

# Lakota West Upbeat Meeting

September 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting:

- Director's Report – Andy Carr- Thanks for coming. Thanks for all for the things we've done that have been very successful the last couple of days. Tag day, Calendar raffle and the Invitational went great. There's so many moving parts to the invitational and we had such great feedback. It was really exciting. All of the good parts of going to any show- full uniform, warmup, great feedback and the judges gave us a score. The only thing you don't get in exhibition is the ability to win trophies. The other thing that is nice is that any time we go on the road it costs us \$3-4000 and all of those expenses are gone when we stay home. Then the show makes money. It's more of a benefit than what we just profit when you add what it costs us to travel as a band. It was fun for the drumline and leadership to play the star-spangled banner. All of our volunteers did great. It ran so smoothly. It was a really great fun time, and it was great to see the show in full form. It is pretty close to what we will do at Obetz. This week we are just working on cleaning. Next Monday we will work on the last section of the show, and we will put it on at Springboro. We have about 77-80% done. We are going to end on Cowboy Bebop this week. We've had several football games. It's a strange year as most of the games have been early in the season. 8<sup>th</sup> grade night was wonderful. We had 135 8<sup>th</sup> graders show up. We're likely to continue to grow as a band. During Covid we're not able to recruit so now that has changed, we think that negative impact will go away. It really affected those at the Jr. High level. We've improved on our recruiting and it's great to see how large the increase has been. We've done a great job getting every kid on our side of the district an opportunity to try an instrument. When you give them that opportunity, they end up really enjoying it. If we can get a good portion of those kids to commit, we could really grow a lot in the next few years. Concert band is underway. That first concert is a big one. We bring all of the bands together and from a freshman standpoint hearing symphonic winds is a big deal and they want to know how to get there and really buckle down. We have all 5 bands lay together. We make it a much lighter load on the freshman. We're playing some fun things. Symphonic winds is playing a silly piece based on cartoons called animations. The date is Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. All of them are well underway getting ready.

This weekend is a big one for us. We're having a run through at the end of practice tomorrow and we'd love for people to show up. It's so much better for them to have an audience to perform for. We will have a huge audience at Obetz. We go on last in prelims because we won last year, and we will play for the biggest audience of the night. There are over 30 bands signed up and it is very popular this year. Many will leave for finals so that will be a bit smaller. The kids are going to do great. It's a cute show and they will get good reactions from the audience. We would like to level set this year as we've been semi- charmed to win the last few years. We will have to work really hard and have our best show as there are some other bands that are really fantastic. We could realistically place anywhere 1-4. We're relatively new to BoA started in 2017. One of the most storied programs ever is Centerville. We're having dinner together. Carr and their director marched Cavaliers together and they won the national championship in the 90s and they have won super regionals.

We've competed against them 6 times and we have won 1 time by .05 points. They have 21 regional championships. They're a great band program second in all time wins. The only band with more is Kiski regional that will also be there. Campbell County will also be there. We don't go out with the purpose of winning. We go out to put on our best show and entertaining. The first time we ever went out we weren't sure if we'd even make finals as we weren't set up to do well. Mason was there and won by like 25 points or something. The Mason kids came down to full retreat and were so excited for us to make finals. They were more excited for us than they were for themselves. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise that we went on first because the kids got to watch everyone else. When Mr. Carr asked which one was everyone's favorite and it was really varied among all of the finalists. The point was, there isn't really winners or losers. These are all great performances. Your performance will be someone's favorite even if it doesn't win. Our number one thing can't be winning trophies. Our goal is to go in and be great. There is no defense in band. All we can do is make our show better. We really push to make finals or semi-finals. Just so that we get to play a second time. It's a real honor and a lot of respect for the program. Please as parents have a respectful attitude and appreciate the hard work that has been put in and make it a positive experience for everyone. We have Katie Koziel and Mona Allen make it into all state Orchestra. Evan Kershaw made All state band on Saxophone. Timothy Geiger is an alternate for tenor sax.

- Asst. Director's Report – Colin Celek

- Jazz Director's Report- Aaron Todahl- Good to see everybody. A couple of things on the jazz side. Really excited for 2 LW students who made it into the 2025 jazz ensemble. It's comprised of the best high school jazz musicians in the state of Ohio. Tommy Shebesta and Nikki Ardila. They always bring in someone great to conduct the band and it's pretty prestigious. First concert of the year is Tuesday Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Doing something different this year. The programs have grown to the point that we can no longer combine the night with East due to having 8 bands. It's a great problem to have. The hope is that separating them will make it easier and with the start time, we will be done around 8:30. A much easier and more manageable night for everyone. After that we'll start talking about swing dance. I think we'll bring the 8<sup>th</sup> graders back again this year. All the kids are making great sounds. If you're interested in helping to organize the swing dance that would be great. It's pretty easy, it's mostly organization. It's a great night we turn the cafeteria into a jazz club.

