

Saratoga Music Boosters (SMB)

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

Regular Meeting in-person, March 14th, 2023: **Minutes**

Attendance: total number of attendees = 13

Executive Board

Dave Holt President	Alicia de Fuentes Recording Secretary	Senthil Krishnamurthy VP of Donations	Cecile Cohen-Jonathan Parliamentarian
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Music Directors

Isabel McPherson RMS	Jon Jow RMS	Jason Shiuan SHS	Beth Nitzan RMS Choir/SHS	Michael Boitz SHS
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Booster Members

Mrudula Prashant Sameer Vaidya Arnita Proffitt Dongni Chen

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

February Meeting Minutes presented by Dave Holt

Dave Holt asks all present if there are any comments regarding the minutes. No comments are made, then he asks for a motion to approve the February minutes as submitted.

Arnita Proffitt motioned for the approval of the minutes, Senthil Krishnamurthy seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

March Financial and Disbursements (Review/Approval) presented by Dave Holt on behalf of Tim Tang

Tim Tang is in China and will stay for an extended period of time. So cheques, printer and cables are with Dave Holt.

Dave Holt will take care of cheques and Tim Tang will work remotely online.

Tim Tang has spread the risk so that we are 100% covered even though Silicon Valley Bank fell.

Actuals vs Budget

We are doing well if we look at the big picture but we are under our expected fundraising for Winter Guard. If we pay razor focused attention some programs are short in funds. We are, overall, good with trip expenses.

Dave Holt: Any questions, if not, we are seeking a motion to approve the financials as presented along with the mentioned transactions?

Dave Holt : We are on target to meet our budget. But I did ask Jon Jow and Isabel McPherson to ask RMS parents again for donations.

After this next push we may even end up with a surplus.

Dave Holt: We have less than 250K in several accounts (5 accounts in total) and therefore we have spread out the risk.

Transactions

Recorded disbursements for March meeting are Bank of America cheques numbered 1093 through to 1110.

We are seeking the approval of Bank of America cheques numbered 1093 through to 1110 as well as the presentation of our March financial report. Thank you Tim Tang even though you are overseas.

Alicia de Fuentes motioned to approve, Cecile Cohen-Jonathan seconded Motion passed unanimously.

Bank Account Totals, Tax Return Approval presented by Dave Holt on behalf of Tim Tang

Richard Aochi who is our controller balanced everything out so our tax returns match.

Thanks Richard and he will continue next year as controller.

Alicia de Fuentes motioned to approve, Mrudula Prashant seconded Motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising Update presented by Senthil Krishnamurthy

Dave Holt: Senthil Krishnamurthy the numbers you have and the numbers Tim Tang has on the financials do not match. You guys are going to have to sort that out.

Senthil Krishnamurthy: The first column is basically tracked as a suggested amount. The second column is what we have collected from families so far. It is different from the budgeted program and there we have budgeted to expect a 90% donation rate.

Senthil Krishnamurthy: We were looking at the difference and know it is due to corporate matching. There is currently no way to tell in which bucket the received corporate matching is to go because corporate matchings have their own portals.

Jason Shiuan: Is there a way to indicate on the form?

Senthil Krishnamurthy: We do get that information that comes from a check box but there is no way to correlate that transaction.

Dave Holt: I received corporate matching a year later. We have the same problem with Boy Scouts.

Dave Holt: Then, we will accept the presentation as is. I see the Benefactor as \$255,827 and it is actual.

Dave Holt: Good to know last year trips came in 100%. However, we need to educate RMS parents and have them understand that donations are important.

Isabel McPherson: What can we say?

Dave Holt: Make it clear to parents how SUSD funds the music program and show how SMB complements the program.

Isabel McPherson: I have 180 students and ½ of them are new to the music program. We will send out another reminder for donations.

Publicity Update presented by Dave Holt on behalf of Ruchi Joshi and Rashi Sanghi

Dave Holt: Here's the deal, we have two super rock stars. They will continue next year but they want two volunteers who will shadow them to learn how to promote performances, pancake breakfast, etc. Awesome job by these people.

