

Saratoga Music Boosters

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

Annual General Meeting (via Zoom and in-person), August 10th, 2021: Minutes

Attendance: total number of attendees = 23, including the following

Executive Board:

Dave Holt - President
Andrew Dimock - Co-Secretary
Alicia de Fuentes - Co-Secretary
Isabelle Gecils - Parliamentarian
Vidya Vineet - VP Donations
Revathi Koteeswaran - Treasurer

Music Directors:

Mr. Michael Boitz
Isabel McPherson
Elizabeth Nitzan
Jason Shiuan
Jon Jow

Booster Volunteers:

Parag Mehta
Samear Vaidya
Yanchen
Tim Tang
Olivia Sue
Dongni Chen
Ramya Vasu
Rahul Argawal
Cecile Jonathan-Cohen
Nicole Chang
Dhanashri
Takako Hasagawa

Minutes

Presented by Dave Holt

Michael Boitz: questions the electronic votes How they fit in the minutes

Dave Holt: asks if there is any concern with June minutes before moving to approval.
No discussion from online participants; Isabelle Gecils moved to approve the minutes.
Parag Mehta seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

Michael Boitz suggests the electronic vote on the budget in July be recorded in the August meeting minutes.

Revathi: does not have the official number for the finances, will have them next month.

Dave Holt: reminds accountant needs finances to process tax returns by October

Donations

Presented by Vidya Vineet

Senthil, Parag and Nical will be helping with donations. Vidya helped them set up technologically speaking (accesses etc). This way donation reception moves swiftly, Senthil is mainly processing Donation at the beginning (spike level expected).

Yanchen and Mrs. Hasagawa are helping with tour travel donations.

Vidya will offer help to Yanchen to present numbers.

Senthil is the overall chair SUSD overseeing band and orchestra.

Holt is eager to hear how all donation drives are going during next meeting. Typically little activity in the way of donations in August but they should pick up in September.

Directors' Reports

Michael Boitz: thanks all volunteers, especially Dave for allowing half zoom and in-person meeting.

The moment the kids walk on campus all start of school anxiety goes away. They finalized an awesome band camp, the kids were nervous but finally settled in.

All books are ready to hand to kids. Loves watching upperclassmen guide lower classmen.

Loves working with teenagers, makes him feel optimistic during these tough times.

360 people committed to touring to EU.

Elizabeth Nitzan will be the Choir director, teaching one section of Orchestra and teach a music theory class

Elizabeth Nitzan: Echoes the excitement of Mr. Boitz. Experienced for students

Jason Shiuan: it felt weird starting the motors again in the band camp in Saratoga Springs.

Great seeing different personalities and the fun they had. There is definite hope for the future.

Isabel McPherson: MESH (high school students) mentors offered summer camp to redwood middle school students. Met MESH mentors for orchestra today.

Beginning music option for elementary school will start rolling

Jon Jow: Seeing real live kids was wonderful, seeing kids that they haven't seen since 5th grade. I want to help them out of their bubble after so much zoom.

Working with district to incorporate orchestra during school time

After school activities are pending district direction.

Eager to hear children play all together

Children will be able to choose band/orchestra to play in school day for fifth grade. This is the first time for both options.

August 2021

- We had our first day of schedule pickup today. It was energizing to see so many students in person today, say hello, and answer questions of families.
- Beginning orchestra has a foot in the door during the school day! Isabel and myself will be teaching a "Beginning Instrumental Music Exploratory" option for 5th grade music time. We are also supposed to be working with the district on exploring more beginning instrumental music options for next school year.
- Extracurricular activities (including music) are currently restricted at Redwood (before/after-school rehearsals, field trips, performances, etc.). We have been told, however, that there will be some more information and updates announced by SUSD in the next couple of days.

Dave Holt: asks that SUSD directors will need to present a proposed budget for the 5th grade initiative

Isabel McPerson: The first full week of school is the first time 5th graders are presented with the music options.... So next board meeting there will be an update with how things are going.

Dave Holt: Suggests to try and get the list of instruments ASAP because supply chains are very stressed, so if we have a number of instruments or \$ that will help. Sept board meeting is the goal.

Michael Boitz: affirms the leading instrument brands are backed up 5-6 months

Dave Holt: Do we have band instruments for 5th grade band

Isabel : yes we do

Dave Holt: so probably start with Band to mitigate the delay of orchestra instruments

Dave Holt: try and plan out the operational year through smart goal, to create a road map and plan the year. Please fill out the form on Smart goals.

Cecile Jonathan-Cohen: asks for performance dates

Holt: Says there should be a schedule on SMB website, so all liaisons should check that or reach out to your directors

Michael Boitz: suggests to meet up with liaisons of their respective schools and music program

Dave Holt: Work flows: the good news is there are more volunteers, that means it is necessary that ppl get together to ensure nothing gets dropped by mistake. Figure out how we are going to share how everything gets done so that nothing is omitted or gets dropped.

Financials for 2021-2022

Present by Revathi Koteeswaran

Revathi: We will see the budget numbers as presented by directors and its approval and see how the year will end up.

Please ignore the first column as those are last year's numbers.
Focus and the middle two columns

There is a placeholder for the international trip, needs refinement of numbers as actual numbers are processed

We expect the trip to go on but if it does not happen then we will need to revisit because these numbers will not be refunded.

Vidya: Do we expect a zero number for when the program starts?

Revathi: those numbers are carryover... actually they are grants but they can be carry overs too

Dave Holt: Would it be better to change the column name to grant instead of carry-over?

Revathi: Yes I will talk with Sam to see what we do

Vidya: My fundraising accounting and your finances accounting Rev should be a perfect match

Dave Holt: suggests smaller group should meet together to finalize accounting terminologies agreements between finances, treasury and fundraising along with directors and persons of interest.

Would like to establish a date to finally bring last year's finances to a close by the next September meeting.

Revathi: proposes next weekend to meet up with interested parties for finances

Meeting was adjourned by Dave Holt at 8:30pm. Next meeting in September, date TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Dimock
Co-Recording Secretary