

# Lakota West Upbeat Meeting

## February 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

### Informational Meeting:

- Director's Report – Andy Carr -Hello thanks for being here. Solo and ensemble was a really nice two evenings. Kids got a lot out of it. It's an interesting evening as some of the performances are amazing, some are great, and some are not so great. One of the reasons we started this is that OMEA only wants to send the best kids. By doing it ourselves we give every kid an opportunity. It's a great way for those kids to appreciate how important each person in the band is. The educational value that comes out of the preparation is great. They got recordings of their performance. The kids got to reflect on their performances and feedback while Carr and Celek were at states. Thanks to the Yobys for really championing that event. It helps the kids become better performers and those individual results translate to the whole band. The state performance was great. We had 5 kids perform in all state bands. They played some great pieces of music. We had 2 out of 18 kids in the all state jazz band. We got to hear the East band play at the convention and attend some good clinics to make us better. One of the things we're about to do is go over to Fairfield. We're waiting for the schedule to be finalized but there's a general time frame. Symphonic Winds will play late in the evening. We'll be on last for the night. This OMEA event worked better than the Mason event and the nice thing for parents is that it is free to attend. The kids will have a similar performance. Symphonic bands will play around dinner time. Concert band will play at brunch and then the freshman bands will be around lunch. There will be time for the girls to get their hair done before the Sadie Hawkins dance. We have our concert Monday or Tuesday night depending on which band. All bands will be at Freshman building due to the set for the musical on the stage. Monday after school symphonic winds are going to load equipment and then when we get over there they will help us set up. They will warm up a bit. The concert band and symphonic band will warm up and then the concert will start. At the end, nothing will get torn down, the freshman will get to use the high school stuff. Wednesday after school Gary Speck is coming in to work with symphonic winds. We will feed them dinner and then we will do a recording session. One of the things that's a bummer is that we have not had a chance to do a good recording of winds the last few years. This is usually the time to get the best before AP testing and seniors get distracted. If we can get those good recordings then that helps us get in to future opportunities. We have a guest coming in Monday and Friday here to take a look at the band with an outside perspective. He gives a great amount of feedback on things to work with. This has in part been funded by Willis music and he will be going in to other area schools. There will also be someone coming in to observe the jr high bands. The musical prep is going really well. We'll combine the music and the actors in a couple of weeks.
- Asst. Director's Report – Colin Celek- Freshman concert band is Tuesday. No complicated logistics for the Freshman. It's second semester so 1<sup>st</sup> bell will go first and 0 bell will go second. Then we're headed over to Fairfield. Expect 12ish and 2ish for times. The final data from the year end survey 78% from current returning parents/students. 60% said the season should be 14-16

weeks. Most valued event is Grand Nats. (That pushes next season to 18 weeks) The most valued show for attending was super regional or grand nats followed by regional BOA shows. 96.4% said they wanted to go to grand nats next year. 97.6% said they wanted to do an all in competitive show. 56.1% said that they wanted to put in a very competitive show. 29% wanted to do a hyper competitive show (Mason, Avon, etc.). 58% say what we're doing is a good financial commitment. 26% say that they would be willing to pay more to provide more experience. 86% say the number of hours of band camp is correct. Best liked events- Mason Pool, DCI show, and section dinners. In parent volunteering 22.7% said they were interested in chaperoning. We expect to add about 42 more football only kids for next year. We will be going a little more Toxic West for the football uniforms next year. We will be using a new top to replace the red one. We have asked for a sample of it and it can be used without the vest on really hot days. Next time we'll show the show uniforms.

- Jazz Director's Report- Aaron Todahl – The all state kids played great. Next two weekends the jazz bands will be playing festivals. With a growing program its been trying to figure out how to make everything fit with the growing jazz bands. Next weekend is the Beaver creek Jazz Festival. They have 30-40 groups participating on two stages. This festival is being livestreamed on the website for those that can't be there in person. We'll get judges tapes and a clinic. It's a great opportunity to get feedback. It's nice for them to have someone that is not me. We're taking some groups down to the Ellington Regional at CCM. The big Ellington festival in New York is like the super bowl of Jazz bands. They have started to have satellite festivals. The Cincinnati is not a competitive festival. They celebrate the music of Duke Wellington or the educational Ellington series. CCMs performance venues are really great. They'll play in Corbin Auditorium. They'll get a clinic as well and it's a great opportunity (Jazz Orchestra). The performance time will be at 2:00 in the afternoon. Auditions for next school year are on the calendar (thanks Barb). Monday March 24<sup>th</sup> brass 25<sup>th</sup> Saxophones, 26<sup>th</sup> Rhythm and vocal. All at 3:30 in the band room. Jazz in Cakes is in April. So happy that it is not the week after spring break. Kids are playing great and super excited they all get the festival experience this year.

#### Business Meeting:

- 1) Call to Order : 7:14pm
- 2) New Member Welcome – No new members, but thanks for braving the cold.
- 3) Minutes Approval – Stacey L. Update to 89.9 in section 12 for the minutes per Bob.
- 4) Finance Approval- Jenni K. – Highlights- per usual we have out done ourselves. We have outperformed in sponsorships, the invitational, firebird messages. Thank you everybody. It's note worthy that we spent over \$70,000 on wraps and musical additions and are still in a great financial shape. We will budget next year's budget in April and approve in May so those are good meetings to go to. These are also available on the website. Motion to approve Bob/Allie
- 5) Jazz and Cakes- Kristen M. – We are collecting donations for raffle baskets. They can be brought to the band room or next week's concerts. We are desperately looking for a kitchen volunteer to coordinate the front and back of house. Also, vendors for main street and sponsors. Tickets are on sale soon. Travelling Tom's Coffee Truck will be at Jazz N Cakes if you want good coffee. 10% of the proceeds will be donated back

to the band.

6) Solo and Ensemble Update-Rebecca Y- Working on evaluating notes for a debrief

7) Taste for Music- Ali B. – 2 more tastes for wings and Rings- March and May (Second Tuesday of each)

8) Communications- Kristin B./ Barb W.- - Looking for a replacement. Please let us know if you are interested. It could be split up a bit if necessary. (Graphics, emails, then day to day)

9) Tech/Website Team – Rebecca Y.- Concerts upcoming, the regular crew will support

10) Sponsorships – Michelle R.- New sponsorship in the works Citi Barbeque. Can't do a money but potentially a product donation.

11) Winter Guard Competition Recap-Charity and Katie- The competition went really well. We doubled our profits from last year. After expenses we brought in \$7600. Angie from TMA was very impressed with how everything went. She's never seen a guard competition run as smoothly as ours did. We would take care of anything they needed right away. Very grateful to the Pitt crew as parking was an issue as we doubled the number of guard units. The guard is travelling to Cambell County this weekend and then they go to Avon in March.

12) New Business

A. Open Lead Positions- We'll need several people on the Invitational Team for next year.

Barb Bassou nominations are due March 7<sup>th</sup>. We have a lot of exceptional volunteers.

Next Meeting – Thurs, March 20, 2025, 6:30PM, Main Campus Band Room