Upbeat Meeting Minutes- April 20, 2023

• Director’s Report – Andy Carr- Thanks for coming. It’s a beautiful night. The musical is going really well and it’s a really cool thing, one of the only collaborations between the choir, band and theater. It’s a pretty big undertaking by our band students as it is very challenging music and there is a lot of it. This musical is about 2hrs and 15inutes of music. It’s a lot to undertake and they’ve done a great job. We’re really proud of them. Really proud of the actors on stage. Celek has done a great job with technology things. Concert band auditions have been going really well. We do our auditions differently than anyone else. It’s a great thing that they come together and play in front of everyone else. The kids are super supportive of each other. It’s great for the freshman to see the kids who have a couple of years more of experience than they do. It gives them the perspective of the work to do and how they can grow. When you hit the end of your freshman year you’re really half way through your playing time and that can be a hard perspective of the kids to see. It takes a lot of time but it’s better than having them submit to the google forms auditions. They’re really proud of the kids. They’ve done really well preparing and being supportive of each other. The goal for the list being posted is May 1st. Depends on getting the stragglers done. There will be some hurt feelings. They should be happy to be where they are at. Our bands are all great. You should be in the band that best fits where you are at. If you get in there and can’t hold your own, there’s a lot of pressure to be at that level. They also try to teach the level of what the band needs and where the kids are at. Can’t teach 7th grade band the same way he teaches winds. That’s why the auditions matter so much. The level of expectation and the work you have to do on your own is different. It is not based on seniority. Often times the more exposure to music, the better they get. It’s about exposure and work ethic.

Our final end of the year concert is always a fun and great one. Mix of fun music and traditional band tunes. Concert band and symphonic band after the concert become the graduation band. They take 2 tunes from each band and then it becomes the music they play while people are getting seated. Then at graduation they will play Pomp and Circumstance, Star Spangled Banner, and Fight song. This will be in place of taking a final exam. They will not have to be on campus during their typical band periods. Symphonic winds remainders (non Seniors) will spend their time preparing for all-state. That will be their final exam. They will submit that as their exam. Encourage all students to submit for all state if they want to. Submit the tape. Exam time would be a great time for people not in winds to get recordings done for all state. Freshman can do it after school. Set up a time with directors. Transportation for those playing at graduation will be provided.

Congrats to Winter Guard for winning their class. They had a great season. The attitude of the students and the staff was the best that they have seen in years. There were only 3 seniors on the team. It’s a young group and we’re so excited for their future and where they are going. We found the right people with the staff. They seem to work well for the kids and the kids really respond well to them. Carr was the color guard director for one season in 2015 when the director quit. Thankfully the kids got through it but he doesn’t want to go back to that. Auditions for the fall guard are May 8-10th. Guard program is based on kids who come in and can be trained up and have a successful season. If you have an older student who is interested who go to the high school, encourage them to come check it out. Open to everyone, not just females, incoming 8-11 graders.

The leadership team voted to add a competition at West Clermont end of October. We are doing it old school. No practice etc. Show up, get on the bus, warm up and play. This is good practice for the kids for getting used to having a short warm up and performance. It’s a skill we don’t currently practice. If the weather’s bad, we can cancel.

Schneider Scholarship- Something we need to work on the design of it. Predecessor Greg Schneider was the director from 1988-2014. He was here 27 years and when he retired he wanted to have a scholarship for students going into music. He wanted his family to be a part of the program here. The way it worked then is that we did a concert, and you could donate money to the “Coda” Greg Schneider scholarship. For many years it has funded kids getting scholarships. The students write an essay and then he and his wife along with the old assistant director or other guest judge pick one to get the scholarship. Carr screens them for accuracy but does not judge them. It’s for anyone carrying on with music, not necessarily music majors. To continue to make music in your future whatever that means. It’s then awarded at the band awards. The original plan was that he was going to come back every 5-6 years and he would conduct the concert and we would hit up alumni/alumni parents for donations to the scholarship fund. It hasn’t worked out for reasons not on him or Carr. It’s been a Lakota issue. We really need to continue working on moving it forward. It gives the kids good perspective of the people who came before you who put in the work to get the program where it is and gives them the opportunities that they have today. His website has a list of everyone who has won it and it still means a lot to him.

• Asst. Director’s Report – Colin Celek- nothing added

• Jazz Director’s Report- Aaron Todahl- Couldn’t be here, but thanks to everyone that made Jazz n Cakes a special day. It was one of the smoothest and well run Jazz n Cakes. Spring Jazz concert is Tuesday May 2nd at West. East starts at 6 West is at 8

Upbeat Club Meeting:

1) Call to Order- Jen – 7:05 pm

2) New Member Welcome

3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Approval Second- Rebecca/Kristen

4) Finance Approval – Allison N.- Spent this weekend doing her part time job. We’re only missing a couple of receipts so we’re in really good shape for finishing out the year. There’s a few movements of money putting things back to where they were supposed to be, and there was a deposit that was put in twice and that was fixed. Big stuff was actually Jazz n Cakes. We ended up netting $13,800 and we were expecting about $11,000. That’s the big stuff. Kudos to that group. We are going to vote for the Schneider scholarship at the end for new business. The ask is to fund for this year. We will decide next year what we would like to do.

a. Sponsorships- Nothing new here. We still need somebody to take care of this next year.

