:
 - 2024 was the biggest year to date; 83 dancers – higher than pre-COVID (about 65)
 - Now 9 classes and 2 competition teams
 - Spring recital saw 484 people across 2 shows - biggest ever!
 - EOY pizza party in June to close out the year; 118 attendees – pictures were presented, and ice cream and pizza was provided
 - New: Volunteer appreciation dinner last year – *thank you to everyone who helps us run this program!*
 - Status Report on current year:
 - Tonight 9/9 was the first night for 2024-2025 year: 65 dancers signed up right now
 - EOY Dances – 138 for special person dance (K-3) students 125 guests (263 attendees); June “New adventure” dance (4 & 5) 89 total students; donated snacks are always a huge hit (and so appreciated)
 - Carry-over money in budget from last year (from ticket sales) will pay for this year.
 - That is the goal: to fund the next year's dance before closing out the current year.
- Bookfair:
 - Coin Drive – will be run again in the ES
 - Stop-the-Bop (Jr./Sr HS) -will be run in conjunction with coin drive for ES; an annoying song will be played between class-changes.
 - To stop the song, the Jr./Sr. HS students can donate money (that will go toward the EOY yearbook party). Initial goal is \$250
 - Plans for fall fair (run-dates: 10/24-11/1)
 - Family Fun Night (10/24 5:30-7:30): Do plan to go forward with Family Fun Night
 - **Kara to connect with Noelle King (loop her back in) and Ally Sherman** to align on what's complete and what's yet to do, and if anything needs to be removed.
 - Once alignment is achieved on the punch-list, we'll email the group who attended tonight's meeting for help in filling in the missing slots. (Thanks in advance.)
 - **In addition: Kara to run point on scheduling a bookfair specific meeting**
 - **Signup Genius** – will be sent out for all volunteer needs established during the meeting.
 - **Kara to ask Ally about documentation from last year's book fair, that can be used to update and pass on to the next chair.**
 - Ally Sherman cannot continue as chair for spring. We need a new chair, ideally 2 co-chairs.

- Spirit Wear:
 - Do plan to open up PTSA-run spirit wear again.
 - **Becky** to get confirmation of logo from admin; once done, **Amber** to work with vendor and setup site.
- Fall Catalog Fundraiser
 - Fall - 4 catalogs will go home; will also have an online forum for sales this year
 - Sarah Slosek, Heather Berlin & Trisha Hopper volunteered to run point on pick-up & distribution
 - *Thank you!*
- General Fundraising:
 - Helen Christopher offered Brookledge for 2025 to host an event of our choosing in May or April (dependent upon available dates). As an example, another group is doing a mom prom – would have Helen’s staff (200 people max) – could do food trucks, etc. Something to think about and coordinate with Helen.
 - *Thank you, Helen!*
- Membership drive 2024-2025
 - Flyers to come soon; contest for all grades: the class from each grade with the most registered members will win apple cider and donut party - anyone who registered for 2024-2025 already will be counted
 - **The greatest need is participation.** Membership ensures you receive communication, and the PTSA keeps \$2 of your membership fee, but participation is crucial.
- Halloween Costume Swap (New idea)
 - **Kara to talk to Julie Pasika** about whether we could do this at the library and this year. The idea is simply to offer a way for folks to donate Halloween costumes that are no longer needed, and maybe find a new one.
- Yearbook Parties (1) Jr./Sr. HS & (1) ES
 - Goal is to have an in-school party to enable our kids to have time to get their yearbooks signed.
 - We will have notebooks on-hand for those without a yearbook.
 - PTSA to also give everyone a pen.
 - Nicole Luft was going to look at budgeting to gift 5th grade
 - Helen Christopher noted that Brookledge may be able to help fund some of this cost if need be.
 - Low volunteer need here, as it will ideally occur during school.
 - Money raised from “stop the bop” will help fund the HS party and potentially prizes
- Voting:
 - 2024-2025 PTSA Budget
 - Trisha Hopper makes a motion; Helen Christopher seconds
 - PASSES – *Thank you!*
- Volunteers are needed to chair events**
- Admin updates:
 - Soaring through the Eras:
 - 1940 forward – admin went through all the yearbooks
 - Teachers are making/exchanging friendship bracelets
 - Eras “dress up” themes are established and set in the calendar; goal is building school spirit, community, pride for the history of Galway
 - Early parent drop-off has been going really well
 - New rule from NYS – temperature 88* or above, moved to an A/C room or released home
 - Lock-down drills will now be notified 1week in advance
 - Homecoming – please attend! Friday night and Saturday – parade and fireworks – fun for all
 - Dr. Donovan is retiring in January
- AOB

- PSA: did you know that you can sign-up to have the school calendar linked to your device? A great way to keep-up with all the events throughout the year.

** Forthcoming, and need chair(s) to help with setup, run the event and serve as point-person for the board:

- **Bookfair** for spring fair- would recommend 2 co-chairs.
 - The format of the bookfair and related events is open for discussion. It does not need to be a repeat of years past. We're happy to talk to anyone who may be interested in chairing this event to learn more about what's asked of you, and what ideas you may have.
- **Holiday shop** – 2024 is Heather Berlin's last year as chair. Ideally, someone would step up this year to shadow her. It's a 4 day event, and requires most time during the 4 days in-school. The company we use is C&H (same as our catalog fundraising vendor, who's local).
- **EOY Picnics** – Heather Berlin will remain chair; *thank you, Heather!*
- **Catalog Fundraisers** – need someone to assist Kara with organizing drop-off/collection of items
 - Sarah Slosek, Heather Berlin & Trisha Hopper volunteered to run point on pick-up & distribution
- **Appreciation Day** – Helen Christopher is not continuing; Sarah Slosek has volunteered to chair this event for 2024-2025. *Thank you, Sarah!*
- **Grant writer:** need help writing grant request to cover annual software & website fees. If you know of anyone who would be willing to volunteer their time to help us, please email galwayptsa@gmail.com
- **Board members for 2025-2026** – positions are 1-year terms. Please join some meetings this year, and think about interest you may have in joining the board for the next year.
 - Board seats organize the list of what needs to be accomplished throughout the year, finds chairs for events, and makes sure those chairs and events stay on-task and on-budget.

End @7:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Becky DiCaprio

Galway PTSA Secretary