

SMB:

SARATOGA MUSIC BOOSTERS

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

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Regular Meeting in-person on June 11th, 2024, for 02 Hours 19 Minutes

Attendance: total number of attendees = 15

Attendees

Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President / Pancake Breakfast Co-Chair
Mrudula Prashant	Co-VP Donations / Pancake Breakfast Co-Chair
Bharti Ramaswamy	Co-Recording Secretary
Revathi Koteeswaran	(outgoing) Treasurer
Sneha Melkote	(incoming) Treasurer

Music Directors

Name	School
Michael Boitz	SHS
Beth Nitzan	SHS
Jason Shiuan	SHS
Takako Hasegawa	SHS
Jon Jow	RMS
Isabel McPherson	RMS

Booster Members

Name	Role
Richard Aochi	Controller
Dongni Chen	SHS Band Liaison
Oliver Su	Student Webmaster
Joshua Zhang	Student Webmaster

Alicia calls the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

May Meeting Minutes Approval

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: Thank you for coming to the last meeting of the year. Appreciate everyone’s efforts – teachers, staff and student volunteers. I really love this org – when I see the results, it gives such joy. Especially the directors – cannot do this without you. Student volunteers – thank you!

Does anybody have anything to comment on with respect to the main minutes - questions, concerns?
 Shall we pass a motion for someone to approve?

Rev makes the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by **Dongni**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

May 2024 Financials

(Presented by Rev Koteeswaran)

Rev: Okay - we had to redo some of this because of some issues in May, because I was traveling a lot. There was an issue with a large check that got deposited. 8 checks bounced before we could put in the funds. 5 of them were redeposited, which is great. However, Quick Books did not know how to deal with it. I just figured it out 10 minutes ago. I still don't know how to fix it but will get some help. I will show you (Richard) later. It was a 180k discrepancy.

Sneha: Call the Quick Books people. If the balance is very low, it sends you a notification. There is a fix from Quick Books.


Rev: That's what needs to happen. I tried something but made it worse.

Sneha: It is a one-day effort, not something quick.

Rev: So, the other 3 checks we had to reissue and put it in the system. So, we should be ok. It is all in the system now.

With respect to the numbers themselves, I knew it was going to be wrong. Overall numbers are correct, the buckets are not right.

Cash Flow

 Saratoga Music Boosters Cash Flow 05/31/24					23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24
Name	Actual Carryover	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	23-24 Actual	23-24 Carryforward 2023-24	23-24 Budgeted Income	23-24 Budgeted Expenses	23-24 Projected \$
SHS Band	43,444	234,469	289,082	(11,169)	43,444	254,370	278,539	19,275
SHS Concert Band	0		12,064	(12,064)	0		11,275	(11,275)
SHS Jazz Band	0		6,840	(6,840)	0		8,000	(8,000)
SHS Winter Guard	8,000	18,528	25,364	1,164	8,000	22,000	32,095	(2,095)
SHS Winter Percussion	10,000	115,390	89,253	36,137	10,000	87,630	80,500	17,130
SHS Orchestra	0	90,508	109,062	(18,554)	0	101,380	101,352	28
SHS Choir	16,575	15,200	30,900	875	16,575	18,000	34,575	0
SHS Band Trip(CASMEC)		22,615	26,694	(4,079)		27,995	27,990	5
SHS Orchestra Trip		140,069	148,324	(8,255)				0
SHS Choir Trip		51,153	48,507	2,647		36,000	36,000	0
SHS WP Trip		222,622	105,541	117,081		77,000	104,024	(27,024) [1]
SHS WG Trip		475	0	475				0
SHS International Trip		0	0	0				0
SHS Totals	78,019	911,029	891,630	97,418	78,019	624,375	714,350	(11,956)
Redwood Marching Band	0	20,999 [2]	3,855	17,143	0	17,500	17,400	100
Redwood Ensemble	150	27,915	33,550	(5,485)	150	47,850	48,000	0
Redwood Upper Strings	0	20,745	32,926	(12,181)	0	30,745	30,600	145
RMS Color Guard	5,500	4,230	3,995	5,735	5,500	4,200	9,700	0
Redwood Chorus	9,625	1,050	167	10,508	9,625	7,700	17,325	0
RMS Trip/Tour	0	179,434	168,532	10,901	0	130,000	130,000	0
Redwood Total	15,275	254,372	243,027	26,621	15,275	237,995	253,025	245
5th Grade Band	0			0	0	11,220	10,500	720
Elementary Total	0	0	0	0	0	11,220	10,500	720
Total Redwood+Elem	15,275	254,372	243,027	26,621	15,275	249,215	263,525	965

Rev: The SHS Winter Percussion trip shows an actual income of 222k, not sure that is right.

Jason: We were confused with this amount as well.

