

Lakota West Upbeat Meeting

November 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Informational Meeting:

- Director's Report – Andy Carr – Hope everyone has enjoyed having a little more free time now that marching season has ended. The whole end of October was wild with all of the travel. A heck of a lot off un and exhausting. It was different being done earlier. It was the shortest season in a long time. It was kind of interesting. It's a little stressful trying to get everything done by the end of the season. Thanks to everyone who helped make the trips work out and get the kids that experience. Really thrilled with how the season ended. So great to make it into finals at St. Louis. Doing such a big final retreat is so cool. It was a nice grand way to say goodbye to the show. It also allowed us to get going and focus on concert band. It's really coming along. This concert always sneaks up. The kids get a little complacent going into the holiday one, especially with the days off for Thanksgiving. This one will be split like normal (main vs Freshman). Another thing we're really excited about is honor band. The conductors are fantastic. Sausito (head BOA judge) is one of the conductors as well as John Seton (great saxophone player) JD is doing the Freshman band, he is a big deal in the OMEA arena. He does great working with the younger kids. Our kids are really pumped about honor band. We have 184 kids auditioning. This is about double the other big bands out there. What makes us so proud is the kids enjoy making music and want to do more. We have more kids in the bands than any other school. We did send out the end of the year survey through the google form. Open through Dec. 31st and we'd love to get a lot of responses. We use those responses to gauge how the program is working. The way bands like Avon work, their schedule would melt your brain. They have band camp goes all summer, and you are only allowed 1 week of summer for vacation. That is how they are so great. That's how they win national championships. These decisions always come down to money or time and we try to strike a balance with being competitive with the time commitment we feel is balanced for the kids. Mason spends more time and more money than we do by a fairly significant amount. These surveys are really important and we do take the time to read them. We can't make everyone happy but we do our best to serve the population as a whole. All of the info for solo and ensemble should be coming out in the next week or so. We have some good improvements to build on the great year we had last year. Schedules for second semester concert band will come out soon. We're considering taking the Freshman band to a competition this spring as well. It may be a good experience for them. We're considering doing OMEA instead of Music for all as Music for all will not let us bring all of the bands. Trying to put the final bits on that and decide if that is the way we want to go. Will come out before the break for sure. Dec. 7th is audition date in Fairfield for honor band. Solo and Ensemble will be end of January and these concert competition dates will be after that. Graduation may be different this year. There is a very good chance we will not play at it because graduation is at the end of the school year. East has not had a live band at graduation since 2019. We have not talked to administration or students about that yet. Another great marching band season. It blows my mind the number of hours of time and love and patience goes into making it happen and giving the kids that experience. I don't know if they

appreciate it now, but they are better people for these experiences. The band means a lot to them and your hard work gives them that.

- Asst. Director's Report – Colin Celek Thanks to everyone. We have already started prep for next year. Our designers now think our band parents can do anything. When we started with them they always thought we couldn't do that and we've proven time and time again that we can. Accepting responses for the year end survey. 41% responses are from returning students and 34% were from returning parents so far. Over 80% of the responses said our season should be in the range of 13-17 weeks. Most valued shows 58% is BOA super regionals/grand Nats, 35% regional BoA, very tiny amount anything else. 98.1% say they like to do a full-length show instead of just a football show. Favorite social activities are DCI shows, leadership canoe trip and the Mason pool. Parents like the section dinners. We want your feedback it makes a better program overall. We'll go over the results once all of the responses are tabulated.

- Jazz Director's Report- Aaron Todahl

Business Meeting:

1) Call to Order 7:06

2) New Member Welcome thanks for showing up despite the weather.

3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Motion to approve: Jen Second: Kristen M

4) Finance Approval- Jenni K. –No one has claimed the St. X money so we will need to add it back to split the pot to over \$1000 for the year. It's the time of year again for families and businesses to make end of the year donations. Please share our social posts to get people to donate to us. In May we approved \$30000 for box trucks and wraps. We spent approx. \$27,000. We approved \$30,000 for musical supplies to enhance student experience. We spent approximately \$29,000. WE approved \$10000 for drum major stands and speakers. This was just under \$12000 due to shipping. Overall for the \$70,000 in big approved expenditures, we spent \$66000. Approval on financials: Samantha and Amy.

5) Swing Dance-Laura- Swing dance is 2 weeks from tomorrow. The ticket link went live last Friday along with the donation and volunteer sign ups. If you have ever decorated for the swing dance before please come and help. We're new this year, and anyone who has experience would be great. All volunteer jobs are super easy. The playing schedule is on sign up genius and you can step away to watch your child play. We're going to try to find a way to diplomatically hold some food back due to the crazy with the junior high bands. Even if you are volunteering you do need to have a ticket.

6) Mattress Sale- Amy P. It happened. It was fine. It was slow. We sold 13 mattresses. We will get a check for \$2060. Not the lowest or highest we ever made. If we could get a couple more sponsorships, we can get rid of this fundraiser or make it an every other year thing.

7) Taste for Music- Ali B. No update

8) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W. New this year for winter guard, communications will come through the normal band Friday email. Spread the word for anyone new. You should also get ones through final forms as well.

9) Tech/Website Team – Rebecca Y.

10) Sponsorships – Michelle R.- Actively reaching out to sponsors but if you have any leads, please let us know. We're happy to talk to them or we can also provide you with information. More sponsors would be great for the band. We are also looking to grow this team. If this is something you are good at or passionate about we'd love you put you on this team. We have less sponsorship than other local bands and would like to grow that.

11) Winter Guard Competition-Charity and Katie- Have a meeting with guard staff next Tuesday to go over everything they are going to need. This will take many volunteers. We need non guard parents to volunteer as well. Students can volunteer as guides. Tri-State was blown away last year that it was our first ever competition, and we're hoping to build on that. We will need people in charge of lots of things. It's a mini version of the invitational. All of the same things. They are all pretty easy jobs. It will be at the freshman building. The guard is also doing the calendar fundraiser again this year. You would pick a day to sponsor (i.e. the 15th would be \$15). There will be a calendar for both varsity and JV. The link is live and everything is all on the website. It was successful last year. It is a good fundraiser to help supplement their trip and they are looking to purchase new rifles. Date of the invitational is January 25th. WE have a big winter guard this year and we are really excited about that. Sign up geniuses will go out around the break.

12) New Business

A. Holiday Band Concert Main Campus Bands-12/10, Freshman Bands 12/11

B. Sponsorships

Next Meeting – Thurs, January 18th 2025, 6:30 pm in the Lakota West Band

Room