

## **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, November 8th, 2022: **Minutes**

Attendance: total number of attendees = 15

### **Executive Board**

Dave Holt <b>President</b>	Alicia de Fuentes <b>Recording Secretary</b>	Tim Tang <b>Accounts Receivable/Treasurer</b>	Vidya & Senthil Vineet Krishnamurthy <b>CO-VPs of Donations</b>
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### **Music Directors**

Isabel McPherson <b>RMS</b>	Jon Jow <b>RMS</b>	Sean Clark <b>SHS</b>	Beth Nitzan <b>RMS Choir/SHS</b>
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### **Booster Members**

Lily Chow Ramya Vasu Rashi Sanghi Arnita Proffitt Takako Hasegawa Sameer Vaidya

Dave Holt calls the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

### **October 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 October minutes as submitted.

Arnita Proffitt motions for the approval of the minutes, Tim Tang seconds.  
Motion passes unanimously.

### **Discuss & Approve End of October Financials** presented by Tim Tang

Our funding rates are significantly improved as reported in this October meeting, currently we are at 85% on SHS band donations and 74% on SHS orchestra donations.

All donations are estimated to reach 90% for all offered programs.

Ms Hasegawa: We are a little bit behind.

Beth Nitzan: Do we have the information on who have donated?

Dave Holt: The good news Beth is that 91% of SHS choir students have already contributed.

Beth Nitzan: Yay.

Dave Holt: Benefactors are ahead of schedule, matching donations are also ahead from last year.

Tim Tang: The rule is - the money comes into the program first and when the matching comes in and overflows the program bucket then the overflow amount goes to the Matching Donation rubric which is part of the general fund, as is the benefactor.

K-8 in redwood marching band:

Jon Jow: I have a pile of cheques under my computer but the district has yet to confirm the winter percussion at the middle school.

Dave Holt: Do you want to ask the families what they want to do? If there are cheques we should process them ASAP.

Tim Tang: Who processes the cheques?

Vidya Vineet: The pick up used to go through Senthil Krishnamurthy, then Senthil Krishnamurthy passes to Nicole Chang but ultimately Nicole Chang processes them.

Jon Jow: Normally I press for donations when the program is in place.

Isabel McPherson: The instrument and coaches have helped to motivate the donations as they see the benefit of the people we are bringing in.

Dave Holt: I have a proposal for you guys, would you be ok with updating the budget with the donations you expect to be coming in. Also you can have the program grant for January.

Jon Jow: Yes

Dave Holt: Perfect.

Dave Holt: Revenue we are at \$1½ million. For expenses we are at about half of current revenue.

**Discuss & Approve Last Month's Disbursements** presented by Tim Tang  
Seeking the approval of cheque numbers 15285 through to and including 15327.

Dave Holt: Any motion to approve the transactions as presented?

Alicia de Fuentes motions to approve transactions as presented.

Senthil Krishnamurthy seconds.

Motion passes unanimously

**Cookie Dough Update** presented by Lily Chow

We seem to have processed 942 orders, Meghana Palande is double checking everything. Ms Hasegawa sent out a request for volunteers.

Extending the deadline was good because sales skyrocketed.

I know someone has said to consider other vendors next time as there is flavour fatigue. Harmony's response time was very slow, I wanted the baked cookies for sampling and they only offered the dough. Baking 140 cookies ourselves was hard to manage.

Ramya Vasu: I have a request to do eggless options too next time.

Lily Chow: I have requested for gluten free options too.

Jon Jow: Dough-to-Go, have the same brochure and they have savoury options too.

Dave Holt: Lily Chow, you are heading the cookie dough, you are welcome to explore other vendors and bring it to the next meeting.

## **Review SHS Budget Requests**

### SHS Budget Request

- Jazz Band Commissions & Residency - \$9k
- Percussion Clinic - \$600
- Trailer Maintenance & Repair - \$3.5k
- Tuba/Sousaphone Complete flush & repair (12 instruments) - \$8.4k
- Winter Guard Program Grant - \$8k
- Winter Percussion Program Grant - \$11.35k

### **Trailer Maintenance:**

Tim Tang: This is the initial cost of repairing the trailer. During our last competition I picked at a volunteer's husband's brain, who happens to own a trucking and trailer business so he knows about repairs. So, as he drove our trailer to the last competition for the marching band season he observed that our trailer is a heavy duty trailer and it is more than what we use it for. He says if you sell the trailer and get a medium duty trailer brand new, it will be a wash. If we were to get into the maintenance of our trailer, he says we would need to switch out all the lights on the trailer to lead and get rid of the generator and just run the power off of the truck so you don't need a generator. He is very concerned with the ramp door at the back. It is held by a garage door spring, so if it breaks it can crush someone, SO given his insight we are looking at all alternatives.