Rev: Will investigate it and fix it if necessary. Sometimes Quick Books gets smart and automatically does things. I will fix that.

On the RMS Trip, the 179k actual income also does not seem to be correct.

Jon: Sounds about right to me.

Rev: Rest of it looks good, honestly.

Cookie Dough Sales		30,330	18,318	12,012		28,000	20,000	8,000
Jazz Cabaret		0		0				0
Misc Fundraising				0		0	0	0
Pancake Breakfast		59,230	3,000	56,230		34,000	17,500	16,500
Spirit Sales		1,690		1,690		0	0	0
Website and Publicity			123	(123)		0	3,000	(3,000)
Bank Interest/Charges/Sale		4,705	23	4,683		700	1,000	(300)
Benefactors/Matching/NonCash		227,739		227,739		120,000	0	120,000
Admin			14,563	(14,563)		0	19,000	(19,000)
Credit Card Fees			10,721	(10,721)		0	8,000	(8,000)
Other		25,508 [3]	7,275	18,233		0	7,000	(7,000)
SMB Unrestricted Funds		349,203	54,024	295,179		182,700	75,500	107,200
Unallocated	367,398			367,398	367,398	0	0	367,398
Program Wishlist			328,614 [4]	(328,614)		0	359,820	(359,820)
WP Instrument Fundraiser	0			0	0	0	0	0
Allen Orchestra Scholarship	2,875		200	2,675	2,875	0	200	2,675
Rowland Schwab	500		500	0	500	0	500	0
Southgate-Johnson Scholarship	10,000		1,000	9,000	10,000		2,000	
SHS Uniforms	109,199			109,199	109,199	0	0	109,199
RMS Uniforms	72,972			72,972	72,972	0	0	72,972
SHS Orchestra Commission	7,700			7,700	7,700	0	0	7,700
SHS Donations	0			0	0	0	0	0
Designated Instrument Reserve*	0			0	0	0	0	0
SHS Percussion Donations	0			0	0	0	0	0
SMB Scholarship	50,000			50,000	50,000	0	0	50,000
SMB Restricted	620,644	0	330,314	290,330	620,644	0	362,520	250,124
SMB Totals	620,644	349,203	384,338	585,509	620,644	182,700	438,020	357,324
Current Totals	713,938	1,514,604	1,518,994	709,548	713,938	1,056,290	1,415,895	346,333
SHS Trip Accruals		0	0	0				0
RMS Trip Accruals								
Grand Totals	713,938	1,514,604	1,518,994	709,548	713,938	1,056,290	1,415,895	346,333
			Net Revenue	(4,390.07)				

Rev: Pancake breakfast expenses haven't been updated yet, I have yet to process all the checks. Some of them I have approved, but the actual amounts will not be reflected until June.

The income for "Other" shows 25k, which is okay.

Approval of May 2024 Transactions

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Check number 1069 was missing at the last meeting.

Rev: Printer has to go backwards, and I counted it wrong. One check got left out at the last meeting.

Because we crossed the monthly border, we missed it.

Alicia: I am glad we caught it, but we didn't have to put a stop-check. We need to approve transactions numbers 1069, and then 1087 through 1134. Do I hear a motion to approve? Any questions?

Dongni makes the motion to approve the May 2024 transaction, seconded by **Mrudula**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2024-25 SUSD Music Program Budget

(presented by Jon Jow)

