

Lakota West Upbeat Meeting

August 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting:

- Director's Report – Andy Carr – Thank you for coming. Marching band is back up and running. The kids did a pretty good job with our first performance. It will get better as they get more confident. Wonderful crowd support. Thank you so much for coming out. It's always different for the kids when the stands are full in front of you. The show evolves quickly throughout the season. It's funny to see how much it changes. They get better and better. The summer has been a lot of fun even though we had to fight the weather. We had the annual water balloon toss yesterday, and it was a lot of fun. Hoping to get information out about the trip. Still waiting for the travel company to get the info to us. School started today for half of the kids. No kids were absent, and everyone was where they were supposed to be. Parents did a god job getting them there. Freshman band room is going to seem really small with 65 kids in there. It was full today with only half of the kids. We saw the same number of kids today as the Freshman class last year. This increase is all due to the Try Band way of doing things. Barb does great about getting us on the schedule with all of the principals. We started that 3 years ago, and it has really paid off for the program. The future looks really bright for getting a lot of students in the program.

First football game is the 23rd at home. Next day is tag day. Two really big days for our program. St. X is always a fun game and Tag Day is such a great fundraiser for our program. We go around and knock on our neighbors' doors and ask for donations and lots of people do. It's really great. It seems to work really well. It's a great opportunity to volunteer and get to know some of the kids. They're great kids, and it's a pleasure to get to know them. We will start getting all of the kids to sign up for tag day soon. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year. That is an exciting end of the month. We also have the photo night coming up. Upbeat club took this over last year. The pictures turned out great and saved everyone some money. You can choose to buy a panoramic and we do group and section shots. It's pretty great and makes it more accessible to everyone. We'll need some volunteers for that as well. October 11th is senior night, and eight grade night is next month.

It's fairly uncommon what we do here but in most schools in the country the fall is marching band only. Here we do a concert. There are 50-60 kids in the program that are not in marching band, and it is great we can serve all of those kids whatever their ability to participate is. We have kids that are super focused in music and are in every band but the fact that we can serve all of the students is a source of pride. Every 2 weeks we will share the show video in class, and it may interest some kids for next year. We're always happy to have more kids. More is more for us. For the last 3 years we have had a rookie at every grade level which is really cool. You want to be in the band that challenges you but does not overwhelm you. Our top band symphonic winds is doing collegiate work. There is no AP for band performance but that is the level that these kids are playing at. Other than the high-end conservatory places, what we do here is really at that level.

• Asst. Director's Report – Colin Celek- Welcome if you're new they are probably dealing with me. Today we went over how to get around the building. If they play a Jr high instrument still, they should bring them in and we will exchange it for a high school instrument and get it back to them. At the high school we only play traditional jazz instruments so if your kid was playing flute or oboe etc. we will switch them to a different instrument. Don't be surprised. For the past 10 years we've had 80-90 freshman and this year we're at about 120. Our first concert for jazz band is Oct. 7th. If you see things from East, they're having a concert at West the day before. Don't worry about that. Our concert is here. All of the jazz fall concerts will be at West this year. The first concert of the year is 9-12 (all students). It gives everyone the idea of what it looks like for the younger kids what they can be in another 3 years. Mr. T is not attending because he splits his time between East and West but he is very excited to find that we have 3 jazz bands this year. A lot of people will be moving to Tenor Sax. We can't thank the volunteers enough. Thank you to all of the crews, pit crews and the uniform groups. Given enough time they can do anything. Our pit crew can literally do anything given some time. It's been really successful thus far. All of the things are already here, and we are in great shape to take everything with us to all of the shows. Having all of the bells and whistles is a credit to all of the parents and the amount of hours they are putting in. If we're going to spend all of your money, we want to be good stewards of it, so we want it to all be ready as soon as possible and set the kids up for as many marching band points as possible. We're hosting the second annual band competition here and it's a great way to get involved. Consider volunteering, it's a great way to learn about band and see what opportunities your kid is getting and the other communities are doing both high and low. Usually, we see bands more like us at the end and you can see the early ones to compare what a good opportunity our kids are getting. We always want to push the kids further and give them additional opportunities. The shows are great and that speaks to you guys and your work ethic. We hope they are having a good time, and they are through the trust part of the season and now get to have more fun and reap some rewards.

On Wednesdays there's a thing called the activity bus. They (freshman) will swing by the band room get all of their stuff and get on the bus. The band kids will come to the high school band room and can change or have a snack. It runs every day. The buses are 13 and 205. They can ride it over on Friday if you are comfortable with them going to their section dinner and being driven by kids in their section. If it's not on the official band calendar it is not a mandatory event. They are only allowed to ride the activities bus if they have something, event, sectional, practice not just for "hanging out".