Pancake Breakfast (PB) Planning presented by Mrudula Prashant

We were able to discuss the pancake breakfast requirements with the kitchen and ground supervisor. We were happy to see Paul Weir was still our SHS grounds supervisor.

Ticket sales are going live this week. Ticket prizes remain the same but we have raised raffle prices \$1. We are keeping sponsor a teacher so we may be requiring the help of music directors to distribute invitations to them once we have the final number.

Publicity will start decorating the grounds, downtown and street medians with their banners and fliers.

We would really appreciate the program on the sooner side so that we can start soliciting volunteers on the day of the event.

Jim Axiine may require us to buy an additional grill, if this is the case, we may need to request a little more budget. For the moment, we are not sure about this but we would like to raise awareness now.

If we need an extra grill can we request money later.

Cecile Cohen-Jonathan, would you like to mention the article that closed last week?

Cecile: The author of the article worked with the publisher to shorten it for the Saratoga Spotlight magazine. The article was written by Shannon Ma.

Mrudula: Lily Chow has hinted her intention to co-chair pancake breakfast next year and therefore we have invited her to start shadowing us.

With respect to the number of chairs on the nominating slate we really do not feel that 4 chairs are required, two is more than enough.

Also, let's remove the name of Vidya Chopra because she is missing in action. We reached out to her and there was radio silence. We do not know who this person is.

Donations are coming but very slowly as opposed to last year. Some businesses are unwilling even to entertain the thought.

Nomination Committee presented by Cecile Cohen-Jonathan

I sent an email to each person who did not reply to me in my first outreach to see whether they wished to continue in their same position or move to another. The sheet is updated with the people who are coming back, and I will need Jon Jow and Isabel McPherson's help because people are asking to understand the time commitments for all liaisons.

Dave Holt: We need to find 5th grade parents but it won't happen till next year. There are a lot of positions open on the executive board. Senthil Krishnamurthy has had enough serving on donations. We need to work on all of these.

Alicia de Fuentes to Cecile Cohen-Jonathan: We have 2-3 executive board positions that need to be filled sooner rather than later. Someone said they were interested in serving as SMB President - and if this person follows through then Mrudula Prashant and I would be respectively VP of Donations Treasurer. So, Cecile Cohen-Jonathan, are you willing to be SMB President as indicated by your intent to do so and recorded in past minutes? Cecile says she is honored for the trust and needs to think about it. Alicia de Fuentes said we need to sort it out before Pancake Breakfast as we need to build the team over the next 3 months.

Dave Holt: The next three months are crucial to fill the positions.

Sameer Vaidya: What is the role of Band/Marching Band liaisons?

Jason Shiuan: They are the gofers for the music directors.

Dongni Chen: The chaperone side for the marching band already have shadows.

Sameer's wife needs to look for a shadow as she is graduating out this year.

Sameer Vaidya: Thank you, the distinction between band liaison and MB liaison is now clear.

Cecile Cohen-Jonathan: Chita Nandula is a mother of an 8th grader and has a daughter in band.

Sameer Vaidya: A lady would like to check-in her volunteer hours for her company. What does this mean?

Dave Holt: The company sends money to the entity you are volunteering for.

Additional Funding Request for SHS presented by Jason Shiuan

1. Amo Brass Residency & Side-by-Side Concert: one of our former marching band coaches, Vivi Kung is now part of a professional brass

quintet. Vivi grew up in the Bay Area, earned her tuba performance degree and continued for a masters at Yale. She also marched for Blue Devils and is a great inspiration for many of our brass players because she carved her own path against the “Silicon Valley grain”. Vivi recently reached out as she is interested in doing a Residency right before Spring Break which would involve superclasses, clinics, presentations, private lessons and culminate in a Side-by-Side Concert (very much like the Chamber Music By the Bay that we had for orchestra). For the week long event, they are only asking for assistance to cover travel costs: \$2000

2. New Horn: If there are ample funds. I’m also hoping to purchase a new horn. A good problem to have..... our numbers in the horn section are slowly growing, and I’m anticipating we will need another horn in our inventory, The request for this is \$5000.

Arnita Proffitt motioned to approve, Sameer Vaidya seconded
Motion passed unanimously.

Directors’ Reports

Jon Jow: Tweaking MOU to present to SUSD to ensure there is no conflict between working expectations and define clear roles.

