**Lakota West Upbeat Meeting**

**September 15, 2022 Minutes**

**Director’s Report** – Andy Carr- Thanks for being here. This will be a quick update because we have a thing coming up soon. Expectations seem to be a little out of control. Don’t get caught up on where we finish standings wise. The first time we went to a BOA show in 2017 we weren’t sure we could even make finals. They got in and the kids were over the moon excited. We went first in finals and played great and then got to watch the rest of finals and they ended up seeing 9 other bands perform and how cool it was to see their shows. When they discussed on Monday, it was evenly spread between all of the kids which bands were their favorites. Key to remember is that somebody’s favorite show is yours. It’s an honor to be there and we should support everyone. Some shows will be longer but less polished and some will be more polished. Last year was a heck of a season, and until last year winning wasn’t even a consideration. Be excited about their performance. When you perform you should know you did everything you could have done and be happy for 2nd place as long as did our best. Hopefully that has come acrossed to the kids. He does think we will do well. It’s normal early season things that some runs are great and some are not. We had a good time on Monday under the circumstances. They looked great and they were awesome about getting in and out of uniforms. Thanks uniform moms. He is fairly confident that we will play again i.e. make finals at Obetz. If you can’t make it to prelims its ok to come to finals. We will text with confirmation. As last years champions we got to choose our spot and picked last. It gives us more time and almost the entirety of all of the bands and their parents will be able to see. We will be performing for the biggest audience of the night. Following us is awards. Make it memorable and it will be great regardless of the score outcomes. People should be enjoying it. Parents won’t be able to tell you that you were in tune but could know the differences between 8th grade band and winds. Ultimately all of it should lead to things people enjoy. Thanks everyone for all the help, pit crew with all of the props, not just the kids’ efforts but their parents as well. It’s the family groups and the parent groups that allow us to do everything we do and let the kids be showcased well. We want to learn the rest of the show next week leading into Hamilton. It’s a great stadium and is close. Tickets cost a lot less money so great for extended family to come. We are also going to Centerville later in the year, but it might be cold. We wouldn’t take the chance going into a big national show but it’s a good way to play closer. 8th grade coming in next Friday night. Then we have a bit of a break. Homecoming got moved by the school so that we had to move a few things around. We try not to do so much back to back. St. Louis is 95 bands as a super regional. Since we are a champ, we got to pick our day, so we are performing on Friday instead of Thursday. It will be great to see how it works out. We don’t do defense for band. We go out and do the best we can do, and they need to behave over the weekend. Our kids have been making good choices so far with free time and we are continuing to discuss that to get ready for the trip. Be supportive of everyone and watch your language at competitions. We want them to be a good representation of our community.

Concert band we are finishing up auditions. People are well prepared. All five bands sound fantastic and are doing really well. Concerts are coming up and should be great. Thanks everyone for everything you do. Everyone’s helping all of the time and its fantastic. Clarify 8th grade night practice is not at the Freshman field. It is at the parking lot field at Main. Everything will be at main campus that night. An update will be sent via email with the corrections. As soon as everyone is there we practice getting on and off the field with 8th grade, eat pizza, get uniforms on, practice in the auditorium, and then field. 8th grade then can choose to go but are also welcome to stay.

We will be rolling out of the parking lots at 11:45 on Saturday. No matter what we’re proud of the kids and we are excited for them.

Up Beat Club Parent Meeting:

1) Call to Order at 6:51

2) New Member Welcome

3) Minutes Approval – Monique/Kristen. Minutes will typically be posted within 1 week of the meeting

4) Finance Approval – Allison N. We had the band sponsorship added to the budget announced at the last meeting. We brought in about $25,000 for tag day made $23000 after expensed. For calendar raffle we brought in about $19,000 after expenses. Our expenses have all been typical things misc. and uniform expenses. We made a lot of money to cover all of the expenses we have been paying. That being said initially when we budgeted for calendar raffle, everything was set to go towards the students trip. $3000 is set aside for additional misc. trip costs that come up. We also bring down chaperone costs to make a double the price of a quad. Everyone will get a $50 reduction towards their trip costs. We would like to make a little adjustment that we want to bring to the club for a vote. What we would like to do is to move an additional $5000 to the angel fund. We have $4000 right now, but we have a lot of students that need help. There were no questions about that. Kendra motions, Mr. Pitzer seconds. Everyone voted in favor no one was opposed.

