

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 Feb 13th, 2024, for 02 Hours 01 Minutes

Attendance: total number of attendees = 16

Attendees

Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President / Pancake Breakfast co-chair
Bharti Ramaswamy	Co-Recording Secretary
Ramya Vasu	Parliamentarian / SUSD & RMS Program Donations Chair
Revathi Koteeswaran	Treasurer
Tista Kapoor	Co-VP Donations/ RMS Band Liaison

Music Directors

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

Booster Members

Name	Role
Richard Aochi	Controller
Josh Rupert	RMS Choir Liaison
Arnita Proffitt	SHS Color Guard/Winter Guard Liaison
Suzie Kim	RMS Music Programs
Joyce Fernandez	

Alicia calls the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Alicia: Let's start with items that do not require approval.

Update on SMB Financials (2022-23) Audit

(Presented by Richard)

Alicia: Last month there was an action item to send out the 1099 tax IDs, so that our contractors can do their own taxes in a timely manner.

Richard: I have the emails – they have gone out.

Alicia: That's the same for RMS, isn't it? Redwood Middle School – could you also confirm that your vendors received the 1099 tax IDs?

Jow: Ours go through the district

Richard: These are the SMB ones.

Alicia: That's good to know, I did not know.

Richard: We also sent \$600 dollars or more for services.

Alicia: We had the nurse travel with us during the Disney trip. I think that maybe the service fee Richard is referring to. We need to confirm that she received it, and let Richard know.

Jow: I will follow up on this.

Richard: I definitely want to know.

Alicia: Okay, anything else Richard?

Richard: No.

Pancake Breakfast update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: Paul Weir, who is the on-campus head, asks if the RMS instruments can be stored in the college career center, so that they can setup for AP testing in the gym. They need to have the gym ready by 8am on Monday, and it is too tight a turnaround for them to have it sanitized and set up according to examination code.

If that is okay, we can coordinate with Ms. Ward if she would allow it. Now an FYI about Miss Ward - she *really* loves her room. The students who do store their instruments there need to know not to mess around with the stuff there.

Isabel: It is not a big space; I don't know how much space we need.

Alicia: How many students are we expecting?

Isabel: About 300 students.

Alicia: Can we use the students' center?

Beth: Michael didn't want that because it is kind of behind where all the action is. That is our stage, and we cannot have people going in and out right behind.

What if they can have the gym set up as they need before the weekend, and we can still have cases in there and make sure that everything is left intact. I assume it is about things like tables and chairs.

Alicia: I can propose that – but that means the students cannot touch the tables, or sanitization will have to be done after. It also means that you have all the sides and aisles to lay the instruments down. Do you think doing that will be enough?

Isabel: We can tell the students not to touch the tables or move them, but they are going to do it anyway. But it is okay, we can clean them afterwards.

Alicia: You may still need Ms. Ward's room. The thing with the gym is that it is not always going to be monitored in there. We can tell the kids to not push the tables around, but if they do that's okay. I will just tell them to sanitize after, I think we can come to that agreement. In fact, the chairs don't even have to be put up, I am sure it is very quick to place them down.

Alicia: I am thinking of the Thurmond room. We have a little problem because that day they are doing a strike down from McAfee, right? So, I have a feeling that they will be walking in and out.

Isabel: We've never been in the small gym, but I think it would work. If we can put small cases on the table, it would work

Alicia: I will propose that to Paul. That's workable.

Alicia: Then I want to talk about something else. By chance I reached out to a Ceramics space for donations for Pancake breakfast. I got a beautiful message from one of them. Tasha Wasserman – does that ring a bell to you Mr. Jow? She says all her three children graduated from Saratoga High, and her daughter was captain of the Color Guard in her senior year. She has fond memories of Saratoga High School and is very happy to make a contribution toward the pancake breakfast event to support the music program.

Alicia: That is the most heartwarming thing. The impact and the love - it is all about community. If we all work together and build together, good things will always come out. So, yay for our community outreaches, I am so proud!

