

Lakota West Upbeat Meeting August 17, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting:

- Director's Report – Andy Carr – thanks for coming out to the meeting. Director's report will come first and then the rest of the people will handle the business. We've been doing band for a little while and we're still settling into our new home a little bit. Issue with people ignoring the don't park here signs and parking for the volleyball game. We had to make them move and it was a little bit of an issue, but we got most of the cars out and we're dodging the rain. The weather has been a bit frustrating so far. The pit instruments are not weather resistant at all and it does get in the way of practices. Hopefully we will get enough outside. Kids have been doing an excellent job. The show is coming together and we're pretty proud of how it's coming together. We've had a tradition of having a good crowd come out on Thursdays. That's more of a challenge this year. Please feel free to come out and watch any practice but we've scheduled some great Friday opportunities to watch in the stadium. On Monday nights we'll start on the asphalt and move to the turf the last hour or so. The Friday night practices will be in place of the all the time Thursdays. It's a good opportunity to learn when to clap in the show. It's appropriate to clap if someone plays loud and then stops, or someone throws something in the air and catches it, or at the end of the section. Clap at the end of a section with a cacoonsh (A big loud endpoint). It helps to have a great cheering section. It does make an impact on the kids. Tomorrow is the end of band camp. That term has evolved over the years from what was traditionally band camp at Ball state with bad food. There were waffles with Brussel sprouts for breakfast. The parent performance has moved farther into the season. It was supposed to be last week, but we couldn't get the stadium. We really try to get it in before the alumni all leave for college. We're having the community pizza party. There's no cost. Please come and have fun. We usually fill up most of the stadium. They are wearing the summer uniforms for that one. We probably won't have all of the props out as we haven't had enough time to work with them with all of the rain. Every time you come back and watch the show this season, you'll be blown away with how much new you will see each time. We have about 4 of the 8 minutes done. They will get cleaner and perform better as we go on. They have the rest of the music but not the body yet. We're hosting our own show in just less than a month now. Seems like things are going really well. Just picked up another band. We don't have any expectations with how it's going to go. This is the first time. We have had a fantastic event called Jazz and Cakes and we don't make any money on it. We never do well on the concessions. We're going to do solo and ensemble again but just for our own kids and we're going to make it better for our kids. By taking some of those volunteer hours and putting them into our show I think we're going to get a better return out of it and it will likely be less work. We're not expecting too much this year. As our show gets better and we run it well, we think we'll be able to get more bands in the future. The smaller number gives us more flexibility. We have 10 groups coming. Kettering Fairmont will be there, and they are a big band so that will help with concessions. West Clermont was going to come but BOA got in the way. They will be back next year.

The lot closest to the stadium is going to be the equipment lot. What's great about that is that it will be close to get things back and forth. We think that bands will like this. There is no spot where you will have to walk anything in that is not asphalt or concrete. The buses will be parked back by the band area. Our people will park at the tree line. The front lot,, aka practice field will be the spectator lot. The other lot will be the practice and warm up area. AK steel/ Cliffs will be overflow parking. We're going to

Mason it up in the future. We'll get to that later aka charging for premium parking. That's the general idea. The fire lane will be used to get the kids from warm ups to the stadium. Traffic will be away from kids and props. There is a private bathroom in the field house for the officials to be used by the judges. That's going to be pretty good. I think the swap from solo and ensemble to the invitational will be great for the kids. The kids got their band lockers today and they will start playing tomorrow. Upbeat paid for new locks. The kids may not have loved it but this way they are assigned to a locker that fits the size of their instrument and keeps them from storing a bunch of other things in their. Every locker gets a lock, the band directors assign them, and they will lock up the ones that aren't being used. This will keep the lockers cleaner, and we won't get in trouble with the Fire Marshalls. They have a school locker to use as well. We have a few more kids again this year so we are tighter on space. 200 kids in band this year and about 267 lockers. It will be an ongoing process for the next year or so. We're still loving the Charlie Best Eagle Project room. That room is so much nicer and cleaner and more useful. Concert bands are doing a normal year. Approximately 1 concert a quarter. We will be doing the Mason Music for All Festival. Amazing judges this year and it will be an incredible experience. We will also do Solo and Ensemble (modified version) and Symphonic Winds will do some other performance but we're not sure what it will be yet. It will not be as extensive as last year. The freshman are in the same boat and we just got them set up. Everyone is set to go tomorrow. We would like to thank Shannon and her team for all of their work at band camp. It was excellent, always had someone at first aid and seemed to have less kids hurt this year.