• Jazz Director's Report- Aaron Todahl

Business Meeting:

- 1) Call to Order 7:02 PM
- 2) New Member Welcome
- 3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Motion Ray/Jen/AJ
- 4) Finance Approval- Jenni K. Things are starting to happen so we will see a lot of

changes for the next 3 months. Reports are available on the website. We did spend money (as designed) at the beginning of the season. Speakers, Truck Wraps, Drum Major stands etc. We're in great shape. Motion to approve Rebecca/Shannon

a. 2024-25 Budget Approval

5) Pit Crew- Ray B. – Had a meeting for rotating wheels. We're on track to be ready for the invitational, but we are trying to be done for the X game. We're going to be cramming like high schoolers at exam time. We are going to be putting out a calendar for the game. We need a lot of help getting things down there for the game (moving equipment). We'll show you what to do. We start with pregame at 5:00 on Friday have dinner and look official.

6) Uniforms

a. Marching- Stacey L. – Everybody is fit in their uniform. We will be doing makeups on Monday. If you are interested in being a uniform person, reach out to uniforms@lakotawestbands.org . If it were to be too hot for uniforms at a football game, we will switch to something else. We have only done this once in 10 years.

7) Taste for Music- Ali B. -Restaurant fundraiser done approximately one a month

a. Previous Events Update

b. Upcoming events – Next week we will be at Raising Cane's Either one that is close. The info with directions will be on our socials and the calendar. Look there when it is time.

Sept. 10th-Following that is every other month with Wings and Rings. We get 10% of all sales for the 3 hours and so we're going to do 5 of them this year.

8) Band Camp- Shannon B. – Band camp went really well. It was 4 long weeks. They were well hydrated and everyone had a good time. Thanks to all of the volunteers. We are looking for someone to take over planning for next year as Shannon is senioring out.

9) Tag Day (8/24)- Amy P. – It's in a week. We've got sign ups out and we're meeting on Sunday to finalize prep. We only have 7 groups at this point. We have 10 drivers set up. We are hoping for 55 drivers. We can't cover everyone in the district. More drivers mean more routes and more money that comes from people other than our band families. It's a nice way to get to know some of the kids in the band. As a rookie parent if you put out that they really want to drive the kids, and another parent also puts the same thing we may not be able to put you with your kid. If you are driving think about supplying water and snacks for your car. We will have some ice cream or popsicles at the end when they are done. We will also have a prize cart for sections for participation. It is from 9-2. 9-10 is instructions and such and then 10-2 is going door to door.

10) LW Invitational (9/14)- Jessica H. – Sept. 14th. It is the big band competition that we host. The only notes we got from last year was to have charging stations for the directors so it should be a great event. We will have signups going out shortly. It takes a lot of volunteers, but it also brings in a lot of money. We will have 9 bands including

us. We will not use our band students as volunteers but would be great to have non band students.

11) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.

a. Get Connected for 2024-25 – New this year we automatically added every family to the emails. If your family is not receiving it let us know or subscribe from the website. This was a part of the commitment form and is to ensure you have all of the information you need for the upcoming week. We also highly recommend that you subscribe to the calendar, and it will automatically update your calendar when any changes are made. If you have any questions, go to the calendar first. That will always be the most up to date information. We also try to push that out on our socials. If committee leads have anything they want added to the emails, please let us know by Thursday night. If you could share things on social media that would help us get information out to the community as a whole, especially things like tag day. Those share outs really help. The current band is really paying it forward. The band of 4-5 years ago raised the money that paid for the current band uniforms. Kristen is also senioring out this year or are interested in helping with pieces of communication please let us know if you are interested.

12) Tech/Website Team – Rebecca Y. – No updates yet. We'll have tech things to do next month when concerts start. If you are someone who doesn't mind running a camera during performances to live stream, we could use an extra 1-2 people to put into rotation. Performances are all recorded and live streamed on our YouTube channel.

13) Sponsorships – Michelle R.- Currently recruiting sponsors.

14) Picture day-Jenni K.

a. 8/26-stadium We will be doing it by section. Last year's panoramic was ~\$18. Individual pictures are free, but we do ask for a \$5 donation to help cover some costs. If you haven't heard of Flickr that is our photo hosting site. All pictures are posted there.

15) New Business –

Calendar raffle tickets will be sold at the football game. We're looking for a couple of people to staff this table before the game.

Trucks are currently in with Vivid wraps. The truck should be back on Sept 2 and then the box truck will be done by the competition.

We are also looking for someone to take over spirit wear. It's essentially communicating with the vendors. This is a great opportunity for people who need something they could do from home.

Shout out labels are available on the website. They will go in your students show uniform. You can include whatever personnel message or inside joke you want. Students can purchase as well. There is no limit to the number of messages they can have.

Trip questions. We are waiting for the travel company to get everything finalized. It is a

little slow, but they are approximately 30% less than other companies and the trips are always fantastic. We will get the info out as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned 8:01

Next Meeting – Thurs, September 19th, 6:30 pm in the Lakota West Band Room