Saratoga Music Boosters		Working Area for Budget 24-25		
Account	Budget Revenue 24-25	Budget Expenses 24-25	Budget 24-25	Notes for Budget 24-25
4221 - Redwood Marching	17,160		17,160	54 musicians, 10 guard; 80% of 64 @ \$330 suggested contribution; budget adjusted based on contribution amounts; assumes Los G
5231 - Competition & Festival Fees			-	
5232 - Band Instructor Fees		7,500	(7,500)	Color Guard (\$3400, Sept.-Nov.), instructor stipends
5235 - Band Music			-	
5234 - Band Transportation		3,000	(3,000)	LG buses and truck (previously 4000, credit from previous year)
5237 - Uniform Reserve		-	-	0 @ \$25 reserve (reserve currently maxed)
5238 - Band Uniform Expense		5,000	(5,000)	\$1500 to consumables; \$2000 for cleaning, \$2000 for (potential) fitting help
5239 - Band Other		1,500	(1,500)	Snacks, miscellaneous trip items, etc.
RMS Marching Sub-Total	17,160	17,000	160	
4223 - Redwood Band Sectionals	64,600		64,600	(low 113 vs. high 237) 80% of 237 @ \$340 suggested contribution; budget adjusted based on contribution amounts
5251 - Participation Fees		1,000	(1,000)	CMEA
5252 - Ensemble Instructor Fees		59,500	(59,500)	Clinicians
5253 - Equipment		500	(500)	
5254 - Ensemble Other Expenses		3,500	(3,500)	Includes performance polos
RMS Ensembles Sub-Total	64,600	64,500	100	
4225 - Upper Strings	30,625		30,625	(low 128 vs. high 218) 80% of 218 @ \$175 suggested contribution; budget adjusted based on contribution amounts - bump to 300?
5262 - Upper Strings Instructor		47,000	(47,000)	Clinicians
5263 - Festival Fees		2,000	(2,000)	CMEA
5265 - Upper Strings Music		1,000	(1,000)	
5266 - Upper Strings Uniform Expenses		-	-	
5267 - Upper Strings Uniform Reserve		-	-	
5264 - Upper Strings Other		3,600	(3,600)	Includes performance polos
RMS Upper Strings Sub-Total	30,625	53,600	(22,975)	
4226 - Color Guard	2,800		2,800	80% of 10 @ \$350 suggested contribution; may change depending on interest of starting a preliminary winter guard program
4256 - Colorguard Uniform			-	
5257 - Instructor Fees		6,700	(6,700)	(not currently added: \$3500 (\$4060 with overhead) for assistant?)
5258 - Colorguard Expenses		1,000	(1,000)	
5256 - Colorguard Uniform		1,000	(1,000)	
RMS Spring Colorguard Sub-Total	2,800	8,700	(5,900)	Program Support \$5900
4229 - Chorus	7,700		7,700	80% of 25 @ \$385 suggested contribution
5221 - Instructor Fees		15,700	(15,700)	includes \$1000 for accompanist, instructor \$14700
5289 - Chorus Uniform Reserve			-	
5286 - Chorus Uniform Expense		625	(625)	25 shirts @ \$25
5287 - Chorus Other		1,000	(1,000)	
RMS Chorus Sub-Total	7,700	17,325	(9,625)	Program Support \$9625
4268 - RMS Spirit Wear			-	
5268 - RMS Spirit Wear Expenses			-	
4280 - CMEA			-	
5280 - CMEA Fees			-	
4272 - Redwood Band Donations			-	
4267 - Orchestra Trip			-	
5267 - Orchestra Trip Expense			-	
4291 - Band Trip	125,000		125,000	Disneyland/SoCal trip in February 2025
5281 - Band Trip		125,000	(125,000)	
RMS Misc Sub-Total	125,000	125,000	-	
4251 - 5th Grade Instrumental Music	11,220		11,220	85% of 120 @ \$110 suggested contribution
5291 - 5th Grade Transportation			-	
5292 - 5th Grade Instructor Fees		10,500	(10,500)	Clinician support
5293 - 5th Grade Other Expenses			-	
5294 - 5th Grade Books & Supplies			-	
5th Grade Band Sub-Total	11,220	10,500	720	
4252 - Primary Strings Income			-	folded into account 4251
5296 - Beg. Orch. Transportation			-	
5297 - Primary Strings Instructor Fees			-	
5298 - Primary Strings Other			-	
Primary Strings Sub-Total	-	-	-	
K-8 Total	259,105	296,625	(37,520)	

For the most part we were hoping to have more finalized numbers, but we don't. So, our estimates remain the same. One thing has changed since the last meeting is the budget for color guard. Still waiting to hear from Mr. Ramirez on Choir numbers for next year. One of our graduating seniors Angelique is offering to help with the Color Guard. She was volunteering pretty much all year and worked really well with the students and with the color guard instructor. We want to see if we can pull her in to work with those students.

If all goes well, we are hoping to start a Winter Percussion and Winter Guard program at RMS. The program grant increased just slightly for next year

Alicia: Does Angelique have to go through all the background checks?

Jon: Yes, she does.

Alicia: Do you expect the enrollment numbers to increase dramatically?

Jon: No, in fact they might decrease. We will know by the August meeting.

Alicia: To get you started for the next academic year, you will need this budget approved at this meeting. We will approve in principle; any amendments can be added later at the start of the year.

Jon: How about the RMS Winter Percussion budget? I believe I sent a separate one.

Alicia: Let me look it up.

Jon: Mr. Clark's really been helpful in finding instructional support at both RMS and SHS. It is smart to have some operating numbers. Will check with Mr. Clark once he is back. The idea is to bring RMS groups to a couple of SHS Winter Percussion concerts. This allows students who play other instruments to try out percussion instruments. We will need some equipment and uniforms for our students. Mr. Clark was smart about reusing some things from SHS which they may not need.

At the very bottom there's some plans for some fundraising similar to what the high school does. We want to request a \$5000 grant request from SMB to just offset some of those costs as well.

Alicia: Will be good to have the budget. Other questions to Mr. Jow? Concerns, suggestions?

Jon: There will definitely be some amendments, particularly in the elementary section. We cannot ask elementary schools for donations.

