

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 October 8, 2024

Attendance: total number of attendees = 40

Attendees

Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President
Tista Kapoor	Co-VP Donations
Ramya Vasu	Parliamentarian / SUSD & RMS Program Donations Chair
Bharti Ramaswamy	Co-Recording Secretary

Nisha Hebbalae	Co-Recording Secretary / Pancake Breakfast Co-Chair
Sneha Melkote	Treasurer/ Pancake Breakfast Treasurer

Music Directors

Name	School
Beth Nitzan	SHS
Jason Shiuan	SHS
Michael Boitz	SHS
Sean Clark	SHS
Jon Jow	RMS
Isabel McPherson	RMS
Jemal Ramirez	RMS

Booster Members

Name	Role
Richard Aochi	Controller
Joyce Koh-Fernandez	Publicity
Isabel Oh	Publicity
Beryl Liu	Publicity
Joshua Zhang	IT/Google Administrator
Oliver Su	Student Webmaster
Marcelo Cintra	SHS Orchestra
Emily Yi	RMS Band
Suzie Kim	RMS Orchestra
Gauri Bhagwat	Member
Nicholas Tsai	Member
Xi Chen	Member
Lillian Chen	Member
Zhongjon Qi	Member
Mahshid Mallehi	Member
Amanda W	Member
Tony Ng	Member
Jessie McBeth	Member
Haidong Kong	Member
Anand Nandula	Member
Lingling Sun	Member
Ben Wong	Member
Emmie Lo	Member
Sharon Chintarajah	Member
Lan Kan	Member
Min Zhao	Member
Sri Narasimhan	Member

Alicia calls the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Financials Update

(Presented by Sneha Melkote)

Documents are located at [Financials](#)

When we started the year, we started with the budgets based on estimates of enrollment numbers. Last month we had a couple of program updates, I wanted to check if the amount we have in reserves would change. If we need to redo our journal entry for the prior fiscal year. Nothing changed, very minor changes in the cash flow numbers.

Alicia: Why minor changes?

Sneha: Projected income and expenses were the same since they were based on estimates for revenue and expenses based on projected enrollment; now we have actual numbers, therefore a better outlook. Did not change the unallocated numbers.

Alicia: Do we approve the updates for the start of the year financials, or is it an fyi?

Sneha: It is an fyi. Didn't want to proceed without showing this to the board.

August Financials Update

Sneha: We did not present the August financials during the last meeting and therefore the board did not approve it. We will present the cashflow for August and September. We will present a Profit and Loss statement and Balance Sheet for September only since there are no updates for August. We already approved the transactions from August the last meeting, so we will review the transactions from September and approve them.

Alicia presented the gala budget already. We will have full numbers by November at the latest when the company matches for donations. Once we fulfilled the directors' wish lists for music instruments through SMB grants, our funds in reserve are currently at \$91K.

We have new programs this year. I wanted to create separate line items for the programs. There is confusion between Ms. Hasegawa, Nina and me as to what budget numbers the directors are using. Allocated amounts have to go to the correct line item, so the funds go to the program they are meant for. I will keep the directors posted on the updates I make to the budgets in the line items.

Alicia: Example is the winter trip budget, is this a good e.g.? This amount is \$650, some of the funds may have been allocated incorrectly.

Sneha: Yes. For online donations it is straightforward to enter the amount to the correct program. When a donation is made by a check, we have to enter that manually, so the person making the entry has to select the correct program. Having clear line items will remove any ambiguities and make it easier for the person making this entry.

Sneha: I want to verify if the ACH transaction to WorldStride went through. We got a \$53 charge when we canceled the transaction.

Beth: I'll follow up, the invoice shows that it has been paid.

Richard: Was that the 4k check?

Sneha: no, that was the bounced check. We were not charged for that.

Ramya: For RMS, are donations updated here?

Sneha: Tista and Mrudula have been working very hard. There are scripts they are working on. PayPal has been a little delayed. I got July transactions data from PayPal 2 days ago.

