**Lakota West Upbeat Meeting**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

Informational Meeting:

* Director’s Report – Andy Carr-

Thanks for coming out on such a nasty night. We’re back at it and a lot of things coming up. Mr. Celek is not here. He was not feeling well, and it turns out he had appendicitis. He just got out of the hospital Monday. He’s taking it a little bit easy. He’s recovering really well. Honor band is going on this week. A little complicated because Mr. Celek is in charge of honor band. Monday nights Honor Band read through went awesome. Tomorrow again 4-9 Saturday 9-4. Sunday concert Freshman then winds symphony 1 and winds symphony 2. We got fantastic conductors, and the kids think it is generally more fun than all state band. It is a fun event for the kids. We’re also trying to register for Solo and Ensemble. Today was the day of registration. Tomorrow there are some guest conductors coming in. The deadline was supposed to be Sat for registration, but the OMEA website was down today. They extended until Monday, but we will need to finish registering everyone tomorrow. All the kids play in an ensemble. The solo and ensemble thing is different as all parts are independent and they have to teach a lot of themselves. We have a recital on Feb 6th. Band directors in the area will come and coach the groups and then they will have a few more days to work on it. Then the solo and ensemble is hosted here at West (put on by OMEA) on Saturday Feb. 11th. We host it, but we lost money last year (~$100). The reason it loses money are the strict rules about how it has to be run and the only thing we can make money on is concessions and the concessions don’t really work well here. Most of the kids either live close to West and just go home, or the schools that come want to go out to restaurants to eat.

Symphonic winds has a busy month. We got selected to play at the state convention. It’s really incredible and a huge honor, but it has made the past few weeks very busy. Three bands were selected this year, West, West Clermont, and Kings. The first pre-concert was Tuesday. Happiest he’s been after a concert in a long time. The kids played really well. It was a really great concert. Next week we’re doing another one up at Kettering. You should come and check out the music facilities there. It is an amazing facility. Kettering will not be playing but we will be playing on their stage and some of their students will come and watch. The following week, we’re going to West Clermont and playing in their new facility. We’ll have one last concert here at home. It will be a good chance for anyone that can’t make it to Columbus to come. The concerts in Columbus are open, and you’re welcome to come. (Sessions are not open but concerts are). We’re doing a little trip around this set up with an OSU hockey game and see the All-State group play. We had the biggest group of all state students we’ve ever had this year. He’s really proud of those kids. We had 4 make it into the top group (Orchestra). This is all at the beginning of February. Just happy for the kids and all of the opportunities that they have. We are bussing to Kettering and West Clermont.

Following that we’ll have contest stuff coming up then musicals and then it is the end of the year. Dr. Jim Daughters is coming tomorrow as a guest conductor. He’s great from SEMU. He’s working with Winds Symphony 1 for honor bands. Percussion ensemble is a thing and currently happening.

Solo and Ensemble plan. We would like to make an investment now in order to make money in the future. One of the biggest expenses is renting pianos. This is paid by OMEA fees. The only place that has enough for us is in Nky. Last couple of years it’s been $3500 a year. It’s been going up every year. Sweetwater (Instrument purchase place we use) is currently selling them for $799 including stands and pedals etc. He wonders if it would make more sense for us to buy the pianos and rent them to OMEA for solo and ensemble. It would take a couple of years to pay itself back, and we do have some extra uses for them. There is one other possibility that we could send an email to the other sites that happen in the area and offer to rent ours out to the other OMEA sites. We could have a parent or two drive over and drop them off and then that money would be a fundraiser with relatively few hours. We have space to store them on the wooden shelves in the Freshman room. The upside is if we only use them for solo and ensemble, they won’t get a lot of wear and tear and he thinks they would likely last around 10 years. Nothing fancy is needed for solo and ensemble just a run of the mill piano sound. Willis music has them in stock now and if we approve it they can deliver them to us on Monday. OMEA has confirmed that it would not be a problem to rent from our Upbeat Club.