Ms. Hasegawa: What is heavy duty switching to medium mean?

Tim Tang: The one we have now has the potential to carry more than what we need. He says medium duty is more than enough. He asked if we checked the oil, etc.

Dave Holt: Sounds like everyone is ok for taking it off the budget for now until we have more info.

### **Winter Guard and Winter Percussion**

Sean Clark: The programs are in a really strong place, currently we are at 30-35 students for Winter Guard. If we have more, we can do a combined ensemble with Junior high and the high school.

56 people have signed up for Winter Percussion (the presented budget is what stands now). We know there is a lot of interest for now but the upcoming workshop will reveal more. Last year we had two groups, they will have their own directors, costume design etc. We need more trucks and budget as we want to consider team A as an integral part of winter percussion, so they too will have costumes, etc.

The ask for the programs is \$1,250 per student.

Dave Holt: Is Winter Percussion working in RMS? How are we on the director find?

Jon Jow: I spoke to Jason Shiuan yesterday and I have nothing definitive yet.

Vidya Vineet: Just as a comparison, our ask for Marching Band is \$1,350 per student and Winter Percussion is \$1,250, when compared to Marching Band it is high. I know that Rashi Sanghi and Ruchi Joshi could spotlight this growth.

Tim Tang: I wonder if students think that because Marching Band is over and they play brass for example they believe there is no other place for them and end up exploring something else?

Sean Clark: The culture has changed, and flexibility in scheduling has helped.

Rashi Sanghi: They are backed by other students from other music programs.

Vidya Vineet: Winter Percussion and Guard starts late November and ends early April.

Sean Clark: The big thinking is to keep the training year long from Marching Band. The percussion has been coming along really well.

Dave Holt: Colour guard did really well too.

Dave Holt: I would entertain a motion to pass the budget as presented.

Rashi Sanghi: Why do we need a program grant?

Sean Clark: We ask this to not balloon the price too much.

Dave Holt: The program grant is just a reallocation of general funds to maintain the program.

Sameer Vaidya motions to accept the Review of SHS Budget Requests noting that approval for the trailer maintenance is on hold till further research is completed  
Senthil Krishnamurthy seconds

Motion passes unanimously.

## **Summer Music Tour Retrospective Update**

Nothing to update from Alicia de Fuentes' end.

## **Directors' Reports**

**Jon Jow:** This month has been interesting, The 5th graders have received their first instruments. They are learning how to hold, care and assemble the instrument, as well as make their first sounds. They are obsessed with the little things like hearing the click when inserting the valve. The excitement is palpable! We're always cognizant of and grateful to SMB for allowing this to happen with the donation of these instruments for our students.

Thank you to those who advocated on behalf of the marching band and colour guard. Marching band was able to start meeting in the mornings two weeks ago. We will have a short time to prepare for the Los Gatos Parade but are looking forward to our 8th graders experiencing the activity, especially with Saratoga High School! Hopefully with such little time, we can have costumes, but if we don't have cleared volunteers to measure the kids then we will resort to wearing sweaters.

Colour guard is still a work in progress, as we are now searching for a teacher who would be able to work within our current parameters.

We are continuing to look at and explore spring field trip options and possibilities. The sign-ups expressing interest in an overnight trip was not overwhelming in terms of numbers or instrumentation, though we are considering options and will keep families posted on possibilities.

Redwood has (already!) begun to work on schedule offerings for next year. Finally, they intend on bringing choir into the school day but they don't want to have extra personnel. We will have more information on this as we approach the 2023-2024 school year.

Dave Holt: In the last Superintendent meeting they were bragging they have salaries that are competitive and they have the funds to do so.

Beth Nitzan: It is important to have the right instructor, because you want to keep the excitement. Perhaps we should be thinking of an intern who has the qualifications to do something exciting for choir.

Ramya Vasu: When it comes into the school day it becomes an elective meaning it becomes a choice among many and that is concerning because it competes with other electives, and who knows how choir will fare.