Approval of January Minutes

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: Does anyone have any comments or observations in regard to the January minutes? Do I hear a motion to approve?

Arnita approves, **Suzie** seconds.

Motion passed unanimously

Bank of America

Alicia: Bank of America has confirmed that they approved the transaction to increase our annual interest rates from 0.01% to 0.445%, and that yields an annual interest rate of 0.65%. It was enacted on the 9th of January this year. It is a 12-month offer, so 0.01% to 0.445% is really nice.

Insurance

Alicia: Saratoga Music Boosters renewed its insurance with AIM insurance. As you can see, we are complying with the district requirements of insurance that we need to have. So, we are all protected; and this year just in case, because we are doing a lot of online social media stuff, I requested \$25,000 coverage. Premium has come to \$575, but it was an additional \$75 to have this incorporated for the year, just in case.

Back to the slides – do we have an update for the insurance policy for the trucks that Mr. Clark wants to hire? I know he's working with the district, the Los Gatos Saratoga High School District, I believe.

Beth: I haven't heard.

Alicia: April is the month Winter Percussion travels to Dayton Ohio so ideally this will be resolved by then. From the Pancake Breakfast side of things SMB has renewed our insurance policy, so we have everything in place to provide our Certificate of Insurance when requested by the district.

SMB Board Nomination for 2024-25

(Presented by Ramya)

Ramya: As parliamentarian, I had sent an email regarding your position on the SMB board for next year. I did get some responses. Thank you so much to those who responded.

I still need 2 people on the nominating committee so we can move forward – I don't have to be on it. And we continue to find more people in our community to fill up the positions that are opening up. As of now if we are looking at the positions, at the next meeting I will have a better view.

As of now, most of them in the major board positions have responded that they are returning. We are still looking for a Treasurer – one person has shown interest. If she goes through, she will shadow Rev for a few months and then we will be going forward with it.

It is always nice to have more than one applicant. We can have our own ballot boxes here, and I'll give *SMB Voted* stickers for all those who vote 😊.

That being said, I still need 2 more people on the nominating committee.

Alicia: What is the commitment of someone who is going to help you with the nominations?

Ramya: The nominating committee will meet twice a week; we can meet more as needed (if needed). The job would be to go and find people, solicit interest in the roles and put the seed in their heads. We all know the kind of positions that we have I assume; I can share the list. To begin with, just ask if they are interested in joining the board. "Would you be interested in giving an hour each month, other than your own child's performances?" That's how we start the pitch, and then we move them in.

Alicia: Traditionally we have used Pancake Breakfast to recruit. We had a table for the nominating committee and described the roles there. We had people sign their names for interest, what area they see themselves in, or someone who is generally interested. That will be a good way to push for interest from the community.

Ramya: Yes, I would like the nominating committee to pitch such ideas.

Suzie: I'll help out.

Alicia: There you go, you have one! Nominating committee is not hard-core. It is just check-ins. Usually in the pancake breakfast, you are likely to find people who are genuinely interested to serve. Thank you, Suzie.

School-Wide Fundraiser

(Presented by Alicia)

Alicia: There is a good intention from SHS in general to have one main school-wide fundraiser - with every booster, foundation and club all helping in their capacity to help organize a school-wide event where each of these groups will also be able to also raise funds from it. This was suggested by Principal Louie as a good idea to kick off the year by spreading booster, club, etc awareness and raising much needed funds in the process. Someone from his previous school spoke to all present in Mr. Louie's Booster Presidents' meeting to explain how their school holds a school-wide fundraiser called the "*Crab Feed*". Mr Louie's guest invited all present to attend and participate to understand how it works.



SANTA TERESA HIGH SCHOOL
Athletic Booster Club Invites You For
THE 20TH ANNUAL
CRAB FEED & AUCTION FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024



The Terrace at Willow Glen
2125 Canoas Garden Ave
San Jose, CA 95125



SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME / SCAN ME

TICKETS

\$85 Ticket
\$6 Beer/ Wine Tickets
\$1 Soda/ Water Tickets
\$1 Raffle Tickets
**Tickets are Available while supplies last*

5pm- Doors Open/ Silent Auction Begins
6pm- Dinner is Served
7:30-10pm-Auction, Raffle, Prizes & Dancing

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT WWW.STABC.ORG
CONTACT: CRABFEEDCHAIR@STABC.ORG

**** LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR 20TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED**

All proceeds will support the sports programs at Santa Teresa High School.