* Asst. Director’s Report – Colin Celek
* Jazz Director’s Report- Aaron Todahl- Congrats on a successful swing dance. Ut was awesome and a lot of fun. Honor jazz band for the district was this past weekend and we had 6 students participate in that. Next Jazz performance Feb 25th Beavercreek. Times TDB

Upbeat Club Meeting:

1. Call to Order 7:09
2. New Member Welcome
3. Minutes Approval – Stacey L.- Approval Kristen Second- Rebecca/Jenny
4. Finance Approval – Allison N.- Financials are on the website. We are going paperless for 2023. Both the agenda and the financials will be located there. (And if you’re reading these minutes, you already know how to get there!) The big things from last month. The very first line has significantly increased. These are band sponsorships. On Dec 31st we got a new platinum sponsor. It is one of our band parents, Dennis Burgess. He has his own company, and his charitable donation for the year was directed to us. There’s really no way for us to support his company and he is making it out of the goodness of his heart. If you see the Burgess family, please thank them! We also had the swing dance that included income for us. We made a donation to Lakota west families for Christmas. We made $3700 and gave $2000 in gift cards to families in the district. Our donation was more than half of the donations they received this year. Treasury report approval- Amy / Kristen
5. Mattress Sale Wrap Up (11/19) – Ashley S.- It seemed to work out really well to have at the end of marching band season. We’ll be getting $5000 and we were expecting $3000. We sold 41 mattresses and got the $1000 bonus for having so many parents at the kick off meeting. Several students will be getting some swag for their sales.
6. Swing Dance Wrap Up (12/9) – Allison N./Jen B.- It went really well. There were a lot of compliments and Mr. T said it was one of the best ones ever. Jenny asked if we had a rough guess of how many tickets were sold, but we really can only calculate presale tickets to get an idea. We did not separate out cash donations vs cash ticket sales.
7. Pit Crew- Winter Guard- Ray B.- Just in case anyone didn’t know that Winter guard does do props. If you want to be involved in making those in future years, please reach out. They’re usually pretty easy builds and there is a separate group me for winter guard. It’s informal and way less work.
8. Winter Guard Update- See above
9. Symphonic Winds Trip (2/2-2/4) – Monique P.- Not any other details to add to what Mr. Carr already discussed. Med drop offs next Tuesday, and fees are due that same day as well. Let us know if you didn’t get the email.
10. Solo & Ensemble (2/11)- Rebecca & Todd Y.- Planning is well under way. You’ll be seeing the sign ups in the next week or so. Volunteers is where we really need the help and this will mainly be communicated through emails. The kids are also encouraged to volunteer. Beginning or end is where the volunteers are scant. Mr. Carr is willing to sign a paper for volunteer hours for people that need them. Might as well take it and put it in your portfolio. Just shows all of the things where you’ve given back and be a part of the community. You do not need to be in band in order to volunteer. Anyone is welcome.
11. Try Band- Barb W./ Ginger C. -Our way to introduce 6th graders to band so that they are compelled to join 7th grade band. In previous years it was done on a Saturday, but we never got huge numbers. Last couple of years we got the go ahead to go into the schools and that was a huge win as we can reach every 6th grader. We are doing that again this year. It is the week of Feb 15th. We don’t need a huge number of volunteers. We will have a contraption that has 4 different mouth pieces on it. This is being done in conjunction with the jr. high band directors. Doing their feeder schools. This was very successful, and we had the biggest 7th grade band class since 2010. A flyer is ready and Thursday of that week we do have an open house. They can come and ask questions work out instrument rentals and we may have a wind concert.
12. Jazz ‘n Cakes (4/1)- Stacey L./Amy K.- Coming this spring Saturday April 1st. We had our first planning meeting with 12 people. It was a great group turn out. This event has a lot of layers to it, so the help is appreciated. If you would like to help us with it feel free to let us know. The more the merrier. Mark your calendars and we’ll see you there.
13. Taste of Music – Ali B.
    1. Update on previous events- Have some numbers for how we’ve done. Last night was Chipotle. We made $190. Krispy Kreme we made $300. We did not make enough to get a check from Bibibop. (We only got $12 and you need to get $25 to get a check)
    2. Wed, Feb 15- Canes
    3. Tues, Mar 14- Dewey’s Pizza
14. Eagle Project Update – Charlie Best- Project is ongoing. He is working to get the old jazz room into a more useful storage area for us. Had first 2 workdays to clean and prep the room. They had 16 people there to help paint. The next phase is cabinets and countertops. They will announce the next workday for anyone who wants to help. Thanks to all of the people that have volunteered to help. Mr. Yoby did the plans for the room. Peek back there any time. Thanks to the Koenes and Boger families for help painting.
15. Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.- Nothing new. Trying to keep the emails weekly. If there’s something you’re not seeing that you want to see, let them know.
16. Tech/Website Team – Rebecca & Todd Y.- Not much more to add. You want anything different on the website, let them know. We would need some additional money for enhanced security for the website. It would cost an additional $100. They are currently at the top of the budget, and the communications update will need some additional monies to cover additional subscribers to the email blasts $100. The Hawaii meeting will be live streamed by our tech team in case you have a conflict or don’t want to deal with the traffic.
17. Sponsorships – Krystal S.- Already covered the big news. We don’t really have anyone doing anything with the sponsorships right now. If there is anybody who might be willing to help maintain our current sponsors, that would be really helpful. Needs someone to organize.
18. Volunteer Positions
    1. Lead Opportunities- Concert Band Uniforms- Still looking for a shadow as Katie seniors out this year
    2. Event Opportunities- Solo & Ensemble, Jazz n Cakes- Just want some here and there events. No matter what your availability we can find something that will work for you
    3. Sponsorship- See section 17
19. New Business-

