**Lakota West Upbeat Meeting**

**November 17, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

Informational Meeting:

* Director’s Report – Andy Carr- Welcome! Tons of awesome stuff going on. Still recovering from exhaustion and the end of the season. It’s a tough slog getting through grand nats. It’s a lot of time, effort, and money. We invested some money in some streamers, and we might not do that usually but for grand nats it’s something to do. We also financially paid for the trip. The travel company we use has been a really great deal. We paid about the same amount as the East band paid and we went for 2 extra days. It’s a bit of hassle using them on the front end but it works out well on the trips themselves. We get it down to the bare bones cost.
* The trip for Hawaii next year is not going to be with GMT. We will be doing a normal marching band season without any overnight trips in order to keep cost down. We are going to go to Midstate championship next year which is a week before grand nats. We won’t know the schedule until the football schedule and school schedules are figured out, and the show schedules won’t be released for a couple of more months. You must be in the marching band to go to Hawaii, but you don’t have to go to Hawaii to be in the marching band. This season changed at the last minute due to homecoming move (for the train show) and Mason moving. If you apply to the shows on time, you get a good draw. If you apply later, you end up playing earlier which makes for a really long day.
* Most of the stuff was said at band awards. What a great experience. He meant what he said he was really proud of the students. We had a bit of a setback at St. Louis, but it was really close score wise, and it wasn’t shocking that it turned out the way it did but some of the kids were surprised. What was great is that we explained it to the kids and said they needed to double down or be in the same situation at grand nats or we can do better. They really buckled down and felt like they accomplished a lot. The previous heartbreak led to a great learning moment for them. The things holding us back from making BOA finals are the school size and structure (start band grades earlier). We have to be one of the only ones starting in 7th grade. The school board would have to change those things and if you want to talk to them about it please discuss it in a positive way. The school board has been very supportive of us. The freshman are really playing at an 8th grade level and that contributes to our individual music score. It’s based on how well each person is playing. We have all state musicians playing alongside our newest member. Our marching band capability is about maxed out for where we’re currently at. To get to the next level it would cost a lot more money in teaching area of music education. Finals is not really a realistic goal for us. Maybe if the main highschool becomes a middle school and there is a single 9-12 high school in one building, it would make it more of a reality. Take that out of our minds there’s nothing we can do as a band to currently take us there. Mason has 3x the band staff and gets more minutes in for each one. They have triple the teacher hours and they are 40% larger than ours. We are achieving well compared to those things. That’s not to take anything away from our kids, and we met a goal of getting both schools into semifinals. That’s something to be really proud of. There were a lot of great bands on the outside. People really enjoyed our show. It was unique and very entertaining.
* Per Barb we used to have 6th grade band in this structure, but the district did cut it. It’s been 12 years since that changed. After the housing bubble crisis. What we do is exceptionally weird. Lakota local schools is in last place in Ohio for music. Includes music advocacy. Some of the elementaries get so little music education it’s not enough to even count as music education. They get 35 minutes every 6 days. Finals is an unreasonable goal to make with our current structure. We do band really well here for what we’ve got. Some of those fundamentals are why camp was extended. If you have any influence when we go to pick the new buildings (option 4 on the table), that will help us our a lot. It would also save the district money in the driving around the band directors have to do from building to building. Our local administration is super supportive and have down anything possible to give us a positive experience. Everything at Lakota West is absolutely rocking. We make up for our short coming by our parents and local staff. We do not compensate our marching band staff very well for all of their hours. They do it because they love and want to make a difference. Buy a mattress. Friday will be very cold. He’s told the kids to dress in layers and try to keep warm. If they continue to win it would make the band schedule very complicated due to honor band auditions, but we’ll deal with that if we have to. Thanks for everyone’s support. It feels like we’ve lived an entire year of band in the last quarter and half. Symphonic winds is playing a convention and they will have a bunch of performances in January. It’s a little messy due to all states but it will be very fun. We were only one of three bands selected so kudos to the kids for that.
* Asst. Director’s Report – Colin Celek- Honor band is coming up the state championship may or may not mess that up. We have 136 auditions scheduled for honor band which is 40 more than anyone else and mostly double everyone else (Some kids are double booked for regular and jazz) if it works out Richard Saucedo, director of the cavalier and Carmel when they won 3 BOA Championships, is coming. It in Jan MLK weekend at Mason. Swing dance is coming up. It’s a great event. Pre covid we had a lot of unrelated to band people coming. It is Dec. 9th. You will be asked to bring in chips and water. Celek story about meeting soul mates over chips or dying alone. The band kids get all dressed up and actually dance. They call it band prom. It’s a large improvement on regular dances. You would think that this is one of the elite programs in the country but its’ based all on volunteers and staff. Every job matters. Event is being set up night before on De. 8th. Freshman are doing great. They’re relatively covid unaffected compared to the last 2 years groups.