Isabel: It is not like an optional supplement; every 5th grader must be involved. Students must be allowed to use the instruments without the loan agreement. The aim is to not ask families for additional money at all. Ideally the school district should cover that.

Alicia: Will SUSD pay for repairs of all damaged instruments?

Jon: That's the plan, yes.

Isabel: There's going to be what ifs - replacements etc. I assume the district would pay for that. But SMB may be asked to pay to purchase the instruments.

Jon: These are the questions we will be asking them, but families will not be paying for instruments. That's the message from the SUSD superintendent.

Isabel: Getting kids setup on the instruments more efficiently – that is something we would like to get clarity on. I am sure that PTA is still putting out messages to get donations. If it is for general purposes, it should be ok.

Alicia: Any other questions? If not, may I please request a motion to approve the 2024-25 SUSD music budget?

Dongni makes the motion to approve the 2024-25 SUSD music program budget, seconded by **Mrudula**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Update to SMB Bylaws

Alicia: Unfortunately, we did not receive the document in time to allow the members to review it and comment on it during the meeting, we will skip this one and take it up at the next board meeting.

Approval of 2024-25 SHS Music Program Budget (minus Orchestra)

(presented by Jason Shiuan)

Jason: We have a single combined budget for SHS Band. We also have one for SHS Choir. We have placeholders for Winter Percussion and Winter Guard since they happen in the second half of the year. We get the final enrollment numbers at the end of 2024, and we present the budget to the board for approval. We are holding off on the SHS Orchestra budget, Mr. Boitz will talk about it.

SHS Marching Band enrollment is similar to last year. We have additional performances next year such as one at the SoFi Stadium in LA. This is the newest NFL stadium in the country. We got a slot to be able to perform. This is a highlight trip for the Marching Band and Color Guard this November. The trip cost will be higher than in the past. This will be a 2-night trip.

A bigger difference is in our staffing next year– ours is a growing and successful program. Our students benefit from this. They get better individual instruction. Thanks to Mr. Jow and Ms. McPherson for helping out.

Everything else in the budget is the same as in the past. Program support on marching band – cost of props, sheet music and travel. To help offset the cost to families, we are trying to keep it reasonable and closer to last year's.

As I mentioned earlier, there will be a longer travel and a big performance at the SoFi stadium. Hopefully this is not a big shock in terms of donations.

We estimate the cost per family to be \$1850, probably closer to \$1700.

For Concert Band and Jazz Band, not much has shifted for those two programs.

Michael: Marching Band is always the most expensive. There is the pageantry aspect, the staffing that it requires etc. Not just at our school, but at every school.

Alicia: 50k is the ask. We will raise the funds.

Jason: For SHS Choir, not much has changed with the budgets. All pretty much the same as in the past. Again, with Choir, our hope is not to discourage families from joining. Keeping the contribution request low, or around the same as before. Little incremental growth, not something out of the ordinary. \$16,570 is the request to keep the numbers close to what we have had in the past. Not to cut the program at its knees.

Alicia: Makes sense.

Jason: Then there are dummy budgets for Winter Percussion and Winter Guard – which are the same as last year. Winter Percussion will be going to the world championships in Dayton, Ohio in 2025. We will have to come back and redo the budget for that this fall.

Michael: Some news about SHS Orchestra – we applied to get into the [ASTA National Orchestra Festival](#) in Atlanta which will be held March 19-22, 2025. I knew that Atlanta would be a draw. There are some great music programs in high schools in suburban Atlanta. We did not realize how competitive this is. We found a few days back that we were accepted. The entire SHS Orchestra ensemble will be performing as one group. They have 2 full days of performance – Thursday and Friday. The award ceremony is on Friday night as well. If you were to win the category, you get to perform at the winter circle on Saturday.

Alicia: Doesn't matter if you win, it is good to be there.

Michael: We have made a tentative reservation at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Atlanta.

Our donation request for SHS Orchestra is similar to Winter Percussion. We will be inviting every Orchestra student to go. Do you think it is worthwhile to include academic year + trip expense in one donation? It might make requesting a corporate match easier.

Dongni: For corporate matching, sometimes you want to separate the items. If contribution is maxed out for that year, then we wait and ask again in January.

Michael: We will be near the Kentucky border for students who will make the national debate competition, just like this year. We will be flexible in working with those students.

We will have a budget ready and work with SMB to approve it by e-vote over the summer break.

Jason: We announced this at the last meeting – this event is similar to the Midwest Clinic, where our concert percussion ensemble was accepted to perform in December 2024. We were in Chicago just a few days ago for a directors' meeting. Unlike last year when we used World Projects to plan the trip, we are using an air vendor.

Michael: You can funnel the money through an air vendor, and that makes it much cleaner.