Ramya: Okay, that makes sense. Are we adding a line item for jazz?

Jon: Jazz band is included in ensembles, but this year we are doing it for free, since Mr. Nguyen is teaching it for free.

Alicia: But you do have checks on your side?

Jon: There are no paper checks, we have directed folks online. I need to update the RMS donations paper form. We have to update the Color Guard budget. Everyone has been pushed online as we approved budgets and determined the contribution amount for all the programs. Paper forms have not been updated yet to reflect the correct contribution amount.

Ramya: Explains why numbers are low.

Mahshid: Is the music staff paid by SMB?

Alicia: Staff is paid by the district, because they are employees of the district. SMB does not have employees.

Mahshid: Another question I have is about the pressure on the music directors to request parents for contributions. It is a lot of effort, and some parents cannot pay. So, do we cancel field trips if parents cannot all pay or does SMB step in?

Alicia: I need a concrete example.

Parent: For example, the SFO trip. It is not canceled, but if something like this has a shortage of contributions, can SMB step in?

Alicia: No child gets left behind, that is our philosophy. Of course, if some families cannot pay, SMB will step in and help. SMB does not turn their back on any family. But it is our duty to request parents and members for donations. Our budget is funded by contributions by parents and the community, and we can only function if we have that. Having said that we make sure that any trip that is planned, does go through, and we fund any shortfall in the budget. For example, even the international trip, which is at a significant cost, happened, and all the students who wanted to go were able to, with SMB funding those who could not contribute.

That said, SMB ONLY funds all the programs and field trips it approves. Trips approved OUTSIDE of SMB's jurisdiction is the responsibility of the schools or organizations hosting the event/trip. That means, if the school comes up short on its field trip funds, for example, then it is on the SCHOOL to take a position and not SMB or any other organization for that matter.

September Transactions Approval

TransactionListwithSplits.pdf

Alicia: To remind the new members why we review the transactions every month: we have to ensure that every check written by SMB is accounted for, including voided checks and that there are no gaps in transactions. Recording secretaries, we need confirmation from you that August transactions have been reported and approved correctly. Can you please remind the board what transactions were approved at the last meeting?

Bharti: In the September meeting, the board reviewed and approved August transactions 1174-1200.

Alicia: That matches the check numbers recorded in our spreadsheet, and for September we start with the next number, without a break. We circulated the transaction list before the meeting for the members to review. Are there any questions before we proceed with the vote? Can we have a motion to approve September transactions 1201-1238?

Nisha makes the motion to approve the September transactions 1201-1238, seconded by **Ramya**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Alicia: All our financials and the meeting minutes will be on our website for everyone to review.

RMS Band Instrument Wish List Grant Approval

West Valley Music

300 W El Camino Real
 Mountain View, CA 94040
 650-961-1566 650-961-6875 fax

Quote 2644

Date: 10/4/2024

Attention: Jon Jow

Customer: Redwood Middle School

Ship To:

Address: 13925 Fruitvale Ave

Company:

City: Saratoga

Address:

State: CA

Zip:

City:

State:

Zip:

Item #	Description	Qty	Price	Amount
	Yamaha YCL-221 bass clarinet	3	2,325.00	6,975.00
	Yamaha YSL-200 trombone	5	620.00	3,100.00
Terms: Net 30		Subtotal:		10,075.00
Sales Tax Rate .09125		Sales Tax:		919.34
		Total		10,994.34

Jon: We have steadily reached a point where we have instruments for all the kids. We now have enough tubas thanks to the generous grant from SMB; this is the remaining item that we still need.

Nice thing about instruments is that they last a long time. We have instruments that have been here from before Ms. McPherson and I were students at RMS. Older instruments degrade over time and don't do so well with untrained musicians. We like to give our students good quality instruments, so they have the best experience with them. We like to request 3 bass clarinets and 5 additional trombones. We should be set for this year after this. SMB has invested a lot in instruments at the elementary and middle schools, which is fantastic, and we are very grateful for it. This request is based on our final numbers for the beginning band.