Upbeat Club Meeting:

1. Call to Order at 7:11
2. New Member Welcome & Volunteer Thank You- No new people but it’s great to see so many people here tonight. Thank you for coming in the cold. Even though marching band is over there’s lots of good things coming and this is a good way to stay connected.
3. Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Approval: Rebecca/Kendra
4. Finance Approval – Allison N.- The main thing this month income wise is split the pot. We budgeted $800 and made $1500. We had some great parents selling the and the extra playoff games helped. Most of the expenses surrounded trip costs. Kendra approved Amy seconded budget
5. Eagle Project Proposal – Charlie Best- Charlie plays Alto sax in the marching band. Wants to thank everyone in the upbeat club. It was an awesome season and the seniors thought it was a great season to end on. He is pursuing his eagle scout rank and he wanted his project to give back to the band. The jazz band room is not in great condition, and it’s just used for inefficient storage. He wants to redesign it to put in shelves and make room for larger equipment, low reads, timpani. Etc. The estimated cost is $3000, and he is going to work to get that as low as possible. He wanted to ask everyone for some help 1) does upbeat have any money set aside for projects like this or 2) help to reach out to band families to help him and support this project. It is currently in the design phase and will need approval from Mr. Brown. He would like to get started as early as Christmas break and finish before baseball season in the spring. He will have a lot of help from band families and his boy scout troupe. There will still be space available for uniforms. For fundraising he was thinking about running the food stand at Solo and Ensemble and candy grams for the band. The cost is all materials. He has people willing to let him borrow tools etc for no costs. He also plans to ask for material donations from various locations. A lot of the cost is lumber, paint, countertops. Parent suggested that there is a lot of lumber in the black trailer that may be able to be used. Any left-over money would be given back to the upbeat club. He is asking for half the money from the upbeat club. Is there anything set aside for maintenance for the building? Any donations go to the scout account not to Charlie directly and run through the account. The project idea was suggested by Mr. Celek as something useful for the band, the room is currently very nonfunctional. Kristen made a motion to approve $1500 to Charlie Best’s Eagle Scout project. Kendra seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
6. Pit Crew– Justin K./Ray B.- There’s no real update. Everything is in the white trailer. We appreciate everyone who help and designed. There’s not a whole lot going on until next year. Some small support for winter guard but it’s isolated builds. If anyone is really interested in early design stuff reach out. It’s starting now.
7. Marching Band/ Color Guard Uniforms Wrap Up– Jen H./Stacey L.- Everything went out for washing. If you want to have your kids return them that’s fine too, but Nov 28th from 6-8 is drop off and Shako cleaning. Winter guard is rolling around. There are going to have uniforms for that shows. Measurements are going to be Nov. 29th. We will have more wraps and shakos etc. for sale at swing dance and maybe holiday concerts.
8. Winter Guard- Tryouts coming up. Open 8-12th grade
9. BOA Trips & Bus Chaperones Wrap Up – Monique P.- Another monumental effort there. Trips are over for marching band. We may just have a few bus chaperone needs if we keep going in football. If you’re interested tomorrow, there may still be a couple of spots open.
