

2026-27 Candidates for VP of Ways and Means

Renee Beck:

My name is Renee Beck, but most people know me as Shawn's Mom or Gabby's Mom depending on who you are. Shawn is a soon to be senior and plays trombone in marching band, concert band, jazz band and a local youth orchestra. Gabby is an upcoming sophomore who plays clarinet in concert band, but marches as a member of the guard and participates in winter guard. As a former band kid myself, I am extremely grateful that my kids are in a school with such a strong arts program. The work the directors and coaches put in is extraordinary. Then there is this entire group of parent volunteers working behind the scenes to help keep it running. This past year, as the mom-chauffeur job lightened, I found time to volunteer and joined the chaperone crew. I immediately gained a further appreciation for what these people do and I absolutely loved getting to know the kids even more. I may be biased, but I think band kids are some of the best kids. I'm looking forward to continuing to be involved and support our programs whether through fundraising, chaperoning, serving as a section parent or general support and volunteering. I love what we have here and am excited to help keep this amazing program going.

Thank you!
Renee

Christa Hobe:

Hello! I'm Christa Hobe, and I'm excited to be running for VP of Ways & Means. Lakota East has been a huge part of my life for a long time as my husband and I are part of the Class of '98.

Today, I'm the proud parent of a 10th-grade trombone and winter guard member.

I'm passionate about ensuring our students have "higher-tier" experiences, and I believe my professional background can help us reach those goals. In my volunteer role at a Fortune 100 company, I manage a \$40,000 budget and oversee major sponsorship contracts and logistics for events across the country. I want to bring that same level of strategic growth and financial oversight to our fundraising efforts.

I've already been working hard for the Upbeat Club as the head of the photo committee, where we've successfully raised over \$1,700 the last two years through print sales I championed. You may have also seen me on the field as a member of the Pit Crew or capturing moments as a band photographer.

Looking ahead, I want to think big. I've had discussions with the Director about researching the potential for hosting a marching band competition right here at Lakota East. This could serve as a massive signature fundraiser to supplement our existing traditions like Tag Day. I'm also focused on building stronger corporate partnerships and assisting with soliciting new sponsors, such as El Rancho Grande, for the upcoming season.

My goal is to increase parent involvement and ensure every subsection of our program—from marching and concert band to jazz and guard—feels supported, included, and well-funded. I'm ready to serve, and I would be honored to have your vote!