SMB:
SARATOGA MUSIC
BOOSTERS

How this works is, every organization presents silent auction items. This is an example of how they did it, it does not mean that we must do it this way. What you bring as a team – is yours. You are not sharing the funds raised by your silent auction contribution. You are also making minimal funds on the ticket sales, which is distributed.

As you can see from the flyer this school centers their community event around Crabs and since crabs are seasonal a Crab feed can only take place during the months of March or April. For SMB this time frame would not work because we are currently busily preparing for Pancake breakfast, scheduled this year for May 5th. Mr. Louie is thinking of something like a cookout or barbecue at the start of the year as a possibility to do something like this.

So, my question to the board is – would SMB be interested in something like this?

Josh: Participating in a school-wide fundraiser? Yes! I think it would be great, but not for us. I think it would be great for someone like Athletic Boosters Club, which gets like 1/15th of what we get.

Alicia: Yes, so we can bring bodies to help support other organizations. This is exactly what I am saying about community. It doesn't hurt for us to share – and we will share and distribute the work for the cookout. So, no one is really going to be overwhelmed.

But I kind of think, and I am not lying, that the numbers lean more heavily on us doing most of the work, since we are the bigger body. We are big community. But as I said before, the school is stronger when we all are united. Does anybody want to attend *Crab Feed*? Mr. Louie is offering the opportunity to attend this with him. Just to see and live it?

Arnita: I can be there.

Alicia: You want to attend Arnita? I'll tell him, alright. It is on Saturday, March 9th, 2024. You don't have to decide now. You can text me, and I can send you the details – the place and time. I am happy to do that.

Arnita: Oh, sorry there's a color guard thing that day. I love the idea though. Is it only for the adults?

Alicia: I can ask, but I assume so, because there will be alcohol. We will be doing the bulk of the work though. What about you - music directors?

Beth: As long as it does not conflict with Pancake breakfast

Alicia: Principal Louie was thinking of doing this ideally at the start of the year, to really build community. If you start the year with a community building event, and finish off with our own shebang, I think it is kind of nice. You like it?

Beth: Yeah!

Alicia: Okay, then I will tell Mr. Louie that we are interested to continue to look into this further. He loves the grill 😊

Music Directors' Reports

Beth Nitzan

It has been kind of a slow month for us, not too much going on. But we did have all-state just a week or two ago, recently. It was great to see colleagues up in Sacramento, and we had some great representation among all the ensembles or alternative ensembles from the high schools. And of course, the Band performances were well-attended, and wonderful, wonderful concert.

For choir, our students had a fun night. We got together, we did Karaoke, and did whatever they wanted to do - eat food, play musical chairs and stuff like that 😊

And just today we went around school giving Valentine-Grams. We have delivered almost 40 grams around school. Someone even purchased one for Mr. Shiuan, and he got a serenade just for him. It made him so uncomfortable; it was fun to watch 😊

Soon after CMEA, from here on it is going to come really fast. Oh, and two new harps are here! We need two harp dollies now; we only have one and we need another one.

Isabel: It is not that heavy right?

Boitz: Mr. Shiuan can carry it 😊

Michael Boitz

I'll report for Mr. Shiuan as well.

We were at [CASMEC](#), where we brought the symphonic wind ensembles across the state – it is a big conference for all those people. Our own Mr. Shiuan sat down at the keys and played the piano. It was Friday afternoon, and at 1 o'clock we got to hear *Rancho Bernardo* high school orchestra. Then they came to our concert which was at 3pm. The kids played marvelously – the room was super dry. I was sitting at the back and panicking. Our rooms over here are acoustically very good. If the room is dry, there is no resonance; and it can freak the kids out. But the kids did really well, I was blown away.