Alicia: Total comes to 10994.34. Any questions?

Ramya: Who is the vendor?

Alicia: West Valley Music. Again, let me reiterate that it is the SMB charter to make sure that every student has an instrument, and this board makes grants to ensure that we have sufficient numbers of instruments in all our programs to support our students. May I please request a motion to approve the SMB grant to fund the RMS band instrument wish list?

Suzie makes the motion to approve the SMB grant to fund the RMS band instrument wish list, seconded by **Ramya**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Ramya: What do we do with the old instruments?

Jon: We keep them around as temporary replacements for our students if their instrument breaks or needs repairs. Those that are beyond repair, go to our maintenance yard. The district does not discard them. We spend a lot of money repairing instruments, sometimes the cost of repair is too high to justify it, which is when we purchase new ones to replace them.

Alicia: If I want to exchange my current instrument for a bigger size, the vendor buys back my instrument and I purchase the new one from them. Can I do the same at school?

Jon: Last time I asked, I was told by the district that we do not sell. Some music programs in other schools don't have any instruments and would love to take some of the older instruments that we no longer use. But the district does not allow us to donate them either. We put them in storage and forget about them.

Alicia: I will find out more about this. What I can suggest is - if we support instrument exchange, it would help us monetarily.

Ramya: What happens to old instruments at SHS?

Jason: We hold onto most of them. There is a process to donate and sell. But we have to go through the school board, and it has to be approved by them before we can discard or sell.

Sean: We will need to do that with last year's Winter Percussion instruments. We will follow the process to determine what instruments can be given away as donation or sale.

Alicia: My recommendation is - if we sell it, the money comes back to the program that is selling it.

RMS Colour Guard Budget Adjustment Approval

4226 - Color Guard	6,545		6,545	80% of 21 @ \$385 suggested contribution = \$6545
4256 - Colorguard Uniform			-	
5257 - Instructor Fees		14,100	(14,100)	\$10022 plus \$4060 for assistant
5258 - Colorguard Expenses		1,500	(1,500)	
5256 - Colorguard Uniform		1,250	(1,250)	
RMS Spring Colorguard Sub-Total	6,545	16,850	(10,305)	Program Support \$10305

Jon: Color Guard is a new program, and numbers have changed since we submitted the budget for approval. We started the year with 25 kids, it seems the number has settled at 21 kids. I would like to adjust the budget to reflect the current enrollment. Since it is a small program, to be fair to the families, we have kept the contribution amount the same as other music programs and SMB will cover the difference in the form of a program grant.

Alicia: If a family member cannot pay, what happens? Can you please clarify this to our members?

Jon: We do not turn the student away. That is where SMB steps in.

Ramya: I would like to clarify that we have 21 students, and the requested contribution per student is \$385. SMB is supplementing the expenses which exceed the total contribution amount through a grant.

Alicia: Yes, SMB essentially supports all music programs through grants, since no program is funded 100% through donations and contributions alone. Any questions? May I request a motion to approve the RMS Color Guard Budget amendment?

Ramya makes the motion to approve the RMS Color Guard Budget amendment, seconded by **Suzie**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

Directors' Report

Jon Jow

- Thanks to SHS for such a fun evening at the football game! Our Advanced Band and Color Guard students had a great time, and enjoyed interacting with their high school counterparts and being a part of the event.
- Cookie Dough is off and running. Much appreciation to the parents who helped us get organized again. Students are excited about the (almost) full spread of cookie options.
- Our San Francisco Symphony Field Trip scheduled for November 1 is off and running! We'll have a little over 90 students who will see Coco performed with live music at Davies Symphony Hall.
- Disney trip planning is revving up as we get our SF Symphony trip underway. We'll have more updates in the next couple of meetings.