Jason: We are still working through some itinerary and budget things, which are still up in the air. Some deposits with the air vendor are due soon. We would like to request SMB to fund the deposit as we continue to work through this.

Michael: We have put down the worst-case scenario numbers. For instance, rentals could possibly go as high as \$10,000. Blue Devils really want Mr. Clark and Mr. Chavi to use their instruments; they want to sponsor us. Both Sean and Chavi worked with the Blue Devils A and B, so they are very well known. This is a very big deal actually, they just performed at the WBI world championships, then months later at the Midwest clinic – both very different genres. Sean is trying to tease that out with Scott Johnson, who is the director of percussion for Blue Devils.

We also have Northwestern University, who is willing to help us with the rehearsal space. They would charge a minimal amount. Renting the ballroom at the Marriott costs an arm and a leg. Also, for storage it is expensive – in the past we just rented another human room for instruments.

That kind of stuff we still have to tease out of the budget. But this is kind of the basic we always assume the highest cost it could be.

Alicia: If everything came out of pocket?

Michael: Yes, this still does not include any sponsorship that we may get. We have to wait until we have all of that. We are getting it a lot cheaper by not using a travel company or paying for a rental space but instead choosing to use a hotel room for storage. 10k deposit for air, hotel in prep for the Chicago trip. This is a deposit that students pay as their first payment. The National Orchestra Festival deposit is tiny. We are not requesting anything for that.

Alicia: Is 10k enough?

Michael: Yes. We can release the seats in September.

Alicia: Any reason the district would not approve these trips?

Michael: Cannot say. No idea

Alicia: Let's plan positively – have the money available if needed. We do not want the students to be stripped of the opportunity.

Michael: Principal Louie is super supportive, he said we are in this together. He is on equal footing with us.

Dongni: Are we going to send out a proposal for this trip?

Michael: Our proposal was not taken in the past

Dongni: People were confused at the board meeting. This is not an out of the country trip.

Michael: We need to ask when it is going to be, and recruit people to come to the board meeting. Appreciate the question.

Dongni: When do we have to pay 10k?

Michael: This is going to go to an air operator, so I want it to go through an official vendor. I also want to make sure that the vendor doesn't charge anything extra other than the flight taxes.

Alicia: Nonprofits can bypass the taxes.

Any other questions? If not, may I please request a motion to approve the 2024-25 SHS music budget, including the Marching Band, and the Concert Percussion trip budgets?

Mrudula makes the motion to approve the 2024-25 SHS music program budget (minus Orchestra), seconded by **Richard**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Booster Presidents' Meeting Update

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Let me share a letter drawn up by all the booster, club and PTSO president this weekend. The coming together of these leading community members was due to a change the district wishes to enforce when working with all school supporting organizations. They presented their proposal late in the school year where a thorough read through and understanding of the new ask was not possible in time to comply with the new requirements coming out of the district office for many of the organizations. Letter to LGSUHSD.pdf We have never ever had to do this. All booster presidents have signed this letter. We are waiting for a response.

The board might say – you did not apply, so you cannot support your school programs this year. If this position is taken, the community will notice the difference of benefiting from boosted support, and suddenly not have it because of the way district leadership leads without understanding the organizations that work closely with the schools for the direct benefit of the students, that is not going so well.

[Letter to LGSUHSD.pdf](#)

Dongni: I had a long discussion with them. If we are not complying with their demands, they can appoint another president to our board without getting a survey from the community.

Alicia: They cannot do that, we are an independent org, we have our bylaws. There is verbiage that protects us.

Dongni: For the meeting on June 18th what is the procedure? Can the board members approve without input from the community?

Alicia: We do not know; we do not understand the process because we have never had to do this. They do say you have to apply every year, but never enforced it. That is fine, they can say apply every year. But they cannot introduce new things without our consent. They are infringing on the rights of nonprofits.

Michael: School districts are governed by ed-code. It is this thick. However, tax law trumps ed code, that's the reality. People are giving their time, and their name and reputation is on the line. That is not very respectful to the parents who are doing so much. Our pancake breakfast was so successful, we have a wonderful and super-supportive parent group.

Alicia: We have to address this; it is a whole year thing.

Dongni: That's my question, can they do that on June 18th

Alicia: They can do that. But the 8 of us are holding the line. We will address it when we come back. Nothing is going to happen.

Dongni: People from speech and debate, for instance, are looking to work together with us.

Alicia: No one is saying break the law. If SMB was not here for you, how would it be?

Michael: We would just be punching the clock, and nothing more.

The CBO who is here – Ruben – he is very ambitious and very bright.

Alicia: Mr. Sanderson gave him very nice accolades today. I will keep you posted.

Dongni: You cannot use school facilities for meetings. We have to do all fundraising at the beginning of the school year. Students cannot raise money.