Another fun thing that we did was that we decided to do something together with John Burn. We have been really close friends. It just so happened that these two schools in the same area got selected. It was kind of a rare occasion. So, we decided we wanted to do something together and

we did a really grandiose brass fanfare, and it was just heroic. It is a piece called Philharmonic by Strauss; it is about 2 minutes and 15 seconds. John conducted from the podium – it was really fun. It was such a cool piece of the program!

We opened our concert with it, Homestead was at our concert. And then our kids went to Homestead and played the beginning of their concert with their brass.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Chavie did a duet with the band – the composer's last name Sezane, and it is a duet piece. It is a part of a piece that we were actually going to use in 2020 when we were going to Europe but put it on the shelf. I am really glad to bring it back.

You know, our teachers are really good artists, really good performers. Mr. Clark can play the vibraphone so softly.

Arnita: Is there a video?

Boitz: Yes, there is one. Then we did a pizza party with Homestead. John Zarko was conducting – he conducted a piece which is a string version of the Soo Han piece that we did earlier. Dr. Zarko is giggling because he is remembering things about Saratoga High, like there are these traditions and silly things that haven't changed at all. SHS kids are arm-wrestling Homestead kids. Homestead kids are winning, it is just humiliating. Homestead kids are beating our kids one after the other. Mr. Shiuan had to arm-wrestle Mr. Burn. It was a super fun time. The next day I got a call from John, and he was telling his version of the story. Jason was just toying with him, and his arm was pretty sore 😊

All 3 of the orchestras did really well. It is a festival for learning the process and instructions. What's so funny is that kids are more critical than adults. I have to ask them – do you think we would do that perfectly?

So, the reason John holds that festival at Homestead is for the orchestras to come and hear one another. He sets it up so that you go, and you hear at least two or three other groups. We have our kids pretend they're adjudicators like doing the mock audition. So, they get to exercise their musical vocabulary in real time by writing things down.

When I had vertigo, Jason had to take over. Luckily, he covered. Mr. Clark is awesome, I was not worried at all. He is a great musician and a great teacher. Context is crucial with teenagers – safe environment etc. And the content will come on its own.

Jazz bands are having a concert now in the library. Advanced jazz band, non-audition jazz band.

Alicia: I got a sneak peek of the jazz concert during warmups. It was nice to view videos of Winter percussion's world performance. The performance was fabulous. I wanted to be there shouting and cheering them on.

Boitz: One more story and then I'll be quiet. Mr. Clark and Mr. Chavie (Chavadith Tantavirojn) were doing a show which is about finding your identity and your place when there are so many different factors – it is just so difficult. This is a safe zone where kids can let their hair down a bit. He reached out to a girl who is a singer – he did not know her at all. This is quite common in our business. He really wanted to use part of her song which is about identity, beautiful vocalist, in their production.

Usually you have to pay copyright – but she said she will give it for free. She wrote a letter to the kids through Sean and Chavie. She said - it is so meaningful that you asked to use my song. She even offered to re-record the vocals to make it easier for the track. Wow! And then she wrote a letter to the kids, and to Sean and Chavie which said, “You have no idea how meaningful it is for me that you reached out and asked to use my song with your show.”

Her life path was going in the direction of being a professional vocalist and performer. But she caught some illness, came close to death and she is now on the rebound. When she was plateauing, this helped her. She said that this helped her find purpose in life. It makes it all the more meaningful, the connection. It is a lot more than music that’s coming out of that.

Saturday was such a joy. Both percussion – the video of A group cracked me up, they were so delightful. They ended up getting 3rd in their division, which is a big deal. Our varsity guard took second place. They scored 1st place in every category except for one judge. It is a great lesson for our kids. It is such a great lesson for our kids, you never know somebody’s opinion. The judges should be speaking to each other in between.

Alicia: They should do it like the Olympics. The top score and the worst score are omitted. ☺

Boitz: We started the symphony orchestra, now we are booking with some rep. We want to make sure that we are happy.