Alicia: Big thank you to Isabel for spreading the word on cookie dough - she got sample cookies at the movie night picnic. She started a wave, a movement 😊

Isabel Oh: They are delicious! Also, thanks to Mr. Jow and Ms. McPherson for their instruments. Students were in awe of getting to touch the teachers' instruments.

Jon: I have cookie dough that's 4-5 years old, and I am buying a couple of boxes this year.

Field trip update - SFO symphony is on Nov 1st. All going well.

Alicia: Was there any restriction to any family for this trip.

Jon: Only for those who didn't sign up by the deadline - because we had to buy the tickets. Limitation was due to timeline, and not due to willingness or ability to pay.

Alicia: What happens to kids who did not make the deadline?

Jon: They are put on a waitlist. If there is space available, then they get to go.

Alicia: How many are on the waitlist?

Jon: About 8 or 9. Along similar lines, Disney trips are revving up. I'll have more updates next month.

Ramya: Does instrument repair go through PowerSchool?

Jon: Yes, it is school equipment.

Ramya: The other thing is about the field trip. Few parents didn't know about this trip. The liaisons this time are not part of every grade level.

Alicia: You should be part of all grades. It is helpful.

Ramya: We were posting in the RMS music group, but not all parents were there, or some parents did not read it. We reminded them about the form and donations, but people did not react until after the deadline.

Alicia: I fully recommend that you become advocates for all the grades, because you are the liaison.

Jon: They can still go if they want, we share the seats where we are sitting. They can get their own tickets and show up.

Ramya: Next school year, are color guard students going to Disney?

Jon: We have to wait and see if we have a performance, and we need to apply. It is too early to say.

Isabel McPherson

First of all, thank you for the Gala! My parents were able to go, which is really nice. It was nice to see people from their era, and also meet some new people. It was fun to hear the students perform, and a rare opportunity for the directors to perform in front of you all. I really appreciate it.

Cookie dough sales are happening. These children are like - what if we charged them for delivery? They crack me up all the time 😊. I said, it is not a business opportunity. We love ingenuity!

With *Beginning* we are playing a different method book than before - focusing on patterns and bow skills on all strings.

With *Advanced* and *Chamber* children have been choosing pieces for the December concert. They are more engaged if they have a say in it, even though I have the final say.

Bass club has also started since the last time - so far we have enough kids to do each grade separately. 7 7th graders, 8 6th graders, 3 8th graders.

It was also my dog's birthday yesterday 😊

We had a good bond with *Beginners* last year, I don't interact much with them anymore (since they are in intermediate with Jon - we want to switch when we can).

The 5th graders got instruments, and they started to play them.

Alicia: Do we ask for any contributions for 5th grade?

Isabel: No, we do not. We are estimating a budget for repairs, but the instruments are fairly new.

Jemal Ramirez

It is hard to follow after those two 😊. So yes, my name is Jemal Ramirez, for the record.

We are off to a pretty good start I would say. I primarily work with beginners at Redwood, which is a little bit different than it has been in the past. I am getting used to it, and I am embracing it.

We have Percussion 1st period. We have about 18 students this year. We have been playing through the beginning band book. Kids are doing fine, working on practice pads and belkits, making sure they pull the sticks the right way, and making sure they understand how to take proper care of equipment. Being in percussion is all about making adjustments to the equipment, knowing where and how to store it.

All going fine, we did 3 playing tests so far. All doing well so far. And then first we will perform with the *Beginning* band in December, a couple times in May - end of May probably with percussion. We kind of know what to expect, we did this last year, and are following the same formula. We are making it a little more kid friendly.

I had high aspirations for having some kind of a beginner percussion ensemble. It kind of worked out that way, but trying to make the Beginning band better prepared for Mr. Jow. I am seeing how well I prepared the current Intermediate kids, and when I listen to them I feel - yeah, I probably could have worked on that more. Some things that they worked on, they may not see in the real world for a while - like specific key areas and things like that. So trying to embrace the beginning method and pace.