Some exciting news- We are going to be hosting a marching band show here at Lakota West next year. It offers the possibility of the upbeat club making some money, and the kids get to do the show here in exhibition. It doesn’t cost us any money. Most shows make some decent money. Our stadium is better than the show we’re replacing (Colerain). We have such a great parent organization and we think it will be really good. Some of the programs that do this well make incredible money and it’s a fun experience for the kids. Generally, the band that are really good have good shows. Likely because people want to bring their programs to see your shows. We have a lot of friends at Mason and Kettering. It’s not new to Mr. Carr. He’s run several shows at Kettering. Our turf is nice, and our flow looks good. West Chester Township is behind it and willing to do everything we do at High school games. The proposed date is 9/16 and this would replace one of our smaller shows. The biggest job is running a large concession stand which is where we make the big amount of money. There’s a lot of similarities to solo and Ensemble. The biggest expenses are the judges (Hotel room and judge fees). The tickets and food are where we make the money. The director food thing is where you get people to come back to your shows. Mason does it really well, and they get a lot of donations from local restaurants. We have the flow the lot closest to the field would be the equipment lot. We would close that entrance exit like the football games. The other side of the concrete lot would be spectator. Overflow would be library and AK steel. Our practice field would be bus parking and warmups would be upfront. Spectators would come in the front entrance and bands would use the back entrance. It’s flat and that is nice for props. The Aux gym is where hospitality would be set up. Main street is reserved in case there is bad weather. Bathrooms for warmups would likely be main street as well. Andy Fields has agreed to announce for the day. Judges can be in the press box, or they can go up to the top if they want to. That is all we know now. There are still some things to work up. In Kettering, they would make $15-25,000. The first year will likely be smaller. It takes a while to build up loyalty to shows, but the upbeat club is so good they will be able to handle this. Our same competitive schools are all running their own shows. The stadium isn’t the biggest, but we are very conveniently located next to highways, it’s flat, and the turf is really good. The lighting also doesn’t buzz.

There are three things we need to vote on for money things.

1. Purchase the 13 pianos ~$10000 from field maintenance fund
2. Add an additional $200 to the tech budget
3. Add money to the admin budget to pay for Quikbooks online $300

Monique motioned to approve all three seconded by Ray. All in favor none opposed.

Monique motioned to adjourned Kristin second

Next Meeting- Thurs, Feb 16th, 6:30 pm, Lakota West Main Band Room