**Lakota West Bands Upbeat Club Meeting August 18, 2022 Minutes**

 **Director report Andy Carr:** Thanks for being here. Lots of craziness going on. We meet during the band practice since there is so much going on. Please come out and watch anytime, see what happens and how we get things done. On Thursday night we get a good crowd out here. School is off to a good start. 5 concert bands 2 here (Freshman Building) 3 at main. 1 jazz here (Freshman building) and 3 at main. So far all bands are looking great. It’s nice to not be outside and get back to regular band after the last few years. We already knew freshman bands would be good as all the freshman doing great at marching band. Tomorrow is a big day. First time on the turf will be a really crowded game. We have never done that before. Great band camp performance. We are far ahead and we’ll be doing great if we can continue that momentum. We couldn’t avoid having band practice on the first day of school due to the staggered start. We probably should have just had practice Monday night to get experience on the turf field. Always a good atmosphere, buy your tickets or pass. Get there early. When you go to the games are what they are. Please don’t expect the general audience will be quiet and listen to the band in any way. That behavior (talking during a show) is not done at competitions but when we’re at a game remember it’s a football game. We are not doing the ballad tomorrow. We will do it later in the season. Just doing the loud and fast stuff. Still have a lot to do in the ballad and later in the season we’ll do the whole thing including the closer. Please don’t get into a fight with the football parents. That is not what a game is really about. Come out Thursdays or competitions to see what it’s really about and it’s a great thing. Our band is so loud it will quiet down a bit when they start playing. Show the other band a lot of love if they come. Try to support them as much as we can. Their band is very different. We have a large band compared to that. We’re small to medium at BoA Grand Nationals. We can’t compete with some of those schools, not even close due to the size of the schools, but what’s great is for the kids to see other kids like them that work that hard and do similar style shows. They had a great time at the Drum Core show. A lot of kids from similar bands we compete with were in the audience. Band is a lot less about winning compared to a sports team. Style points matter, we want to have a good performance. It is about art and music. No such thing as an ugly win. Should be excited tomorrow. Run throughs tonight. Usually Thursday night the competitive run through of the show is at 8:15 to allow pit to move things off the field at 8:30-8:40. Saturday camp day 9-4. Next Saturday is tag day, and then we are off on Labor day weekend. We don’t go to away games. Please don’t tell Mr. Carr to play more at the football games. He plays as much as he can until they tell us to play less. The rules are very strict. We are not allowed to play after they break the huddle. (We don’t use a huddle our coach says play all of the time) The refs warn us almost every time. We play more if we’re doing well as we play every touchdown. We’re not allowed to play when ball is active. We would love to play more but refs are strict. That is part of the reason we don’t go to away games. Your fees pay for our bussing which is $700 an hour. We are going to go to East. This is the one exception to away games. We are going as a pep band. No uniform. We are going to wear west colors. We won’t take front ensemble. Just playing pep tunes. East asked for us to not be on the field at all that evening. Kids will be dropped off at east freshman. Parents will need to pick up drop off. No bussing. Safe spot to drop off. Blocked off just for our band. This is the only away game we do except for playoffs. We’ll be going to playoffs put that on the calendar. School starting and marching band is going well. Flurry of activity in the first few weeks and the then it will chill out a little while. This is the biggest home game we’ve had so soon after school starting. We have concerts but we’ll have another meeting before then where we will discuss. If anyone has any questions, he tries to only give information a few weeks at a time. Always looking for input. The registration links for the trips will likely go live tonight. He was trying not to piggy back too much on the raffle and first week of school nonsense. Will have payment info and more info coming in an email. Thanks for the help. Most of the parents who come to upbeat club meetings our dedicated volunteers. Couldn’t be done with out the volunteers. We will send out surveys to get follow up feelings later about how camp went. It seemed that it went better this year with the later time. The kids seemed to be much happier. We aim to serve our group so there will be a couple of times we send out a google form to get feedback. Feedback going through the exec board is really helpful. Example is the parent dinner during camp. Parents requested that the kids do not go back to evening block after practice as it was too difficult to manage. That worked out great and was not something the directors had really considered. Sometimes too many opinions are hard as well. The moment is important. We care deeply about making this a good experience and creating a community. Band kids cannot eat in the band room this year. There is new seating in the cafeteria that administration wants them to use. He thinks it’s going to be a good year. The marching band has blown us away with their ability to stay focused and move forward. Weather was a challenge during camp. We constantly changed where they were supposed to be and they handled that. Good maturity level. Have to get the intensity up in practices as they are only 3 hours. A single day in the summer is equal to 1 week during the school year. The total tally of marching band hours is 60% over for the year now.