That $50 will come off of the final payments. Chaperone Budget approval Motion to approve: Rebecca/Monique

5) Pit Crew– Justin K./Ray B.- Bought 1200 bottles of water today. We’re stocked up for this week and maybe next week. Almost everything has been reported. We’ve been triple teaming the pit crew and we’re excited to push some stuff in something that matters. We’ve had a core group of people for prop builds coming in every week and putting in countless hours. We’ve been having a lot of fun. Props look great and trucks are ready to go. All of the help is really appreciated, and a lot of great creative people have gotten us to where we are today. We’re 85% happy with where we are with props right now. They’re looking good. Looking forward to getting the practice of getting everyone on and off the field at a competition. Debriefs are awesome. (They really said brutal while laughing)

6) Marching Band/ Color Guard Uniforms – Jen H- Uniforms are done and they look amazing. There were 90 uniforms that needed to be hemmed. It was a huge group of people that helped with that. It’s been a huge amount of work, but they looked amazing in between monsoons on Monday. Extra shout out to pit crew for their help on Monday night. We are set for Saturday.

7) Concert Uniforms – Jen H on behalf of Katie S. We could use some help with fittings. IF anyone would like to hem there will be more pants. She would love some more help. See the sign-up genius or contact uniforms@lakotawestband.org

8) BOA Trips/ Bus Chaperones - Monique P.- First regular trips, we’re off to Obetz Saturday. Thanks for everyone who signed up. All of our small yellow bus trips are full. The start time for Saturday is 11:15 and Hamilton start time will be reset now that info has gone out there. Not much else on small trips.

Big trip update- Students picked roommates last weekend. Chaperones are starting to be assigned to rooms and will be finished in about a week. Monday Sep 26th - Chaperone meeting Tues Sep 27th - Med drop off from 4-6. These forms must be filled out by the doctor. Sheets are good for the whole year. All meds students need must go through this process. Thursday night Sep 29th will be parent trip meeting to go over everything that you need to know for the trips. It will cover both trips. Next payment is due Today(Sep 15th). Please make your payment if you haven’t. Final payments will be updated to remove the $50. The itinerary is currently updated and there is a link on the band website to the trip page. Hotel for Indy is Sheraton at Keystone crossing. Info on site. North part of the city off 465. Will be 4 kids per room again and kids will stick with their originally sign-up groups. If you are only going on the first trip, do not touch your payment they will be fixed but it will be slow. If you already have med forms on file with the school, please contact the nurse for clarification if additional forms are necessary.

9) Tag Day Wrap Up – Ginger C./Amy P.- We made $25000. I think it went well with preassigned groups and we will likely do the same again next year. Lots of thanks. Amy P did a great job with door hangers. We received several back in the mail with donations. We did get a fair number of online donations. It may be good to make a change to our paypal to check if user was willing to pay fees. Made about $3000 online.

10) Spirit Wear– Heather C.- About 70% of the first store opening orders are in. Vendor is hoping to have the rest of the orders done end of next week. The orders that closed last week should be in 3-4 weeks. This was one of the biggest orders we’ve ever had. Sold about $18000 sold of spirit wear. We get 10% of total sales. Yard signs are in. Heather will have them at pickup tonight and future date TBD.

11) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.- It’s overwhelming right now. We’re trying to be really careful about what we send but there is just so much info that needs to go out right now. Sign up for the blasts. They go out every Friday emails. The link is on the webpage at the very bottom of the page and they are incredibly helpful. You have to go to the follow it website and put in your details. Subscribe to the calendar for the best updates. Barb updates them in real time. Adds all of the email details there. Kristin is also doing great about updating the website for the trips. A number of organizations have been playing up our success. Music for all spotlighted us and BOA retweeted. Box 5 media also spotlighted us. Check out these and more on our social media channels. You can subscribe to get to watch the shows live. You can get a season pass or just a show pass.

12) Tech Team – Rebecca Y. If you are interested in helping run the cameras, we could use your help videoing concerts that you will probably be there anyways.