Isabel McPherson

In 5th grade, students got their second instrument. So far, they have just been getting set up mostly. Band instruments were getting accessories and stuff like that. They do a lot of growing from 1st to 2nd semester. We have also been talking about 5th grade decisions on their classes for the 6th grade, even though it is just February.

At Redwood Middle, they are just preparing for their next performance. Beginning doesn’t get to perform till pancake breakfast in May. But we gave them some music anyway, because it is that elective time of the year, where they are thinking - Is this what I want to do? Kind of keeping the energy up, trying to encourage kids to play in tune by giving them tiny plastic mushrooms for a prize. They only want the hats for some reason ☺

Boitz: Yes, I use that with the freshmen too. They also produce a characteristic tone, so it is a double whammy.

Isabel: Intermediate group is working on Disney music – which is a little push since they are working with the bigger groups, and they are competing with Advanced and Chamber to play that.

Alicia: Are they motivated to play with the bigger groups?

Isabel: We’ll get there, they are working on it by themselves.

Alicia: Disney is a motivation by itself, but I can see the stars in their eyes when they play alongside players, they believe to be superior.

Isabel: I had to be absent on Monday, and Advanced and Chamber had to make a plan to practice by themselves. That was fun. Mr. Steffen took the class. They didn’t need help from the teacher – who just sat in the corner with the phone. I didn’t get any negative reports.

Josh: It is a testament to the kids, and to you guys.

Isabel: Yes, it is. Also, I'm really happy with how the CMEA is shaping up. We have built in time for the groups to go listen to another group. Advanced is listening to Monta Vista's orchestra, and Chamber is listening to Fisher MS's chamber orchestra. Homestead festival has it built-in to the schedule, so we added it to our schedule too. We like it because it is the easiest way that they get to see other schools.

We also went through the rubric for CMEA, so they understand what they are getting scored on and what the standards are.

Josh: The position they are in (being able to be trusted to rehearse themselves) is very unusual for middle school. Do they know how special that is?

Isabel: I am also afraid that if you tell them how well they are handling it, it ruins the magic.

Alicia: Yeah, let's not say anything!

Jon Jow

- All-State performances occurred in Sacramento two weekends ago. We're incredibly proud of our students who participated and represented Redwood/Saratoga so well!
- Planning for our Southern California trip at the beginning of April is well underway. We're grateful to the community for being so active and supportive with their donations, putting us in a very healthy position to have made our first deposit earlier this month.
- We're busy preparing about 11-12 pieces for CMEA and our trip over the next month and a half. It's a daunting task, but students are doing a great job rising to the challenge. CMEA festival performances will occur on 3/16. Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, Advanced Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra will participate.
- Redwood's elective selection portal is currently open for the 2024-2025 school year. Current offerings for next year remain the same as this year.
- Disney deposits – 172 students going, which is a lot of fun.
- Beginning band in 7th grade are really rocking it. They laugh at all my dumb jokes 😊 (Ramya: he gives them ducks).
- We had all-state a couple of weeks ago. On top of that, one of the vendors was giving out free recorders to all the kids. One of the kids who doesn't usually smile, smiled and waved at me from across the room.
- Mr. Garcia was also there, he also found the redwood kids with me and said hi.
- Mr. Lopez came and hung out with us. It was really fun, we got to reconnect with old friends.

Miscellaneous

Josh: How do we know what music elective level to sign up to if the auditions have yet to take place?

Isabel: We say pick any level and we will figure it out.

Alicia: Any update from Mr. Ramirez?

Jow: Choir is going to CMEA, he is not well and will be here next month. His choir classes are mostly based on the exercises in the book he is using.

Ramya: For the Disney trip, how are the donations?

Jow: We are at 90% of what we need. I just sent out an email for the second round of donations.

Ramya: This time we said \$1048 – most people round it up which is good. Last time we said \$998 or something – most people rounded it up to 1000. The number you had was good – people did not round down. It was much easier.