The 2nd period is choir, about 30 kids which is the same as last year, maybe a few more. Some of them have come back, and some are 6th graders who really like to sing. I am not asking people to sing nearly as much. They are all ready to sing. Ms. McPherson did a survey on what they would like to perform - most of them chose a pink zebra. I did not know who the pink zebra was, so I had to ask Mr. Jow - it was Beth.

If they have some say, it makes it a little bit easier. I am at that age where I am a little easy on the repertoire, as long as we are getting the right skill sets.

3rd period is Beginning band. It is a slightly smaller section than last year. I think Mr. Jow has more in his section. I think they are doing really well - a little bit of cheek puffing, making sure they are holding the instrument the right way and making good sounds. We played Hot cross buns last Friday for a test. This Friday we are doing a test online using the MakeMusic Cloud. Mr. Jow gave us a lesson on that today. I think the kids will practice more at home, using the computer to guide them.
That's it for now.

Alicia: The school took orchestra kids to the SFO symphony. Do you plan on doing something as well?

Ramirez: For Choir I did a survey - they are definitely interested in going to Disney, which can only happen next year. We could do Music in the park, Great America, or Six Flags this year, that will be really good.

Ramya: When Ms. Nitzan was teaching Choir, we had kids performing. Is that something we can revisit?

Ramirez: Of course!

Beth Nitzan

The Falcon choir is going strong. There are 70 people coming - last year it was 30. It is amazing and really fun! There was a problem with pizza - we learned that we are not allowed to bring outside food on campus during school day. So we switched to cafeteria pizza. It actually cost us less, that's the silver lining.

Alicia: Thank you district for making us save our money 😊

Beth: Since it is unpredictable how many show up, only the extra gets billed by the cafeteria.

Ramya: Who will pay for the extra?

Beth: It will be SMB, as before.

The field trip to SFO for Magic Flute was great, it is a beautiful production. Thank you for sponsoring. Also, I had an amazing time at the Gala. Thanks for creating this opportunity.

There was a students audition for honor-choir, 10 students were accepted to the regional.

Alicia: Pizza pays off! 😊

Jason: Jokes aside, Ms. Nitzan has been doing a lot of coaching on her own.

Beth: We did a big push this year. Audition was live, in person - which was scary for a lot of students. There are only 34 kids in the choir, which means a third of them made it. It was a special experience, and very exciting!

Last update - fall concert is on the 18th. We got invited to perform in the community choir - Voice of Silicon Valley - on Oct 24th. It is more of a singing experience with adult community members.

Alicia: Thank you for giving your time.

Sean Clark

Last 2 days have been crazy. We've had 2 guest artists - Scott Johnson, who is like the grandfather of marching band and percussion. He is performing with us in the Midwest with the percussion ensemble. He was with the students last week, and gave sticks to kids and signed them. It was awesome. We are making incredible progress for the MidWest program. I did not think that they would be so well prepared.

Then we have Tony Glausi, who is a professional trumpet and keyboard player out of New York. He has been here the past couple of days, helping out with the Marching Band. He has been working on a piece that is really awesome. It is something that I can't wait for you all to see - it is some high level music. Mr. Boitz was there for 30 minutes, and was like a kid in a candy shop. But the kids are playing with a level of maturity that we haven't unlocked until now.

We had rehearsals Monday night and Tuesday morning for the Marching Band. The Percussion team is working super hard - leading the charge in terms of sweat equity. It has been very encouraging to see them rise to the occasion of MidWest. It is really a behemoth - really awesome and getting better. And it has been awesome to collaborate with the guest artists. Thanks to SMB for allowing us the chance to do that.

We have also been working with Jazz Band this year, and it has been really fun. Tony writes charts for percussion, string and jazz, and he is going to work with jazz and percussion tomorrow. A huge shoutout to Beryl for getting chicken sandwiches last night! They were awesome, and I am sure that the students were pretty thankful for that as well.