Jon Jow: Some kids will do after school because it fits better if it is after school, the benefit of bringing it into the school day is to understand the music education behind it.

Dave Holt: Is there any discussion of the block schedule?

Jon Jow: The great thing about block schedule is that it opened an 8 period schedule which would open an extra elective.

Dave Holt: Think about how to budget that for next year, I don't know if you will have someone come in for just one class.

Jon Jow: What if prop 28 passes?

Dave Holt: I was told today at the superintendent advisory meeting, it will bring \$1.5 - \$2 per student for our district.

Vidya Vineet: There seems to be a move to follow rules to prioritise and order how public schools are to be funded by the proposition if it passes. I feel the implementation and roll out is complicated. A similar messy start took place

with the funding of school supplies by the district at the start of the year. This initiative just came out in an email and then no-one in PTA knew what to do.

Beth Nitzan: I really think it is positive to have it in the school day.

Vidya Vineet: If we don't know the intent then Choir may be a guinea pig.

Ramya Vasu: I want to talk about the spring field trip. The first survey was general and the second one, you said the kids won't be performing. Is there a way we can have a performance?

Jon Jow: I started this process in September, I recorded the numbers and there wasn't much interest.

Vidya Vineet: Is there a conflict with all-state? Can we get another date?

Jon Jow: We would need to reapply?

Ramya Vasu: My other concern is will we do it again?

Jon Jow: It can be whenever I apply for it.

Dave Holt: I would like to use my presidential authority to move on.

Vidya Vineet: We need an intervention with SUSD.

Dave Holt: We can certainly talk about this with Steve Hamm in Spring for next year.

Vidya Vineet: There is just one trip for our music kids, just one and that's it, we must not become accustomed to losing and not fighting for traditional celebrations.

Jon Jow: The position from the district is 'Why would you teach Marching Band in the morning if you are not paid?', but then they turn around and say 'Disney has to happen', to which I explain that we are not paid for that either.

Upcoming events:

- Choir @ Tree Lighting: November 25
- Los Gatos Parade: December 3
- Choir Winter Concert: December 7
- Choir @ Celebration of Light: December 10
- Band Winter Concert: December 12
- Strings Winter Concert: December 16

**Isabel McPherson:** Shows a video of chamber orchestra kids playing music at lunch. Shows second video with Beginner (6th grade) orchestra saying they are working on dynamics and the kids were so excited to play the piece captured by the video. Next video shows them working on harmony using the song Baa Baa Black Sheep.

Having coaches has helped a lot to offer individual attention to those that need more help.

Dave Holt: Are we doing Mesh classes?

Jon Jow: Yes we are, they are doing private lessons now.

Dave Holt: That truly motivates the younger school.

Isabel McPherson: They high school kids have no idea how highly regarded they are.

Rashi Sanghi: We (Ruchi Joshi and I) had a request to have pictures. What we are trying to do is focus on Redwood as a whole. If we can get pictures that would be great.

**Beth Nitzan:** The RMS choir has 3 performances coming up very soon. In the McAfee their performance will be December 7th, with the high school Choir.

We had a fall showcase concert, 4 of our choir students went to work with San Jose state quartet festival, Scott Glisen from Cal Poly offered help and gave suggestions.

We have the regional honor choir starting next week, we have 7 students going down next weekend.

We are gearing up for performances and events.

**Sean Clark:** Marching Band came to an end in October with lots of competitions and football games, kids improved so much. Freshman and sophomore are very eager, maybe talent isn't there yet but it will grow with their enthusiasm.

Concert bands are getting ready with their repertoires.

Winter Percussion is starting and workshops are starting Monday, some kids are also preparing solos for all-state and working on big ensemble pieces.

**Ms. Hasegawa:** Thank you to SMB for helping with the kids' growth. The kids are like my grandchildren and the teachers are like my kids. So thank you for your continued support to the music program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

### **Summary of Motions**

Approval of October Minutes

Arnita Proffitt moves, Tim Tang seconds: motion carries.

Discuss & Approve Last Month's Disbursements

Alicia de Fuentes moves, Senthil Krishnamurthy seconds: motion carries.

Review SHS Budget Requests

Sameer Vaidya motions noting approval for the trailer maintenance is on hold Senthil Krishnamurthy seconds: motion carries.

Submitted by,

Alicia de Fuentes  
Recording Secretary