Michael: Don't worry about it, it is not going to happen.

Dongni: I am a little worried.

Jason: I have never seen all the booster org come together. There is a shared interest in making sure that this works out.

Alicia: We have the next steps in store.

Michael: The community needs to let them know that we should be thinking about what's next, what is the vision.

2024-25 SMB Brochure

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

[24-25 SMB -Music Benefactor form SHS 2024-25\(new\).pdf](#)

A big thank you to our incoming Publicity Lead Beryl Liu, for creating it.

SHS PTSO, Clubs and Booster Community Fundraiser

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

The vision is to start thinking about 2025. Get all boosters together and celebrate as a community and raise funds. I will have more updates in August.

Update from Meeting with SUSD Superintendent and RMS Principal

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia:

[2024.pdf](#)

Alicia: I had a meeting with SUSD Superintendent Ken Geisick and RMS Principal Steve Hamm. The summary of the meeting is in the above PDF file (2024.pdf). Steve said there are 213 children who signed up for music as their first elective choice.

Michael: If they put their name as the second choice, are they not letting them in music?

Isabel: Yes, if it is their second choice. You have first preference and second preference. First preference is guaranteed, but second isn't.

Alicia: There was also a mess up with the first choice and second choice, it appears some first elective choices for music were being recorded as second choices.

Alicia: Good news is, he said we have only 4 8th graders in choir. 3 of them continued, so we have 75% retention. I said pls talk to Jamal and make choir really interesting. I asked how they assign classes, did not get a clear answer.

We also discussed Prop-28, where are the funds going to? They are trying to find an aide who will timeshare between the arts programs. Not sure if they will find one in the next 3 years.

SUSD superintendents meeting – want to define guidelines for the boosters for next year.

That's the summary, the document has more details if anyone is interested.

Music Directors' Reports

Michael Boitz

First of all, compliments to the SHS Choir ensembles for the year end concert. It was magnificent – Beth got a lot of instrumentalists involved. Her teaching is very inspiring to me. We are not a huge choir, but she gets a good balance of singers. As an audience, you can feel the impact. She gets them all to sing together in unison, which is an accomplishment in itself. Rarely have I been to a concert like this. It was crazy good; I was in tears multiple times.

The variety of kids that soloed and performed at the yearend concert was staggering. The SHS Jazz concert was incredible. Freshmen who are still very shy but have outstanding music skills. That is how they celebrate with each other.

I did not get to go to the RMS concert – everyone was talking about the Orchestra at RMS. I haven't been at the podium for 2 months. It is perspective building for me. Mr. Shiuan is managing both SHS Band and Orchestra - It is like being air traffic controller for 2 airports at once.

Perspective building component – fantastic teaching going on from all my colleagues. This is what inspires me, it is a dream come true for me.

The whole parent community came together this year. At the Pancake breakfast – I thought of Vicky Wyan a lot. She was a tough cookie – she loved the program; she loved our community. She would be so proud – particularly of the 3 alums we have teaching.

Beth Nitzan

Thank you for the kind words, Michael. We have been able to present some amazing concerts in a short span. End of the year concerts are always special. Finished everything with choir. We had an exchange event with the Pomona College Glee Club, my alma mater. We had instrumental coordinators for the year end concert – I felt like I was working with professionals. Fabulous job – lucky to have the collaboration.

Our Choir will perform at the senior graduation – nice to have one last go with the seniors.

Jason Shiuan

Mr. Boitz covered a lot of the concerts. I would like to add that despite all the frustrating things that go on, it is amazing to see the happy faces at the concert. Makes you realize that this is the best. Job. Thank you to the parents for believing in us, thanks to the booster and to the parents who wholeheartedly give to the program.

Alicia: You guys lead the way.

Isabel McPherson

The end of year concert was after we last saw each other. I was slightly nervous, but really excited. It went really well – we had a wonderful finale. Had a positive end to the school year. We played a game with different challenges for different melodies that we had to figure out – it was nice to blow off steam after all the stress of the concert. Students arranged a performance piece – revealed the student at the end. Students were really inspired.

The past school year, Mr. Jow and I have been teaching intermediate band and orchestra together. I had requested for the two of us to go to the Bornoff Pedagogy Workshop, which is an online workshop. The Bornoff Pedagogy was developed by somebody who really wanted to make things more democratic during times when people could not afford to learn to play an instrument unless they could afford private lessons. I found that really helpful and wanted to take it a second time.

Two classes of beginning and two classes of intermediate levels happen at the same time. I am still being restricted to 4 periods – Jon will be teaching intermediate orchestra all by himself while I am in training. I will be there to help out and offer my advice if needed.

I am requesting \$450 from the board to attend the workshop. It is good to do something focused on the kids.