10. Swing Dance (12/9) – Allison N./Jen B.- Sign up genius for volunteers is already on the website and it’s going out in tomorrow’s email. Don’t sign up when your kid is playing. Look at the schedule and sign up around it. Ascending order of age for playing except jazz Orchestra plays at both beginning and the end. We’re spending a little money on decorations that are more sustainable. Spread the word. People should come including parents and all families. Alison reached out to someone at the Lakota district to find out if there were some families in need for the holidays. We will take the proceeds after we cover our costs and gift it from Lakota west bands to benefit our community. These are families identified by the school. Our community does a lot for us, and we’d like to give back. Be watching for more stuff coming out. Performing children do not need one, but everyone else does need one.
11. Solo & Ensemble- Rebecca & Todd Y.- Feb 11th. (2nd Saturday) If you have not experienced it before it is an all-day event and we need lots of volunteers to support everything happening that day. Historically we’ve had around 1100-1200 different performances on as many as 18-24 stages (classrooms) it’s an all-day thing and lots of fun things to be a part of. More info to come out early January. All band kids participate.
12. Mattress Sale (11/19) – Ashley S.- Concerned if any of the kids are scheduled to come in. We would like kids here with instruments making as much noise as they can. Out on the street making a lot of noise. Flags and drums would get a lot of attention. Celek will put it out. Great way to get government hours.
13. Taste of Music – Ali B.
	1. Krispie Kreme- 11/17-12/17- Month long. Easy money! You pay for a dozen donuts on the website, and you go to the store and get them whenever you want them. It’s the same price you would normally pay but we get back 5.50 per dozen. Can be purchased and redeemed anywhere in the country.
	2. City BBQ- 11/30 They give 20% back
	3. Bibbibop- 12/15 At Liberty Center Mall 10:30 AM -11:00PM could have a parent’s fun lunch day!
	4. Chipotle- 1/11 at Union Center
14. Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.- Emails will still go out as normal but maybe slightly less info. (Or maybe not). All info is also on the calendar including links for tickets etc. Also, on the main page of the website. If there’s something you want to make sure she’s sharing send an email to communications.
15. Tech/Website Team – Rebecca & Todd Y.- Nothing new to discuss. We’re rolling along with live streaming. If you see something that needs to be adjusted, send an email to web@lakotawestbands.org. You can subscribe to our page and get notifications of an upcoming event. We have 20-60 viewers live and then 100s of hits afterwards.
16. Sponsorships – Krystal S.- No updates. We’ve had some great opportunities to recognize our sponsors at the East event and concerts. IF you’re interested in sponsoring please reach out.
17. Volunteer Positions
	1. Current Openings- Jazz ‘n Cakes (planning will probably kick off with a meeting before the semester ends. This would be part of the committee as it’s too big of an event for any one person. There are 5-6 different committee opportunities for planning)
	2. Shadow Opportunities- Concert Band Uniforms
	3. Fundraising for Hawaii- Come up with ideas for opportunities. No matter what we do to fundraise, everything must be split evenly.
18. New Business- Karen wanted to raise everyone’s awareness about the summer symposium at Ball State that is put on by Bands of America. Her daughter went on Mon. and came home on Saturday and by Thursday she said she was doing 100 out of 10. This really helps people that may need extra help with playing and marching. They also got to march with a drum core on Friday. It’s one of the only opportunities for woodwinds to march with a drum corps. On Saturday they do an indoor example of all of the fundamentals. There are 5 different parts, drum majors, percussion, design/sound production, Guard, and marching band. There’s a Saturday/Sunday thing for leadership. At the end of June. Cost is $800-900 includes food and lodging. Lots of fun things with Carolina Crown. All the drum corp and directors were very accessible. Cutoff date for registration is early 2023. Please look at the website and Karen is happy to answer any questions. It is a really great experience.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:18PM

Next Meeting- Thurs, Jan 19, 6:30 pm (No December Meeting), Lakota West Main Band Room