

Saratoga Music Boosters (SMB)

A 501(c)(3) organization supporting music programs in the Saratoga Union School District and Saratoga High School

Regular Meeting over Zoom, February 8th, 2022: **Minutes**

Attendance: total number of attendees = 21:

Executive Board

Dave Holt - President
Alicia de Fuentes - Recording Secretary
Isabelle Gecils - Parliamentarian
Vidya Vineet - VP Donations
Tim Tang - Accounts Receivable/Treasurer
Richard Aochi - Controller/Treasurer
Revathi Koteeswaran - Treasurer

Music Directors

Isabel McPherson
Jon Jow
Jason Shiuan
Michael Boitz
Beth Nitzan

Booster Members

Takako Hasegawa
Rahul Agarwal
Rashi Sanghi
Olivia Zhou
Sneha Melkote
Mrudula Prashant
Dongni Chen
Senthil Krishnamurthy
Cecile Cohen-Jonathan

Dave Holt calls the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Dave Holt Thanks SMB Community

Dave Holt thanks everyone who works together to make SMB what it is.

Approval of January Minutes presented by Alicia de Fuentes

Alicia de Fuentes asks all attendees whether corrections are to be made to presented minutes. No corrections or comments were recorded. This prompted Tim Tang to move to approve and Isabelle Gecils to second.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

February Financials presented by Revathi Koteeswaran

Revathi Koteeswaran indicates that the financials take into account the budget approved last month for Winter Guard and Winter Percussion, adding that she is happy to see that the overall income and expenses are close.

Category Name	Actual Income	Actual Expenses
SHS	\$1 202 630	\$1 029 857
Redwood	\$37 228	\$10 494
Elementary	\$6 000	\$0

Dave Holt asks about the extra line items for Redwood RMS (marching band and ensemble), specifically why there is no projected budget for 21-22 Ensemble.

Jon Jow explains that projected budget income is determined if there is 100% participation and there are no projected expenses for marching band because field trips were not allowed because of Covid.

Revathi Koteeswaran informs the meeting that company matching is coming along well. Adding the overall Actual Income is \$1 431 362 vs overall Actual Expenses of \$1 159 786.

Approval of Checks

Revathi Koteeswaran seeks the approval Comerica checks # 15016 - 15039.

Dave Holt asks if further discussion is required otherwise suggests both the presented financials and check be considered for approval.

No comments were recorded.

Alicia de Fuentes motions to approve presented financials and check numbers, Rashi Sanghi seconds.

Dave Holt informs the meeting that Richard Aochi did consolidate and everything matched quickbook.

Motion carried unanimously

Tim Tang Treasurer Nomination

Revathi Koteeswaran will hand off her treasurer role and train Tim Tang. She nominates Tim Tang who has been super helpful, and she clarifies she will be readily available the next few months and she does not plan to go anywhere and is happy to help.

Isabelle Gecils clarifies that the executive committee ideally should not nominate on the spot, fortunately, since all members know Tim Tang and he is fantastic but in the future she affirms that nominations should stick to the procedure as indicated in the by-laws.

Dave Holt thanks Isabelle Gecils and asks if she accepts Tim's nomination?

Tim Tang jokes that he was going to thank Isabelle Gecils for giving him a ticket out.

Isabelle Gecils clarifies that she was just communicating protocol and accepts the motion this time.

Vidya Vineet seconds.

Motion carried unanimously.

Comparison to Date

Dave Holt shares there is an income of \$187 000 against end of year of last year and states SMB is only \$5 000 away from SMB's fundraising target compared to last year. Indicating that fortunately the pancake breakfast event is still pending and is a good fundraising generator. Notes that good progress was made by donations received from 3 items: Winter Guard, Winter Percussion and 5th Grade. Adding matching funds are coming in and continual program participation donations are received as directors work with parents.

