

Lakota West Upbeat Meeting - November 15, 2018

Unapproved Minutes

Director's report – Tom Racic

- Wright State University – looking at an outreach/joint concert with the percussion ensemble
- Pep band – drum line starting up again

Director's report – Andy Carr

- good marching band season; always sad to see it end; super proud of the kids; it was such a cool experience to do big shows; it's expensive and they are long days but great experience for the kids; special thanks to Dave Daiker who made things happen
- concert bands – fall concert was awesome; doing marching band at the same time makes the kids stronger; some schools do only marching band in the fall and concert band in the spring.
- Holiday concert for main campus had date change due to conflict with CYWE; parent concern that it's exam week but the expectation is the kids will stay for all three performances; listening experience is important to hear other bands; it's an early release day so kids can study during the day; concert will be 7-830p and Wednesday exams are for bells 4/5/6 and one of those would be their band bell so will only need to study for 2 classes
- Honor Band auditions on Saturday, December 1; music is out already, and registrations are in; approximately 150 are going to audition; performances are Martin Luther King weekend (plus the previous Monday night for high school winds) at Mason High School.
- OMEA All-State – Cleveland at the end of January - 7 kids performing; next year it's in Columbus
- Other honors: Bowling Green Honor Band; Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra (CSYO); CCM Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble (CYWE); CCM Cincinnati Youth Symphonic
- Try Band – Saturday, January 26; open house geared toward 5th and 6th graders; held at the Freshman building; run by Symphonic Winds students to get the younger kids exposed to all instruments and get them interested in joining band; will need some parent volunteers
- Marching uniforms – looking into new marching band uniforms for either the 2019 or 2020 season; 50-50 chance for next year; current uniform has gone through six seasons; getting to end of life and it restricts the movement that we're now asking the kids to do

Upbeat meeting

Exec board present : Candi Vance, Jen Daiker, Rebecca Yoby, Beth Dodson and Julie Horn

President – Candi Vance

- called to order at 650pm

Secretary – Julie Horn

- minutes from October 18, 2018 meeting presented on website
- motion to approve the minutes as written by Mike Guinigundo; seconded by Dave Daiker; motion carried

Finance: Beth Dodson

- question about the “new field maintenance” - as a nonprofit funds must be tagged for future projects; would like to turf freshman school; \$600,000;
- motion to approve the budget as presented by Kevin Moorman; seconded by Amy Koenes; motion carried

Swing Dance – Cindy Merk

- Barb and Debbie are actively promoting it
- Sign-up genius is out for volunteers
- Kevin and Jen have solicited gift cards
- snack assignments will come out after Thanksgiving (all kids bring snacks since it's a fundraiser for all bands)
- ice cream? Michelle will try for donation but may have missed cut for December donations

Try Band – Barb Warne

- Jan 26, 2019 at the Freshman School; shortening the time this year to 10a-12n
- ensembles will be in the elementary schools performing the weeks before promoting it
- Need help promoting it; need items to give away; maybe sponsorship?
- We offer a table to all the music/instrument rental companies; plan to build them into the scavenger hunt to steer people their way

Solo and Ensemble – Rebecca Yoby

- Saturday, February 9
- Volunteer sign up will go out after the first of the year

Uniforms – Amy Koenes

- Marching band uniforms are back in
- Parkas – 15-20 came back very wet; spots that weren't coming out; most are back in from being cleaned now
- Shakos will be cleaned sometime in January
- 2 guard uniforms, 1 parka and two plumes were not returned
- Thanks to the uniform team; pit crew and chaperones for helping out this year
- One field commander cape disintegrated; they were handmade 15+ years ago; debating to use them or not

Uno's / Taste of Music – Candi Vance

- Uno's - \$400
- Chipotle – no figures yet
- Uno's Tuesday, December 18 – now it's the day of main campus holiday concert; reached out to them to move to alternate day – trying for Monday, December 17
- January – still no date from Skyline

Pit crew – Dave Daiker

- Scissor lift already approved but original line fell through; Lance Clayton found a 31 foot lift if we can pay cash.
- Thanks for the help all season
- Winter guard gearing up; they are using the teeter totter!