For band, we have also been able to add a new trumpet and clarinet coach to our slate of walk-on music staff as of last month! We’re grateful to have the expertise of Tracey Hurley (trumpet) and Tennessee O’Hanlon (clarinet) working with our band students now.

We had a fantastic return trip to Disney with three excellent workshops and three great performances. Many thanks to all of our volunteers, chaperones, and staff for making this a reality for our students this year. Apparently the chaperones had some issues but they didn’t share them with us until after the trip, so that was great.

RMS Choir was able to join the SHS March Choir Concert last week and were able to give a live “recap” of some of our Disney performance music. Thanks to Ms. Nitzan for organizing us and guiding our students to another successful performance.

We're looking forward to another year of CMEA at Saratoga High School. This year we're bringing our Advanced and Chamber orchestras, as well as both 7th Grade Band and 8th Grade Band.

Dave Holt: Some feedback I received from your Disney Trip when I attended the SUSD superintendent's advisory meeting, the SEF president said you guys were awesome.

Isabel McPherson:

For CASMEC All-state held February 16th till 19th: It was nice to see people I knew and catch up with them and learn something too, as well as support my students. I had a chance to see one of the kids make concertmaster. It was a great learning opportunity for all.

Then I have the San Francisco Winter Bass Bash coming up on March 19th followed by CMEA Band/Orchestra on March 24th- 25th,

Michale Boitz:

March 15th is our SHS Orchestra March Concert where Ms Nitzan will be our surprise solo singer.

Beth Nitzan:

Disney tour was fantastic as Jon Jow has planned everything so well. I had to do nothing, so Jon, I'll travel with you any time. A mum told me how these experiences open their child's mind.

For our March 9th SHS Choir March Concert we had intrumentalists participate with us.

On March 10th we had the SJSU Choral Invitational where we got to work with an adjudicator there.

On March 14th right after school we had our Los Gatos Choir Exchange and this allowed us to get to know each other a bit. Dave Holt: Their music booster is still very embryonic so I will help them along.

Jason Shiuan:

On March 4th CCGC Competition at Fremont our team got second.

On March 4th our WP A and WP Open went to NCPA Show 2 American Canyon High School where WP Open got 1st place with a higher score than last year's end of year championship.

March 11th till March 13th WG Mini-Tour SoCal The organizers were so welcoming and they took 2nd. The first place was won by a very strong guard and our team was just a few points short. Sunday they had a dance master class.

Arnita Proffitt: the instructor was excellent and connected with the kids and was calling them out in a positive way. Really trying to get them all out of their comfort zone teaching them not to be afraid of making a mistake. A part of what he did to illustrate it was to perform something long and quickly on purpose. So the kids imitated, and of course they made a mistake, then the instructor asked them how they felt and the kids said they were scared to make a mistake and make a fool of themselves, and the instructor said, 'who cares?'.

Other Business:

Cecile Cohen-Jonathan: Will RMS have CG?

Jon Jow: Color guard for next year needs to be defined.

Cecile Cohen-Jonathan: Will you be able to teach elementary schools given the number of kids you will have in RMS?

Jon Jow: The program is growing and we need more support whether it takes the shape of more personnel is yet to be defined.

Dave Holt: 68K has to be used for prop 28 and maybe we can use some of those funds since we are going to teach at elementary.

Arnita Proffitt: A SHS CG parent also has an 8th grader at RMS and she says there are a dozen kids who would like to do it. Wondering whether we can do a workshop on the weekends with the kids? I asked her if she knew the parents.

Jon Jow: It seems like we can organize workshops just like the sports boosters do.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm

Summary of Motions

Approval of February Minutes

Arnita Proffitt moves, Senthil Krishnamurthy seconds: motion carries.

February Financials and Disbursements

Alicia de Fuentes moves, Cecile Cohen-Jonathan seconds: motion carries.

Bank Account Totals, Tax Return Approval

Alicia de Fuentes motions, Mrudula Prashant seconds: motion carries.

Additional Funding Request for SHS

Arbitrary Proffitt motions, Sameer Vaidya seconds: motion carries.

Alicia de Fuentes

Recording Secretary