**Upbeat Club Parent’s Meeting** **8:02 Call to Order**

New Members-Good to see so many new faces! Thanks for coming

**Minutes Approval:** Brandy Dale/ Kendra Saylor

**Finances:** Financial report handed out. It’s early in the year so there is not a lot of activity right now. We’ll be adding band camp and then have fundraiser money coming in. If you ever have any questions about where we’re spending the money please ask. This is the time to do it. We will have the month/years spending review at each meeting. We’ll talk about a few things later. The one big thing to let everyone know is that someone volunteered for treasurer next year. They will start shadowing this year. No questions. Motion to approve: Monique P/Rebecca Y

**Band Camp Wrap Up:** Just a couple of things to hit on. There was an actual committee this year of Crystal, Ali, Stephanie and Jen. They started planning in January. If you’d like to join for next year let Jen know and we will contact you around January of next year. Jen feels like this year might be the nicest band she has ever encountered. Bravo to all of you for your delightful children. Such perseverance on some of the hardest days. They will turn into mazing leaders. One last thank you to Dortsch family and the Barr family for donating tents to replace the ones that were destroyed by weather at camp this year. If you have any questions about camp, please let Jen know. When students commit back in May please list if you have dietary needs I.e. allergies Vegetarian etc. Super important for them to know going into a trip. Please make sure if you list a dietary restriction your child actually follows it. It is difficult on trips when they don’t as special meals are ordered for Gluten free, Vegetarian Etc. and then there are not enough regular meals.

Most kids brought things in for the calendar fundraiser and that was great. If they forgot, they can bring to school tomorrow but that is the last day. If they did the online, they do not also need to fill out the slip too. Information is captured in the online form. Question if it was preferred online or cash. Allison says that while we bring in more money with online we have to pay fees so cash is better. We lose about $2 in fees so cash would be preferred so that we don’t lose those extra fees. One of the reasons we collect early is that we pull slips if checks do not clear. Question if there was broader student participation this year. It’s hard to tell at this point but it will be cross checked on the list. We’ll have a better idea next week. We are at about $7800 gross online. Net is less. Hopefully we have another $10-15,000 in cash.

**Pit Crew:** They are out doing their pit crew thing. Doing a run through for tomorrow. They are still building props. They are taking shape and getting completed little by little. Currently getting wrapped in vinyl. They have been doing Wed/Sat work sessions. If that is of interest to you let us know.

**Marching Band/Color Guard Uniforms:** We expect theshow uniform pants shortly. (Spoiler alert they came in the next day) The show uniform pants will need to be hemmed by hand so that will be a lot of work to get them ready for the first competition.

**Concert Uniforms:** Concert uniforms are only going to be for symphonic winds. They are back from the dry cleaners. Fittings will be coming once we have concert dates. We will have more information soon. It’s a wait for a few weeks until drops and pickups are done. More info will be coming.Stage accents was great about letting us return bowties and cummerbunds. This is a good place to get tux shirts for winds students

**BOA Trips/Bus Chaperones:**

**Bus chaperones for competitions-** Have 3 competitions where we will be riding the yellow busses. First is Sept 17th at Obetz, Sept. 24th Hamilton evening one and Oct. 29th at Centerville (more details to come maybe an all day). The sign up is online and will be sent out in the email tomorrow. Sign up is located on the website. You get to go all the way with the kids. Hamilton and Centerville will be free. You will need to buy a ticket for going to Obetz. If you want to be on a specific bus you can’t put that down and Monique will do their best to try to figure it out. If you need to know what bus they are on ask your kid.