Tista: Mr. Jow, thanks for answering all donation questions and offering very clear direction on corporate matching and stuff like that.

Suzie: Web store had a glitch at first to make online donations. It said sold out.

Tista: I could not use my credit card.

Bharti: I could use mine

Ramya: From the group of students I pick up, I hear that it has been going really well. They somehow found a bassoonist for private lessons.

Jow: We always tell them, don't get a private lesson just because you want to make it to an audition. Get them because you want to get better.

Ramya: When I pick them up, they are talking only about music. 2 in orchestra and 2 in band – they are talking about all things music.

Alicia: A big thank you to you guys.

Ramya: One question I had from a parent – what if they don't get in when you pick the elective?

Isabel: First choice is usually guaranteed. 7th grade even if they are a B level class, they will get in. Classes are never full, just put it as your first choice.

Ramya: When will 5th graders get to try out instruments?

Isabel: 2 years ago, we did it after school, last year we did it in June. We may not be able to do it anymore. Some of them didn't end up in class.

Josh: How many students are in band in HS?

Boitz: If you count overall number of individual students – close to 600 this year. 1100 in the school.

Josh: More than half the school is in music. That's why we must support the all-school fundraiser.

(Alicia brings Mr. Boitz up to speed on the all-school fundraiser, since he arrived late to the meeting after the jazz concert)

Boitz: Jon used to do this thing at the mountain winery – some big event. Jazz band would play. People drinking wine and stuff – anything like that is great. If you look at symphony orchestra excuse sheet, students shuffle schedules around. We have kids who are in other things as well as music.

Alicia: So, this is a community announcement that I have been holding off until Mr. Boitz arrived.

First thing – new 9th grade PE requirement.

Another thing – district to not allow international trips to be school sponsored.

Boitz: Kids have been getting PE credit since many years –so for next year band kids are getting it, and other disciplines are not. The district decided this is what makes sense. Athletic kids were getting credit for PE. When I inherited it, I thought to myself – what's required by the state, or what are the objectives that they want them to have? Then you build your curriculum, the shows and all of that stuff based on CA Ed Code law.

Sean Clark took it to the 10th degree, he does it better than anybody. We have been doing *FitnessGram* as they call it, the fitness testing and the domains for band PE – only ones we cannot do is swimming unit. You have to be a lifeguard certified teacher to do that. And now there is a new one – combative. I don't know what all that involves. Principal Louie has come to see Shiuan's class – I think he has been sent by the district to drop in a few times. In a way, the PE teacher was joking - they are doing everything here! More so than here.

Athletics – we have very few cuts at Saratoga High. When the semester sport concludes, the students go back to their PE class. The PE teacher Rick Ellis would go to do the testing – he is such a great health fitness educator. We have a superintendent who is very excited about ed code law.

Whenever you quote the law as opposed to why we are doing something, everyone feels the conflict. You want to talk about what is best for the kids, and why we want to make a change, and then you come up with a solution to make it work. But we have a different regime that kind of goes the opposite way. In any kind of dialog, it doesn't matter what the profession is, if you try to have a human relationship first, that probably works better for everyone in the long run.

Student-athletes are no longer exempt from PE. Athletics, cheer or dance – they are not exempt. So even if I have a kid who is a competitive figure skater, which I have had, and they are skating 3 to 4 hours a day, they still have to do PE. It is a weird situation – we are not a 50000-school district. We are a 3200-school district. If the vision for the school or the district is to follow every ed code without making the effort to look for opportunities that still comply with the law, then naturally we will lose the real vision for the school; they have got it all backwards.

Alicia: Sports Boosters is working behind the scenes on this, and we will be updated soon.

Boitz: We usually don't bring this kind of stuff up at a music boosters meeting.

Alicia: The reason I brought it up is so that the new folks are aware of what is going on, and we are an all-encompassing community. This kind of thing causes a division in the community. We have to recognize the wrong, fortunately they are still working on finding a viable solution, and I hope that good news comes out in the end.

