

## **Opening of School Theatre Teacher's Meeting**

Minutes

**Date:** Saturday, August 17, 2024

**Location:** Westchester Cultural Arts Center

### **1. Call to Order**

The general session was called to order by Gary Graff, District 8 Chair, at 9:15 AM.

### **2. Welcome, Introductions, and Guests**

- Mr. Graff welcomed attendees and encouraged everyone to introduce themselves.
- Ana Mederos, D8 Ast. Chair, congratulated Cristina Pla-Guzman for receiving the Inspirational Theatre Educator Award from EdTA.
- Mr. Graff thanked the Westchester Cultural Arts Center for hosting and introduced the following guests, each of whom provided informational materials as part of the packets received at the meeting.
  - Ana Andreu & Charles Southers from the Westchester Cultural Arts Center, representing the Roxy Theatre Group, the non-profit managing company of the center. Their information can be found at <https://www.roxyperformingartscenter.com/>
  - Nelson Varona representing Mega Fundraising, an approved vendor for MDCPS. Their information can be found at <https://megafundraising.com/>
  - Deborah Magdalena; Intern and Apprenticeship Program Specialist, Adrienne Arsht Center. Information can be found via <https://www.arshtcenter.org/> and [arshtcenter.org/arts-education](https://www.arshtcenter.org/arts-education)
  - Vicky Perez from Miami Children's Theatre, in partnership with Dance Empire of Miami, showcasing at Sanctuary of the Arts in Coral Gables. Their information can be found at <https://miamichildrenstheater.com/>
  - Patricio Suarez, District Supervisor, Performing Arts, MDCPS.
    - Mr. Suarez welcomed all the teachers, and noted for new teachers in MDCPS that pacing guides are available on Schoology.
    - Reminded teachers of professional conduct and MDCPS rules.
    - Encouraged teachers to highlight outstanding students for special events; he can be reached at [psuarez@dadeschools.net](mailto:psuarez@dadeschools.net)
    - Reminded teachers to be sure to complete PD evaluations for Master Plan Points.

### **3. Workshop Day**

- Mr. Graff introduced Gaby Fadhel to discuss this year's John Mezzano Workshop Day.
- Mr. Fadhel provided details for this year's event.
  - Scheduled for September 28th at MAS @ Zelda Glazer.
  - Fees from the event support the senior scholarship.
  - Open to middle and high school students, offering lots of workshops. Some are grade-level specific, many are mixed age groups.
  - This event is where the Thespian President meeting takes place: troupe Presidents attend for free.

- Event fee is \$10 pre-sale and \$20 at the door. Pre-registration is required for the \$10 rate. Payment does not have to be received in advance and can/should be brought to the event.
- Registration forms and presenter information will be distributed in the next few weeks. The workshop schedule will be released shortly before the event.
- The final workshop of the day typically ends at 3:00 PM, for planning purposes.

#### **4. Guest Artist Workshops**

- Mr. Graff discussed District 8 Thespians bringing in guest artists
  - Artists would travel to various school sites to provide a half day master class for students at no cost to the school site.
    - Brian Curl of the Daily 8 Count (movement/dance master class)
    - Matt Burke (acting master class/coaching sessions) *high school only*
  - Mr. Graff encouraged attendees to complete the interest form that was sent out (which can also be found on the website), noting that expressing an interest in the master class does not commit you at this time.
  - Once dates and times are confirmed with the guest artists, schools will be able to sign up on a first come first served basis.

#### **5. FATE Conference**

- Mr. Graff introduced Nicole Quintana, Past President of FATE, to discuss the organization and annual conference.
- Ms. Quintana also discussed the FATE conference at the Double Tree by Hilton near SeaWorld. District 8 will cover double occupancy rooms for DATE members. For room reservations, email Ms. Mederos. Single occupancy will require half the room cost.
- For middle school teachers wishing to pay the DATE fee through District 8, download the District 8 Assessment invoice from the website and adjust the assessment fee accordingly.
- Awards and grants available at FATE include Administrator of the Year, Legislator of the Year, Educator of the Year, Ann Derflinger Scholarship, and a Mental Health Awareness grant.

#### **6. Calendar and Deadlines**

- Mr. Graff reviewed the calendar, noting bold entries as physical events and others as registration deadlines.
  - Emphasized the importance of adhering to deadlines.
  - Senior High festival housing information is available via a link on the FLthespian website.

#### **7. District Festivals and Adjudication**

- Mr. Graff introduced Mercy Coiras, District 4 Jr. Thespian Chair.
- Ms. Coiras discussed the need for adjudicators at the Jr. Thespian Festival, and encouraged high school teachers to participate as strong middle school programs are what make strong high school programs possible.
- Mr. Anderson Leal will be coordinating adjudication once again. You can also visit the District 4 Jr. Thespian page for more information.
- Ms. Quintana discussed adjudication for the Senior Thespian festival.

- Mr. Graff reiterated the policy from the state level; all adjudicators must complete a background check through TrackOne, and submit a W-9 form.
- Mr. Graff reminded members to be diligent in adhering to legal and administrative requirements which includes submitting W-9 forms, completing background checks, and following the guidelines for licensing and material selection.

#### **8. Adjournment**

- The general session was adjourned at 10:45 AM by Mr. Graff, with breakout sessions to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Minette Poole  
Troupe 4841 Sponsor