Motion to approve the finance Jenny/Amy

5) Pit Crew- Ray B.- We have the first prototype built. It’s pretty decent and has been accepted and just needs some minor tweaks. There will be some casual pit crew. 1 this month and 2 next month but the plan was to take June off. We have a ton of fittings that need to be 3d printed so that takes quite a while. We are going to do an informal build in 2 weeks. Sunday after next. We’ll build the second prototype full x. We will also do some moon deconstruction.

6) Uniforms Update

a. Concert- Katie S.- We’ll be collecting after the concert on the 8th. Keep an eye out for the sign up genius

b. Marching- Jen H.- All marching uniforms are clean and back in house. Thanks to Laundry Reimagined. Stacey and Amy are taking over marching uniforms and Jen will just do guard. Freshman and main campus will be fitting for uniforms at school on the 4th . Rookies will be 11th

We have all of the guard uniforms since swan song and next week we will begin inventorying and doing a purge. Everything will be sold. Ursula’s Atoll will be for sale. Rebecca will set up everything in the store and the pickup will be at the concert on the 8th. They will be selling flags as well but are less sure of what is in there. Everything is going to go. They will be posted on Facebook marketplace that has band stuff and a consignment place in Dayton. It will all eventually be available.

7) Winter Guard Wrap Up- Jen H.- Brittany and Kristin have done such a great job getting this group. They were promoted twice and they are a very young group mostly comprised of sophomores. They have several people helping out who marched Pride of Cincinnati. There will be a parent meeting during tryouts as well as uniform fitting.

8) Jazz ‘n Cakes Wrap Up- Stacey L./Amy K.- It was such a good event. Thank you so much for all of the hard work that everyone put in.

9) Band Camp- Shannon B.- Group met tonight for planning. Everything is on track. Not a lot going on for mini camp as soon as school is over. The school board just changed the school calendar for next year so there will likely be schedule adjustments. There are some great ideas for the scavenger hunt (X files themes) and they are coming up with some fun new ideas for the lock in. Brainstorming ideas so if you have suggestions let Amy Koenes know. July 27th they would like to have a parent tailgate to make it easier for rookie parents to get to know people. More info to come. There will be sign up genius coming out.

10) Hawaii Trip- Kristin B.- She does not have any answers you want. We don’t know anything about the follower’s package or flights. From what East has been telling their kids we will be one giant group. East can room with west kids etc. There’s a lot of coordination that will need to occur. East was really low on the chaperones. WE had to turn a couple of people away from our group so they are on the back burner in case East can’t find anything out. Tannis is the coordinator so East knows way more than we do. Hawaii is low on the director priority list right now compared to all of the other things going on. Auditions, musical, etc. There are 250 kids total going. Heavier on the West side kids. East has told their kids they can sign up wherever. Our communications styles on our trips between East and West are very different. Things are the same for both groups. If you hear any rumors please let them know. East is not paying for chaperones or subsidizing students’ costs. Fundraising cannot be done at the club level for this trip. The money raised by Upbeat has to go to everyone.

11) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.- Nothing new. We’re working on rookie meeting on the 11th.

12) Tech/Website Team – Rebecca & Todd Y.- Whole slew of streaming opportunities coming up. We’ll be streaming 3 weeks in a row. If there are updates to the website that need to be done, please let Rebecca know. I.e. staff info. If you ever see links broken or you want a better picture let them know.

13) Volunteer Positions

a. Exec Vote- 2023-24

President- Amy Koenes

Vice President- Charity Feagley

Treasurer- Heather Cloud

Secretary- Stacey Loberg

Freshman VP- Jenny Kershaw

All for- 18 for All opposed- 0

Allie motioned to approve the slate Jay seconded

b. Lead Position Openings for 2023-24 if you have interests let Amy know

14) New Business

Schneider Scholarship- 2 scholarships for $500 each.

Rebecca motioned to approve the scholarship, Charity/Jay seconded

All in favor- 18 all opposed-none

Jen wanted to say that this band is truly a remarkable family. It has been great to see it change and grow and bring the best of the best. It just keeps elevating and it speaks volumes. They say all of the time that band kids are awesome but that didn’t happen by accident. She will be really sad to leave all of you. Just continue to lean into this family. Just keep being parents to everyone and good to each other. This is the finest thing I’ve ever been a part of in my entire life. I will take that with me wherever I go.

Closing out at 7:48

Next Meeting- Thurs, May 18th, 6:30 pm, Lakota West Main Band Room