On the Marching Band side, this year has been super fun. This year we are doing an ode to artists. It has been fun in rehearsals. The theme is super special and super subtle - Queen, Aretha Franklin. It is good to cultivate that culture in the Marching Band, collaborating with the Color Guard program. Teaching is more dynamic - it is based on choreography. And the silver lining is that we are learning PE things. How do we better prepare the students to deal with all that?

Alicia: How do you work with the heat?

Sean: Lots of water and sunscreen. Beryl brought popsicles one day 😊.

Also thanks for the opportunity to perform at the gala.

Alicia: It is SMB who is thankful - you all brought class to the Gala. Sheer class.

Jason Shiuan

I will also jump on the Gala-thankyou-bandwagon. Cool to see everyone so dressed up and beautiful. Huge shoutout to all students. They were excited and ready to perform - and they prepared on their own. There was nothing to do except provide the platform. Amazing students.

On the orchestra side of things - cool things are happening. Mr. Boitz has been out for a little bit. Ms. Swenson had a program before she retired. She was legendary, the best in the business, and a master teacher. She happens to live in the bay area, and has been working with freshman orchestra and audition groups. It is fantastic to watch her teach. Freshmen are so lucky to have Ms. Swenson to keep things going.

On the audition side of things - older members take more ownership - mini-sectionals setup, and helping people who are struggling. We have two amazing coaches - Sara Lee who is a clinician, and Mr. Ghafourpour who is an orchestra director at Los Gatos (he also coaches our marching band). Both orchestra and band all-state auditions are due next week. We have almost 70 students across band and orchestra that are auditioning.

For Jazz, we have Mr. Mike Galisatus - a legendary player, plays gigs a lot. Teaches at Stanford now. He has been working twice a week with our Jazz band.

Other than that, it is September slog - nothing exciting, just a lot of learning. The football game was an exciting connection between middle and high schools. The high schoolers take ownership like siblings - this is a community building event. It is lovely to see, very proud and fun to watch.

And we continue to be undefeated 😊

We have many upcoming performances in October.

- This Friday is the homecoming game - 6.40 is the performance - right before the varsity game. This is the first time we will be playing from beginning to end. First big performance, really good one to go to. Easy to get to, local.
- Saturday night we have the Expo at Fremont High. This year Los Gatos and us - it is not a competitive show. It is more about camaraderie building - watch every other school performance. It is happening Saturday night - it is a public performance, anyone can come. Encourage you to come in red, cheer us on. Same as homecoming.
- Following week is the senior night fall showcase on Friday, Oct 18. Starts at 6pm in McAfee. Walk over to the stadium, and honor seniors. Big kids get a hug in public. Big finale of marching band performing to end the night.
- Then we have the Cupertino high school competition - competing against Lynbrook. James Logan is going to be there.

- And the following week one more football game.

Finally we have the WBA competition in SoFi stadium in LA on Nov 4th. They hosted the superbowl 2 or 3 years ago.

Last thing - Mr. Clark and I heard horror stories about boosters at other schools. We are fortunate to have SMB being so supportive. We are lucky and fortunate. Thanks for being advocates for our community.

Alicia: You guys are the inspiration.

Michael Boitz

It is difficult to keep up with these wonderful directors. Harry Truman is credited for this sentiment - no limit to the good you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. Reality is - we operate on this on a daily basis.

Thanks for all your support. what they said about the Gala is true - another platform and opportunity to perform for the kids. Solutions based leadership - we are all in this together. Some obstacles, but we will get past them together.

Ramya: How many from RMS going to the all-state audition?

Jon: Stopped counting - maybe 11 band kids, more orchestra kids.

Miscellaneous

Alicia: Thanks to SMB exec board - the email regarding concerns and feedback about how things are run and handled by the school went out.