The 2 BOA overnight trips coming up, application is due Saturday. We are still looking for a couple of more chaperones. Please give to Monique or Amy. Send to bus@lakotawestbands.org. Will also be in the email tomorrow. These trips are a little more intense and you are responsible for more care. You will need a background check and give out meds. Please do not register yourselves until you are told. Registration link is ready. You will purchase both trips at once. First payment is due by end of next week and then Sept 15 and Oct. 15, $350, $350 and maybe $250. It may change depending on fuel surcharges and raffle money. Itinerary is pretty close. The only change is Sunday at St. Louis says a riverboat cruise and this is really a museum. $950 is the price for kids. Cost for parents will be close. Parents do not have to chaperone both trips. If you have any questions after you see it, please send Monique an email or catch her on Thursday night at band. There are no costs for the other trips. If you’re not going with the band, you are on your own for planning. We will compete on Thursday at Grand Nats (~6:30). Book your hotels early. They fill up fast.

Last year a Group me was set up for parents that just went for fun and could be done this year if someone wants to organize it. Seating is general admission so you can sit together. West parents travel well and it’s a great opportunity to get to know everyone. Look for people in their West Band gear. Roommate picking for the kids is going to be Sept 10th. Four to a room. The Intent is to keep them the same for both trips.

Tag Day: Tag Day is lots of fun to drive. We need lots of drivers to participate and lots of kids as well to cover all the neighborhoods. You drive around 4 kids and just watch them to make sure nothing happens. They do all the work. Good idea to bring water and snack for them as it can be hot, and they forget. Sign up genius will go out tomorrow in the email but is also posted on social media. Tag day supports all LW bands. Tag day is for everyone, so we expect all band and guard kids to participate. For the students they go out in groups of 4. We are going to try something new this year. They will put themselves in groups in advance this year (google form). It will be made available early next week. They do all of their marching band commitments that way so they should be used to it. We won’t catch everyone and there will be some morning of changes, but hopefully this goes better. Students will be told next week, and it will go out in a charms email. It’s really a total of small donations from across the community. Groups are going to be up to them and not necessarily older pair with younger pair. They usually just pair with a friend anyway and we think they are capable of this. Hopefully this will be fun for them. They work in two pairs down the side of the road. They will go over the plan/script in the morning before the kids go out. If you have a neighborhood page you can advertise on that is really helpful. We may need a couple of additional people to count money if you are interested. We will be putting out door hangers this year. You can request a route and we’ll do our best to fulfill it. We will also try to pair you with your kid where possible. Stragglers will be put into a group if they can’t find one. We will be putting stuff out on HAC and during curriculum night to reach the non-marching band kids. We are going to have lunch afterwards. Everyone involved will be invited.

**Spirit Wear:** Spirit wear store is open. You have a few more days to get your show shirts. If you click in the menu to all products you will find everything that the store has. The store closes midnight on Sunday. 10% of what you buy comes back to the upbeat club. Everything should come in 3-4 weeks turn around.

**Communications:** It seems overwhelming and there’s so many emails. When you get an email from charms it comes from Mr. Carr/Amy those are important details. Read them you need to know. The emails from the marching band website email list are important stuff with info you can find on the website but not necessarily need to know right now. Trying to keep those to only being sent on Friday mornings. They’re posted on the website if you don’t want another email but want the information. Also subscribe to the calendar on the website. Any changes will be done automatically, and you won’t have to worry about not having up to date info. Everything you need to know is in an email and will come only a week or so at a time.

**Tech Team:** Tech team takes care of the website and emails. They also do live streaming of the concerts. They won’t be doing any streaming for the marching band. We would love to have a couple of people help. We can teach you how to do it. There are a lot of concerts.

**Sponsorships:** We got another sponsor. Scott was able to get us a platinum sponsorship from his company. He works for Martenelli’s. Company that produces wine/sparkling juice on the west coast. He was brought in to grow the Midwest business. Buy Martenelli’s sparkling cider. Can buy at Target or Kroger. They’re really excited to be a part of it. Pure 100% apple juice and everything comes from the US. There still is opportunity to become a sponsor. Information is on the website.

**Volunteer Positions:** You all know how to find things ways to volunteer. Check out the agenda for a couple of positions needed to fill.

**Audit Team:** We will need people to audit in September. We need 3 parents. You will get a random sampling of ins and outs and confirm we have receipts. It’s about 2 hours max usually during a Monday practice.

**New Business:** Nothing from anyone

**Move to adjourn:** 8:59 Monique P/Kristen B