Communications: Barb Warne

- Jazz n cakes is same day as winter guard championships; 30 kids and parents; all day event; will perform twice if make finals
- Facebook - please share and like the posts to get more exposure
- Peachjar – working well to get flyers out
- New "BAND" app out there with a lot of nice features; Dave will test it with winter guard pit crew

Sponsorship Team – Kevin Moorman

- Andy has given ok to proceed with the sponsorship levels
- Mainly for the 2019-2020 season but they will get some benefit for this year too
- 8-10 main sponsors will be on wrap on back of truck; get a booth at Jazz n Cakes; recognition in the spring senior concert brochure
- pit crew level designed for those parents who don't have the time or desire to volunteer but still want to contribute
- getting the information out to the creative folks to design webpage, facebook, banner and programs

Volunteers needed – Candi Vance

- Jazz n cakes lead – baskets and vendors
- Swing dance – co chair
- Solo and Ensemble volunteers (not chairs)

Community conversation with superintendent Matt Miller – Tuesday, Jan 22 Plains Junior School

- Input from parents and community pulls weight; not just teachers who are protecting their jobs
- Led by facilitator Jeff Steck who has a list of planned questions
- Break into small groups to discuss issues; need to share what the impact and consequences are
- Come back together to report small group findings
- Matt listens and takes notes; summarizes at end saying “this is what I learned tonight; this is what I’m taking away”
- Matt is the one that pulls the trigger

Elementary Band

- New district administrators were not around when we had 6th grade band
- Seniors last year were the first class without 6th grade band
- Current seniors had an option to pay \$300/semester to have 6th grade band during lunch time
- Then it went to an after-school program; Buddy Rogers did it for 2 years;
- Buddy Rogers started a 5th grade program - had 70-80 kids at fall concert but only 30 at spring concert; clearly not a good experience for lots of these kids
- Currently some elementary schools offer it as a club and some don’t have it at all; teachers are not well paid so there’s lots of turnover; no incentive for them to buy into our band programs; no support for these teacher; they’re not looking at our needs for instrumentation; junior high directors have to deal with it at the 7th grade level
- Starting later equals less experience;
- Back in 2010, Lakota was in dire financial straits when cuts were made; no one ever said it was best for the kids; but the jobs never came back when the financial situation improved
- Honor Bands – almost no Lakota kids in 7th grade Honor Band – our kids are just getting started so they’re going in at a disadvantage; we’re missing an entire group of kids who were never exposed to a music program
- Caliber of kids at the high school level is completely dependent on how well they were taught in the earlier years
- If kids don’t get in at the beginning, they will never be able to walk in and join band at the high school level
- Needs to be offered during the school day; transportation would not be an issue for parents; would be part of school fees
- Need comparable instruments to be available for each elementary school – currently widely varied; lots were sold off or went missing

Staffing/team teaching –

- Most important to have adequate staff and team teach at lower levels – grades 6/7/8; teaching beginning band is completely different than at higher levels
- Ridge: Tom and Sherry would split kids out
- Need to be able to break into sectionals; be able to teach to smaller group of kids at a time so the teaching is relevant to their instrument rather than just sit and listen while the teacher works with another section
- Candy fundraisers allow junior high to bring in coaches
- Sharing Jazz instructor is not a good situation
- Need to look at how many staff members we have per student vs area schools of comparable size

6 bell vs 7 bell school day

- have decent numbers for 9th grade band but numbers drop for 10th grade when go to 6 bells
- freshman: every kid had a study hall and 2 days of XH
- kids can't fit everything in; engineering/biomed tracks; foreign language
- only way for kids to continue with band and jazz band is to do online and/or summer school

Benefits

- scientific – good in math with music background
- band kids GPA vs general population

District direction -

- District expectation changed; no requirement for arts at all but gym still required
- Looking at grades; attendance; at risk kids
- Huge reduction in the amount of electives available; kids experiences are diminishing
- Looking at getting seniors out of the school buildings – vocational school; co-ops; senior flex; internships
- Some of the ideas being floated would not support a band program at all
- Not seem to be basing it on what's best for the kids

Thoughts/action going forward

- Have directors ask kids to write essays/ couple chosen to present
- 6th grade parents to speak to transportation issues – wish it was available during the school day
- Letters from alumni and those that can't be present
- Video of alumni passionately saying what band has meant to them; why it was important
- Kids to speak – I hated school but found myself in band; kept kid engaged in school
- Take 30 at risk kids and sponsor them thru band, track and see how they do
- We can make a difference – John Trygier saved the high school band program from being cut several years ago
- Need to create positive experiences for the kids – just having choices does not mean it will be a positive experience (ie 5th grade band)

New business

Shirley – Flickr will now only allow 1,000 pictures in their free version; It's \$49.99 annually for the pro version. Shirley Lam-Wong Liong motioned to sign up for the pro version; Cindy Merk seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Cindy Merk; Dave Daiker seconded; meeting adjourned at 848pm

Attendance: Barb Warne, Kevin Moorman, Amy Koenes, Dawn DiLorenzo, Katie Smith, Cindy Merk, Harold Mylius, Shirley Lam-Wong Liong, Audrey French, Mike Guinigundo, Dave Daiker, Phil Leisure and Marcy Addington