Per parent questions there is a plan to turf the soccer field which would lead us to much more flexibility on the stadium. We do get turf time on Monday evening (partial) and practice Fridays. If they do get it turfed, we will have more options in the future. It may happen soon. The practice field is really great for what we need too. It has separate measurement system (red dots) which is really good for people learning. Later in the year we'll spend more time on the turf but the red dots help the best right now. There's a lot of demand for the stadium. It's a busy place. There's a new sound system which will be great for football games as well as our invitational.

The current band size is 231 kids in marching band and 370 students taking concert band. (Some are double due to kids doing jazz band or playing different instruments in each band level)

- Asst. Director's Report – Colin Celek
- Jazz Director's Report- Aaron Todahl

Club Meeting:

- 1) Call to Order at 7:05
- 2) New Member Welcome- Board Introductions
- 3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Motion to Approve: Rebecca/Amy
- 4) Finance Approval – Heather C. – Still collecting money for uniforms. If they haven't paid yet, see Heather. We're also collecting for calendar raffle. We have spent money on the field with the move, invitational expenses, and locks. That's all of the new things going on right now. Motion to approve the finances Shirley/Rebecca

5) Band Camp Wrap Up- Shannon B./ Ali B. We're glad that band camp is done. It went really well for being in a new location. There were some growing pains, and we have some things we want to differently next year. Thanks to so many volunteers that helped out all 400 weeks. It was so fantastic to see all of the people who came out to help. They would like to request a new gas can.

a. Calendar Fundraiser (DUE 8/24 beginning of rehearsal- 6:00 pm)- Charity F. – As we know marching band has a lot of expenses above and beyond some of the other programs, so we have the calendar fundraiser. We will be collecting at the beginning of practice Monday and Thursday. We can't take it past the 24th due to things that have to happen on the back end. We're still trying to figure out some of the surprise things. A lot of the money goes to the truck fund and misc. marching band costs. It is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We will have a daily drawing and on Fridays (except Sept 1) we will be doing a live drawing to see who wins the big Friday prize. The student from the previous week will select the winner for the next week. You can win multiple times. If your student sold the winning Friday ticket, they get \$100. There will be more slips available at the upbeat tent tomorrow if you need extras. There is an attachment in last week's email that also has extra slips that you can print. We have online sales coming in from even the first day. They do get credit for online sales, and that will be added and they will get credit for any that they sold. We do not have a super simple way to tell anybody if anyone has bought tickets but you can email vp@lakotawestbands.org if you want to double check for your child, or if you know someone that forgot to put the student name when they purchased. If they paid online, we will generate the slips for you. Only send in the paper slips if you are paying with cash or check.

6) Pit Crew– Justin K./Ray B. – Went to build things. They are way ahead of schedule. All props are built and they're retro fitting the Velcro and have the fabric folded over so that don't become a wind issue at practice. If you haven't seen them, they are V's that get pushed together and make Xs. There are 8 Xs (16 halves) The vinyl that goes on them is all show themed.

7) Marching Band/ Color Guard Uniforms – Stacey L./ Jen H. I just want to thank everyone who volunteered to help out for fittings nights. It was crazy but we managed to get everyone in a uniform and I think they'll all look great. We couldn't have done it without everyone. Drill masters for those that ordered late, will be in end of this week early next week and will be distributed at the end of practice. Signups for help at games/shows will go out this weekend to make sure that anyone who wants to join the mother pluckers has the opportunity to do that at the community performance on Friday. If you want to volunteer and are just reading these minutes, feel free to email me at uniforms@lakotawestbands.org!

Guard needs help cutting up skirts. If you have a rotary cutter and want to help out please let us know.

8) Bus Chaperones – Karen B. – We did the DCI Centerville event, and it was a success. The buses all made it there and back. Thanks to everyone who made it there and back. We have 3 more events coming up: Sept. 23rd Obetz (Long day), Oct 21st Indy Super Regional (Super long day), and Oct 28th (West Clermont) afternoon/evening. Sign up genius to be a chaperone will be going out tomorrow in the email. The chaperones get a binder with supplies and the students assigned to the bus. You will check that you have all students coming and going, go over the rules, and put the bus sign on the window. Once they're at the event you are no longer responsible so you can enjoy the show.

9) Tag Day (8/26)– Amy P./ Shirley B. a. Volunteers Needed- Adults and Students! – Next Saturday. Things are coming along. We're working on getting everyone signed up. We have a good number of drivers still need a lot of kids. We normally average 40 groups that go out. We'd love to have more. The more people we have the better coverage we can get and the more money we make. We always send them out in groups of 4. They are never alone. Pairs of 2 will go up each side of the street and the drivers will keep an eye on them. Start at 9 with opening meeting and then go out to the community. There will be a cold treat at the end. We have some student incentives this year for section participation. Goal is 75% or more. Will be done on the camp day on the 9th. We will have a drive through donate at West High. We need everyone's help spreading the word. Please share on your socials. If your kid isn't in a group, still sign up and we'll put them together. If drivers could bring 2 \$5 bills and \$10 in singles for change for the kids, that would be appreciated.