Alicia: May I request the board to approve the SMB grant to support Ms. McPherson to attend the Virtual Bornoff Pedagogy workshop?

Mrudula makes the motion to approve the SMB grant to support Ms. McPherson to attend the Bornoff Pedagogy workshop, seconded by **Rev.** May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Jon Jow

Spring concerts were all so uplifting and a fantastic way to celebrate the accomplishments from the past school year. Thank you to our community for supporting our students, as well as to SHS music staff and students for all of their help with our concert logistics. Everything went so smoothly!

Next year's music trip is scheduled for February 14-17. It will be brought to the school board for approval on Thursday. This trip is being planned for Advanced groups and higher (plus 8th graders in Intermediate) and will be planned yearly in order to allow all students who are involved in the music program in the regular "pathway" of involvement to still have the opportunity to travel by the time they leave Redwood. We are looking into other local field trip options for our Intermediate Groups.

SMB 50 Year Anniversary Gala Planning

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Thank you to the board for approving the budget at the May meeting. We have the check ready. Rev – I just need the account number to file it correctly. We will be able to secure the venue for the date. I can show what it looks like.

[ClubSportiva.MOV](#)

The plan is to project interviews during the gala event from community members who formed SMB during the last 50 years. 50 years of SMB history – it is important to learn from the past.

Update on District Sponsored International Travel

(presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

The future is unclear at the moment. There is a petition going around, if you haven't seen it let me know.

Dongni: Can we request a meeting with the district board and ask them what they really want?

Alicia: Tina and Robert had a meeting with Mr. Sanderson. Do you have the details, Mr. Boitz?

Michael: Not really.

Alicia: If the district believes the presence of a lawyer is required for an initial meeting, I propose we prepare to have the funds allocated to provide for a legal retainer ONLY if we should need it. I cannot imagine sending Mr. Boitz alone without a lawyer. The reason I say he goes in alone is because it appears the superintendent does not want to participate with SMB leadership, so it is important to send in a lawyer to support Mr. Boitz and SMB if this meeting is ever held.

Dongni: Can we have a parent representative?

Michael: I made a presentation to the law firm that they made us work with. A couple of other people were involved. The district does not want to hear what you as a parent have to say. I talked to Principal Greg Louie about this today. I would like us to retain a lawyer who has actually litigated similar cases. Santa Monica school district might be able to help but they will want a retainer, I am sure. I will ask Jason to accompany me. It is just a meeting, not committing to anything. We will make notes and come back later with feedback.

Alicia: I want everyone to think about this – we are navigating different times. You can see how united all the school organizations are in this effort. They are grateful that SMB is holding the line. We may lose, but the secret weapon is: our united community. Having a retainer might be a good thing, it is not necessary, but things are not as clear to me as they have been in the past.

Rev: I really support it. But lawyers are not cheap, so we have to think on that front and be prepared.

Richard: My concerns are also optics. We are getting parent donations, so how would it look if we are hiring an attorney? It is donor money.

Dongni: Boosters are facing the possibility of not functioning anymore.

Richard: I understand, but there are many people who are not engaged.

Michael: I agree with what you are saying.

Mrudula: If the board is hiring an attorney instead or using that money for the schools and teachers, then why not the boosters?

Michael: This can be something that we continue to have a dialog on.

Alicia: We are waiting for the next steps. My thought is – no rush to get a lawyer. You can go with Jason – take notes, bring it back. We can then take it slow - continue sending in International trip proposals and wait to see if the superintendent sends it for approval. Hopefully this does not end in potentially losing another year for the music ensembles' international travel.

Richard: This can be spun into a wrong interpretation of things.

Michael: I agree.

Dongni: Can you go with a few parents?

Michael: No, he won't meet with parents. No boosters, no parents – unless parents request to meet with him to discuss this issue.

Alicia:

SMB 2024-2025 Board Meeting Dates

Year 2024: starting at 6:30pm

13th. Aug., 10th. Sep., 08th Oct., 12th. Nov.

Year 2025:

14th. Jan., 11th. Feb., 11th. Mar., 15th. Apr., 13th. May, 10th. Jun.

We need to schedule SMB monthly meetings for the coming academic year. Does 6:30pm work for everybody?

Bharu: No, it will not work for me.

Alicia: I need the recording secretaries, so we will continue to have the meeting at 7pm.

Online Collaboration Tool

(presented by Bharti Ramaswamy)

Bharti: The proposal is to use an online collaboration tool to host the SMB meetings. The main advantage being that it offers the flexibility for people to attend remotely. I proposed Cisco WebEx because I use it regularly for work, but there are other tools available as well that we can explore.

The second advantage is that most of these tools support AI-generated meeting minutes, summary and action items in a very structured format. This reduces the chances of human errors. It also frees up the bandwidth of the recording secretaries to participate more actively in these meetings, as well as help in other ways. We would still go over the AI-generated minutes to edit out any sensitive content and fix any machine-errors.