10/07/2024

Dear SMB, Math Counts, Robotics, Speech & Debate, Sports, Students, ALL Community,

The SMB Executive Board is inviting ALL community members to come to an Open Town Hall meeting to address issues that have and are taking place in our SHS school. We will present the latest updates, as well as the plan of action moving forward. Students you are the reason why we mobilize and you too are welcome; you may bring your homework but as any parent we would say Try and get ahead NOW so you are able to focus!

RMS families, we are certain you have heard troubling issues over the past year regarding our dear Saratoga High School (SHS). We have opened this meeting to you so we quell the rumors and misinformation. Especially if you are parents of an 8th grader planning to attend SHS then this town hall, we believe, may be of immediate importance to you.

When: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

Time: 7:30pm till 9pm

Place: Rinconada Club House

100 Avenida Del Sol

Los Gatos, CA 95032

Respectfully,
Saratoga Music Booster Executive Board

We have heard that RMS families have been having internal debates too. Let's get clarity and work together to save our programs. Exec board - we could end up with a rental fee of about \$400, for cleaning. We'll see.

Sneha: Do we need approval for that?

Michael: Not going to happen, don't worry.

Alicia: Before calling the community together this way, I have tried to talk to the district office leadership. It was not successful. After the last board meeting, I was contacted by the press. I am not sure who was behind it, but it is the true deal. After the press contacted me, the district suddenly wanted to talk to me. I spoke to 2 assistant superintendents.

I did let them know that the conversation started one year late, but that does not mean we cannot make progress. Bill Sandersen still owes me a meeting, but the two assistant superintendents are now receptive for the first time. I told them SMB will call an emergency town hall meeting, because we've been bombarded with questions. So, the town hall meeting was not a surprise to them.

At the start of the year I requested a meeting with Louie to discuss the status of CMEA. I know Mr. Louie is on the right team so I left that meeting convinced, per his assurance, that in 2 weeks we will have everything resolved to host CMEA. This is no way Mr. Louie's fault it just proves he too is unable to receive any clarity from the district side. Although the district seems to now be listening, we still do not have a solution. There was no other way than to mobilize the community - ultimately our students are losing and this has to stop.

We have an upcoming town hall scheduled with the district on Monday Oct 14, and a Public Board Meeting on Tuesday Oct 15.

We have to sit and work with them until the toxic environment is eliminated. Let's look for a solution as a community. That's my message to the district.

Student: Can students listen to town hall meetings online?

Alicia: I feel like our first townhall SMB meeting must be in-person and not online. It is public and open to all, but do come in person. It is not open for anyone who wants to join online. I hope there won't be a next time.

Sri: We could have a survey to create awareness about the changes we are striving to make. Survey can be anonymous, but read out the comments verbatim. That can be very powerful. Highlight the legal exposure - you can do that tomorrow. Students can start the first wave, parents can follow.

Alicia: Thank you. Any questions, comments or concerns?

Ramya: Should we spread the message to the whole community, or just the music community?

Jason: All teachers got it, but the message is pertaining to music. Some teachers were confused.

Alicia: So we may have some people show up with no idea what this is about, but that's okay.

Sri: If you have a record/minutes of the last meeting with district leadership, can you circulate it?

Alicia: Cannot circulate it yet, I hear you. Action can be done in a good, educational way. I may be naive to be hopeful, but I am hopeful.

If there are no further questions, the meeting is adjourned at 9.02pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Summary of Motions

Approval of September SMB Meeting Minutes	Ramya moves, Richard seconds, motion carries.
Approval of September transactions 1201-1238	Nisha moves, Ramya seconds, motion carries.
Approval of RMS instrument wish list grant	Suzie moves, Ramya seconds, motion carries.
Approval of RMS Color Guard Budget Amendment	Ramya moves, Suzie seconds, motion carries.

Bharti Ramaswamy/ Nisha Hebbalae
Co-Recording Secretaries