Pancake Breakfast

Mrudula Prashant states she is currently the only person leading pancake breakfast and inquires whether the plan is to continue to hold a community size event or keep it smaller. She informs that Sneha Melkote has agreed to be the treasurer of the event but still needs to fill committee chairs and confirm the budget that is allocated for this event.

Dave Holt asks if she is able to offer position descriptions to help fill the jobs.

Mrudula Prashant states she needs someone to lead the silent auction, ticket sales, kitchen, publicity adding she can send out an email with this.

Dave Holt asks the directors if this event will be huge for the community as he believes that by May 1st Covid numbers should be at least manageable.

Michael Boitz agrees 100% with Dave Holt and draws on the experience managing the tour where he and Jason Shiuan thought the total number of people who would commit would be around 150 but to date they actually have a total of 430. He shares that the night before the board meeting, people were asking if the pancake breakfast was going ahead.

Dave Holt states that after this week's SHS Music Showcase Night, SMB members will help you with the pancake breakfast, adding SMB will go full on to help you and encourages her to send

an email tonight with position descriptions they may use to help build the pancake breakfast team.

Mrudula Prashant confirms May 1st as the event's date.

Jason Shiuan informs that traditionally the event has been held on the first Sunday of May. If the event were to move to a later date it would move into AP testing times and this is not desirable.

Sneha Melkote adds the following Sunday after the first Sunday in May is Mother's Day.

Dave Holt states the budget income target is \$20 000 and says it is her job to raise that amount.

Sneha Melkote says she will work backwards to determine the budget.

Nominating Committee

Isabelle Gecils states the by-laws indicate that a nominating committee should have 3 board members, once the committee is established there needs to be a separate meeting to select a chairperson. The slate of nominees should be sent to the board by April and the voting should be held in May or June. Anyone can participate.

Adding the nominating committee need not be defined today, and it can be done through email. She will arrange the first meeting once the committee is established and inform them of their responsibility, indicating all vacancies etc.

Directors' Report

Jon Jow shares:

- Our canopies are new and set up for outdoor band, they are bolted to the ground and now they are not going to be blown away and I guess we learn from our mistakes. The kids in the morning band session need to warm their hands and have proven how amazing they are to continue to play while exposed to the elements.
- 5th grade students have finished the band half of our instrumental music exploratory year and are now starting strings! We have begun sizing students for instrument sizes and should have them in their hands when we return from February break. Thank you to SMB for your support of all of these new string instruments. We are so excited!
- Principal Hamm is familiar with CMEA and was supportive of it. He will make sure rapid tests will become available. Given we have received a green light for the CMEA festival in March, it will be our first live performance since December 2019! Band 8, Vivace Strings, and Chamber Strings are scheduled to attend. This ensures that all of our 8th graders will be able to attend a CMEA festival before they move on to high school.

- All-State Band and Orchestra will be happening next week! We're excited to be sending about 10 Redwood students to represent our school this year. One 8th grader decided not to do it so our next RMS sax player was accepted. So, it just so happened that our RMS middle schooler was top of the CMEA fill-in list. We do have great talents indeed.
- We are looking forward to tomorrow's Showcase and Info Night! Thank you to SHS and volunteers for putting it together.
- The MESH program for band students is just getting started. We are thankful for our SHS band students for being willing to work with our Redwood students by offering one-on-one mentorship sessions and lessons. The MESH Benefit Concert will also be making a comeback for Saturday, April 2 at noon. Stay tuned for more information!

Isabel McPherson shares:

- 5th grade has been really exciting and I have seen each group twice. Every single child needs to be measured for right instrument matching.
- We have fun in the morning and talk to the geese.
- Excited for next year.
- The next performance is for CMEA in March, we are taking 2 orchestras and 8th grade band. This will be my second CMEA in 4 years due to Covid.