Richard: I just wanted to get a sense of the internet bandwidth that would be required to support something like this. Would the bandwidth that we get in this room be sufficient to record audio and video?

Bharti: We will have to try it out. With Cisco WebEx, there's equipment that you can buy – you would have to install it in this room – it gives you a superior recording quality. But yes, even for that you need a minimum amount of bandwidth which I am not sure that we currently have. We will have to try this out.

Dongni: Would you envision that we will continue to have the live meeting, but only the people who cannot attend in person will attend online? Or is the proposal to make it exclusively online?

Bharti: The preference is still to meet in person. However, recording the meeting using an online tool has its benefits as I mentioned earlier. Of course, it will require some investment. There is a variety of subscription plans that we can choose from, and most of these offer non-profit discounts. Here is a sample comparison, just to give an idea.

Cisco Webex Up to 60% Non-profit discount	Zoom Up to 50% Non-profit discount	Google Meet Up to 75% Non-profit discount
<p>Webex Meet</p> <p>\$144 /license/year \$12/license/mo</p> <p>AI Assistant included</p> <p>Buy Now</p> <p>Everything listed in Webex Free, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI Assistant Meeting length up to 24 hrs Up to 200 attendees Advanced noise cancellation 10 GB cloud meeting recording Closed captions Cohost privileges Secure lobby to prevent uninvited guests Live polling and Q&A by Slide 	<p>Business 10-250 users</p> <p>\$18³² /month/user, billed annually or \$21.99 billed monthly</p> <p>Buy Now</p> <p>Everything in Pro, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 Participants per meeting Increase with Large Meeting Whiteboard Unlimited boards Scheduler Extras SSO, managed domains & more 	<p>Business Standard</p> <p>\$12 USD per user / month, 1 year commitment</p> <p>Start a trial</p> <p>Gemini add-on available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom and secure business email 150 participant video meetings + recording 2 TB pooled storage per user* Security and management controls Standard Support (paid upgrade to Enhanced Support)

Bharti: We can come back with numbers and comparisons if everyone is interested.

Richard: Is this equipment something that we could leave set up in the room? Alternatively, if we get a wireless hotspot can we not go through that device for the meeting?

Bharti: Yes, a wireless hotspot would probably address the bandwidth issue. But the equipment that I mentioned is more to enhance the video quality. It can zoom in on the person speaking so that we can know who said what when we refer to the meeting minutes.

Oliver: Google Workspace also has a ChatGPT AI-generated meeting notes, and I have heard that Microsoft also released the 365-copilot.

Richard: Are you thinking of making the link public to everybody?

Bharti: It is up to us; we could make the link public, then non-involved parents can also just join to check it out. Or we could make it a moderated meeting where the SMB president is the moderator and selectively lets people in.

Alicia: My concern is that this is our safe space, where everyone can express freely without any concerns. I want to preserve that, so I will definitely be looking who is joining.

Bharu, will this also make things easier for the recording secretaries?

Bharti: Oh yes, it will. Since the tool will be generating the meeting minutes, we will be able to participate better in the meeting rather than just typing the whole time. Writing meeting minutes is no longer a human job; AI does a pretty good job of it.

Alicia: Sounds great! We can discuss this further in August.

SMB Google Workspace

Oliver: Early in 2023 we received the Google workspace for non-profits Joshua administrates workspace for nonprofits. We are working on getting that setup. Joshua will set up the workspace and help us administrate it.

A graphic with a light blue background and a small orange and blue horizontal line at the top left. The text "SMB Google Workspace Accounts Transition" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

SMB Google Workspace Accounts Transition

Everyone gets their own email in the saratogamusicboosters.org domain. This will prevent phishing emails. We can flag those emails. We also get access to shared drives. We can set up Google groups so emails can be sent to the group rather than individual recipients. There will be a Calendar for SMB events. We get 2TB of storage space.

Summary of Motions

Approval of May SMB Meeting Minutes	Rev moves, Dongni seconds, motion carries.
Approval of May financials and transactions (1017-1068 and 1070-1086)	Dongni moves, Mrudula seconds, motion carries.
Approval of \$450 grant to Isabel McPherson to attend the workshop	Mrudula moves, Rev seconds, motion carries.

Approval of 2024-25 SUSD Music Program Budget	Dongni moves, Mrudula seconds, motion carries.
Approval of 2024-25 SHS Music Program Budget (minus Orchestra)	Mrudula moves, Richard seconds, motion carries.
Approval of SMB grant to support Ms. McPherson to attend the Bornoff Pedagogy workshop	Mrudula moves, Rev seconds, motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26pm.

Bharti Ramaswamy/ Nisha Hebbalae
Co-Recording Secretaries