#### Business Meeting:

- 1) Call to Order 7:00

- 2) New Member Welcome

- 3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Approve/Second: AJ/Jen

- 4) Finance Approval- Jenni K.

- a. Updated financials- Paper copy is circulating check out the website. It's been a busy several weeks. We have netted \$21000 from tag day and about \$15,000 for the invitation. \$15700 for calendar raffle. All money for the calendar raffle offsets the cost of the trip and everyone's price has been reduced by \$77. We still have a few big fundraisers. Mattress sale in November, Swing Dance in

December, and Jazz in Cakes in the spring. Big expenses were band support, drum major stands, and speaker system. These came out of some of our savings' accounts. We also spent money on wrapping the trucks. They look so pretty. The white truck now looks so white. Charity spent a lot of time dealing with those people so kudos for that. We are funding 8 students partial to full from the angel fund to go on the trips this year. No questions on the finances. Motion to approve/second: Ali/Sam

5) Pit Crew- Ray B. \_Props that we know of are basically done. We are in maintenance mode. Everything went fairly well on the props. One issue we're dealing with now is the lights are a problem on the instrument truck, and they will need to be replaced. Approximate cost is \$300. We always need volunteers. If you are interested let Ray or any other pit crew member.

#### 6) Uniforms

a. Personalized Tags-Jen H- They are in their uniforms. They are generally on the left side of their uniforms. It was fun. It brought in \$1100

b. Cleaning. We will be cleaning uniforms after Springboro and before we go away. Pickup will be Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Instructions will be provided but basic gentle wash/dry.

7) Taste for Music- Ali B. – Wings and Rings brought in \$200 and we will be doing those every other month

a. Canes

b. Upcoming events – Marcos is next. We get 50% back and we made \$400 last year. Keep watching the social media for updates

8) Calendar Raffle-Charity F- Covered in the treasure report

9) Tag Day (8/24)- Amy P. – We made about \$21000 but we still have a bit coming in. The tags the kids left were working as we're still getting them mailed in. We are looking for someone to take it over next year. It's only a bunch of work the week of otherwise it's fairly simple.

10) LW Invitational (9/14)- Jessica H. /Katie D. – Went great. So glad it didn't rain. Brought in slightly more money than last year. Everyone helped in some way so thank you for your time and labor.

11) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W. - Communication is difficult this year. Getting it out there is an issue. Our calendar is always updated. The directors have a running document that has everything you need. Between these two things you will get all of the information you need. Kristin puts it all together every week and sends the info on Fridays. If you aren't getting it, check the spam folder or use the recent news button on the website (has all of the content of the newsletter). The QR code to the google doc is framed in the band room if you need it. Bookmark it! Note if we are able to extend the email to the following Friday because there is so much that happens on Friday. If you haven't seen it check the top of the doc for the area where judges' comments are kept. We can't post the videos on social media. Please make sure things are only posted as private.

A. Trip Update- Kristin is senioring out if anyone is interested in any of her jobs. We leave 4 weeks from today. The money from the fundraiser gets split evenly among everyone. (This is a legal requirement). We're trudging along. They will adjust the final payment to take that money back. Just wait until it is updated. We're making

arrangements for the PSAT students. If they registered, they will have a separate bus that will leave later in the afternoon. They will miss hiking, but they will join us later for dinner. There is no cost in what they are missing so there will be no adjustments to price. The bus will leave here by 1 to make it to dinner. Still working on logistics.

12) Tech/Website Team – Rebecca Y. No Major updates. We will be live streaming the first concerts.

13) Sponsorships – Michelle R.- Buffalo Wings and Rings is now a gold sponsor for the band. We go there after games on Friday nights after games so feel free to join us.

14) Picture day-Jenni K.- Hopefully everyone found their kids pics on Flickr. We have not received the panoramics in, but we will set up a pickup when they do. We have a limited number of extras available.

15) New Business

A. Open Lead Positions- Communications, Treasurer, Secretary, Uniforms, Guard Uniforms, Band Camp, Box Truck Driver

B. Truck wrap-Box truck update- Came back today!

C. Senior Night 10/11 and Bandoween 10/21-Save the date!

Next Meeting – Thurs, October 10th, 6:30 pm in the Lakota West Band Room

Meeting adjourned. 7:44