13) Sponsorships – Allison no updates. We’re always open. We got new stickers for the back of the truck and the banner. We’ll likely have it up tomorrow and with us to Obetz. If you know anyone, or have anyone who would like to do in kind donations, please see Allison. We will likely have some renewals and have already met budget this year.

14) Volunteer Positions

a. Current Openings- Volunteer Meals-These are done before football games or sometime on competition days. It’s a fun time to get together and share a meal. It’s really just making a sign-up genius and helping with set up/tear down. It’s a great place to step in. See Kristen for more details,

Taste of Music- Restaurant eat out and give back program. Sort of fell by the wayside a little bit. We were trying to do monthly events and it’s a nice source of income.

Split the Pot- We need a couple of additional volunteers. You can do along with pit crew. We usually make $700-$800 through the season. As the stadium gets fuller and as we get better there’s a lot of opportunity there to grow. We just wander the stands and entrance area. It is nice to be able to hit more people and rotate through everyone. All of the help is appreciated.

Concert Livestream Team- We would love to expand and be able to divide and conquer as there is a lot of here and there. We have a lot of great equipment, and the kids love going back to watch the concerts.

Bus Chaperone Leader- We are looking into a shadow for this position. It’s a pretty easy job just set up sign up geniuses and assigning people. See Monique

15) FAQ- BOA Competitions- In the past couple of years on the group me there have been a lot of great questions. We decided to add it to the meeting so that it will be in the minutes, and we can get that info out to everyone.

For Obetz your kids are going to be fed. We do have accommodations for Gluten Free and Vegetarian. If they have allergies outside of that scope they should pack something to eat. They will not have time to go to concession stands. They will be eating with Fairfield’s band. They are so excited to eat and hang out with our kids and see our show. They are newer into BOA so it’s very exciting for them. The shows are very kind places to go. Everyone cheers for everyone since we all know the work and dedication that goes into marching band. The parents are all passionate and excited. All volunteers will also be fed that night. Streaming is available to those who can’t make it. Clear bags are required if you are bringing a bag. It’s not been enforced at Obetz in the past but is at Indy. They have small ones at Hobby lobby for $7. Yes, tickets are expensive.

Reserved vs general admission what does that look like. This is only for finals at Indy. Everywhere else is general admission. St. Louis does have reserved seating for finals along with general admission. There are some VIP packages available if you purchase early. Chaperones for St. Louis and Indy will not need to buy their tickets it is included in your price. Buy online ahead of time it’s more expensive at the door. For Grand Nationals you can wait to buy your ticket until awards to see if we make it. They will not sell out. You will have time to get your ticket. For general admission you can sit with any West people as it is general seating. It may be difficult to find a hotel if you wait.

From BOA and Mr. Carr, you are not allowed to tape in the stands. Yes, other people do it, but please don’t put us in jeopardy with this. Also, there is a big thing about pit crew taking pictures on the field. You can take pictures from the stands. We do have a videographer with a pass so Mr. Carr will be able to share the video later after the performance.

For Indy we will play first in prelims. We play on Thursday evening at 6:45 pm. If we go score enough, we will play in semifinals (~30 bands) Saturday morning through midafternoon. If you score high enough there you will then go to finals with the top 14 bands and will be Saturday night. Times are drawn when you make it to the next round. St Louis structurally is like Obetz but it has more people.

Question about what happens with winds instruments in the rain. Many people have “marching instruments” that are separate from their concert instruments in order to keep those nicer. If it happens that they get stuck in the rain, try to dry out your instrument right after you come off the field. Tip for clarinets a dollar bill works great.

Also for Obetz pack snacks it’s a long day and lines for concessions are long. There is a merch stand things are expensive. There is not really a lunch time built in. Make sure they have food to snack on.

16) New Business- For Mattress fundraiser they are really excited to get into and talk to the parents. New incentive $5 per parent that they talk to. $1000 bonus if we can talk to 100 parents. It would be great to talk to both parents and students. The more signs and info we get out the more money we will likely make. Tentative date is Nov. 19. We are not doing with cheer this year. All money would go to band. Need to confirm location.

It’s great to see so many people at the meeting tonight.

Meeting adjourned 7:58

Next Meeting – Thurs, Oct 20th, 6:30 pm in the Lakota West Freshman Band Room