10) Spirit Wear– Heather C. – Some exciting news, we have placed our last order with Hall of Fame. We switched to Rokkitwear. They're giving us back 15% instead of 10% and they will ship directly to your house, or you can arrange to pick it up. The beauty is that the store is open all of the time and there are so many options. All of the classics are still there including the famous band jacket and the PJ pants. Stadium seats are in there as well. Proud parent and student shirts will be coming soon, and we will make special announcements when they are rolled out. They should be prominently displayed on the main page. We will be selling magnets and window clings at the tent tomorrow. Yard signs store will close in about a week and then it takes a week or two to get the signs out. You can get to the spirit wear site from the website.

11)Taste of Music Ali- first one will be Sept 12th at Wings and Rings. Oct 11th will be Marco's pizza. Watch for the fliers and follow the directions. Please share with friends and share on social media. Krispy Kreme is coming back in Nov and Dec.

12)Invitational (9/16)- Jessica H./ Katie D. -Been working really hard since June. We're off to a really good start. We have people managing hospitality and judges' dinner, concessions, etc. There will be a giant sign up genius that goes out as we'll need a lot of volunteers. We will have t shirts, bracelets, patches, vendor sales, bake sales, etc. Carr went over the flow. Safety is a priority. It looks like it's going to be really well organized. We will need both parent and student volunteers. Athletics is being so helpful and wants to help us cook at concessions. One of the things they said is that they want to erase all of the bad blood for the last 5 years. Gates will open at 3 first band will likely be at 4. There is a JV game until 1, so we will need everyone here at 1:02. Our band will not be competing. Leadership will play the Star Spangled Banner. We will do our show Exhibition. We will get scored and get judges taped but we will not be eligible to win anything. It is \$75 to sponsor a trophy. If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor a trophy please let them know.

13) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W. – This time of year is always crazy. There's 2 emails that go out. 1 from Charms from directors/president that goes out periodically. There's a second email that goes out on Friday that covers all of the upbeat info. This is optional, and you can subscribe on the website. Also subscribe to the calendar. If there are changes or updates, it will automatically be updated on the calendar. That should really be mandatory. Biggest piece of advice. Also sign up for Remind texts to get updates from when busses return etc. You must sign up every year. It doesn't remember you. Our volunteer groups use Group Me for communication.

14) Tech Team – Rebecca Y. – We keep up the website. If you have feedback, please let their team know and they will take it under consideration. Also let them know if you find broken links etc. The website contact us email comes to them. We're working on a new ticketing service for the invitational. Hopefully that will be ready to go shortly. The other half of tech team is live streaming of all of the concerts. We don't do marching band shows due to other issues but they do all concerts. If they have any interest in helping with website management or live streaming, come and talk to them. Also you can email web@lakotawestbands.org

15) Sponsorships – Michelle R.- Starting from scratch. Response is really good so we're working on the follow up. Had a couple of businesses that would be more suited to Jazz and Cakes.

16) Volunteer Positions

a. Current Lead Openings-

Split the Pot- Sell tickets at football games until 3rd quarter. This is a great money maker that doesn't necessarily come from our band parents.

Mattress Sale- just need to coordinate with the company and do communication,

Swing Dance- in Dec. jazz band plays and the kids dance,

Try Band- The middle school teachers go into the 6th grade classrooms to recruit kids for band. Need to be liaison for that.

We will provide support for all of these positions. We don't want anyone feeling like they're being thrown into the dark.

b. Upcoming single day opportunities- Tag Day, Invitational, Bus Chaperones

17) Tailgate Dates- Aug 18th (TOMORROW), Sept 15th, Oct 20th

18) Audit Team – Charity F. – Need some people to help with the audit of last years finances. We need 3 people. Monique is helping out and she has a lot of experience. It needs to be done within a month. If you are available to help see Charity. It doesn't take terribly long and hour or less. Interested email vp@lakotawestbands.org

19) New Business Next Meeting – Thurs, Sept 21st, 6:30 pm in the Lakota West Band Room

Picture night will be Monday August 28th. We have ditched Lifetouch and we are doing it ourselves. It will be during the practice that night. We'll share a little more about what that looks like going forward. We will take a picture of everyone and make them available for a small donation and that should keep expenses down for everyone. You will not have to fill out any forms, and then you can take the picture and have whatever you want printed at a vendor of your choice.

In our new practice field, we would like to put in new stadium style lights in order to give us some more light for evenings. What we have now is safe but not ideal. We are looking at lights that would cost about \$6,000. We're waiting to hear back to see if they can be put in with the current set up. Just a possibility will have some additional updates.