Michael Boitz reports:

- I want to piggyback on MESH: an educator's dream is when students really get it and understand the process, and the performance is just the icing on the cake. Students met with Jon Jow for direction and etiquette last Thursday night, he created a document for the kids to work with. Then the kids created a best practices presentation. This can be used by all student teachers, it is really that good, for those wanting to be professional educators. This would not happen without the great education in middle school. I will forward this to the administrators. And we just have great kids, just spend an hour with the kids, it will change your perspective for the future.
- I got to go to Redwood yesterday to visit the orchestras. So rewarding to watch, they start sight reading, it was really fun to observe the middle schoolers at work, and I think I'm going to Redwood Middle School to visit band, right Mr. Shiuan?

Jason Shiuan answers affirmatively.

Michael Boitz continues with SHS Music Showcase Night:

- The brainchild of this event tomorrow is Dave, he brainstormed how to create an awareness to showcase music boosters. We need everyone's help to make it work. Thank you Dave for coming up with this idea.
- Principal Louie allowed us to have an elective meeting through zoom to preview our electives since the in-person elective night was not possible due to Covid concerns. We were zoom bombed 3 times, we lost people because of this.
- We are planning an event in March, so it will be a pre CMEA event to hammer home the importance of community participation. It reinforces the importance of donations, and its history is why we are successful thanks to the contributions made in the past. Then the families come to high school and they are shocked with what it costs to run band.

Beth Nitzan reports:

- Choir is going on and we had MESH leaders visit RMS today. They had a Q and A on the high school music opportunities and it was a great lead to tomorrow night's showcase.
- We have people going to All-State and Fresno. There was a meeting with Lynbrook and the choirs started gelling etc.

Jason Shiuan informs:

- There was an All-State opening and an additional student, Jayden H. (9, clarinet) was able to go.
- Winter guard had their first competition (CCGC) at Independence High School. It is a young group and Winter Guard can be confusing and hectic, we noticed the difference. Winter Guard will be having their second competition (CCGC) February 26th at Logan High School.
- Winter Percussion also had their first competition too this Saturday at Cupertino. Winter Percussion will do a performance at the end of the mini camp in February. We have two Winter Percussion groups for the first time in the school's history,

Closing Comments

Dave Holt states:

- I spend a huge amount of time in Scouts, I just want to echo what Michael Boitz said: when you trust the youth they deliver, if you trust them and believe in them, it is incredible what they do. If you are a parent, there is nothing more important than trusting them, you will get huge benefits from that.

Vidya Vineet confirms:

- Charms' renewal is coming up. We have moved off Charms to google sheets, all donation Teams are working on sheets. I propose to let them go.

Dave Holt reminds Vidya that SMB voted to move away from Charms.

Vidya Vineet just wanted everyone to know that as we move away, access to Charms will no longer be available.

Dave Holt asks:

- Does anyone have any Charms comments?

No one attending the meeting offers a comment, so Dave confirms the board's position to eliminate Charms.

Vidya Vineet requests:

- Please help us for tomorrow night we will have pizza and hot chocolate for the kids.

Michael Boitz adds:

- Vidya you are a saint, the notion you put a spreadsheet up and recruiting volunteers to assist in making the event a memorable one, is noteworthy.

Vidya Vineet continues:

- The food will be served outside by adults.

Michael Boitz informs

- The orchestras will perform short pieces and the directors will speak. Shuan will invite them to go outside to hot chocolate to watch Winter Guard and Winter Percussion. Pizza will be planned for 7:40pm, kids will come starving because they are coming from other commitments. We are finalizing the schedule and flow, so kids know what to expect.

Dave Holt says 'it sounds super fun, wish I was there'.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:38pm

Summary of Motions

Approval of February Minutes

Tim Tang moves, Isabelle Gecils seconds: motion carries.

Approval of February Financials and Checks as presented
Alicia de Fuentes moves, Rashi Sanghi seconds: motion carries.

Approval of Tim Tang's Nomination to Treasurer
Revathi Koteeswaran moves, Vidya Vineet seconds: motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia de Fuentes
Recording Secretary