With respect to international trips, I was included in an email from Wendi Redo, in which she explained a terrible situation with the Los Gatos 2024 Europe Music trip. She is the administrative assistant to the music department at Los Gatos High. They had submitted paperwork last April, but it was never received or processed. Mr. Boitz – could you please give us the data correctly?

Boitz: Well, the trip is not until the summer of 2024. Wendi is super organized and always on top of things. When she reached out to the district to see how their trip request was going it seemed the district lost them, so Los Gatos music teachers redid them and submitted them again.

It was supposed to go to the board by August. The principal at Los Gatos (Kevin Buchanan) was not even in the loop, and the paperwork never made it to the board.

It came back in October, and it said your request had been denied. There was no explanation the first time. They continued to ask, and finally after 2 weeks they were asked to submit a copy of insurance for the travel company. Well okay, you could have asked that a long time ago, it is really easy. So, they get the travel insurance, and then it comes back with a quick flippant note. The insurance won't cover equipment, or something like that. They didn't realize that there have been international trips with Saratoga equipment too, and I am sitting right there. Finally, they are told that it is a summer trip, and therefore it wasn't a school trip.

None of us heard anything about this. We searched through past board minutes – any change in procedure must be in the minutes. Nothing of this nature was there. So finally, I sent an email and included everybody. They tried to say, and I quote, you cannot use school e-mail, you cannot use school instruments, you cannot use the school facilities.

Then the last outreach was to say fine you may do it as a non-sponsored trip. But I said no. If something were to happen on the trip, the insurance company would go after the school board. But if the board says we did not approve of the trip, it becomes the teacher's liability.

There was a phone call today – lots of people communicated with the board members. Bill and Principal Kevin walked into the office, and said they are approving the trip just as a special case.

Alicia: I definitely have to talk about the importance of tradition. Saratoga Music Boosters is celebrating 50 years this year. In 1974, a trip to Vienna is what started the Saratoga Music Boosters. This is the spine of boosters. So, on the 27th of February I am going to talk about this at the LGSBSD Board meeting – that is my mission and that is what I will be saying. You can come and speak up if you wish, the best direction for the board always comes from community input.

Boitz: The superintendent has to answer to 5 board members. We used to do an evaluation every year. We would ask pointed questions – you couldn't help but respond accordingly. It was open and transparent and real with everybody. Somewhere we lost it – we don't see that with Principals and Superintendents anymore. If time allows, we must express why international travel is important for the kids.

Josh: Basically, we pay for everything.

Alicia: Yes, there is no reason not to approve the trip.

Boitz: You need to say why this is important.

Josh: If it gets approved on the 27th, can we go next year?

Boitz: Either 2025 or 2026. I am indifferent if it happens in 2025 or 2026. I think 2026 may be more practical.

Alicia: That gives us time to get any required policy on paper. It is my opinion with the new PE position, and not wanting to sponsor international school trips is a sign of someone in leadership who does not understand its school community and treasured traditions leading to mismanagement and the possible fall of decades long programs. As SMB booster president it is

my mission to uphold SMB traditions and support all music programs and opportunities for our students, so as to not lose the trusted support of our donors and members awarded to us year after year. It would be a true disservice to this community if I do not speak up on their behalf this 27th of February.

Boitz: I spent 18 hours in 4 days on PE credit and international trips.

Financials

(Presented by Rev)

Balance Sheet

Rev: The new numbers are shown here (sheet below) – we had \$14,160 come in for the band trip. We previously spent \$8,639. We have a budget now which we are tracking.


Choir trip highlighted in red – I just need those numbers.

Alicia: Yes, it was approved.

Rev: There was a deficit for choir, we may need a fundraiser or something. For marching band and RMS trip, we started seeing income – we had a \$130,000 budget, we got \$73,888 out of that.

If we scroll further down – big one there is on the *Program Wish List*. We have spent \$293,821 against \$359,820.

One other thing – \$53,290 that’s just matching funds that have not yet been allocated.

 Saratoga Music Boosters Cash Flow 01/31/24								
	Actual	Actual	Actual	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24	23-24
Name	Carryover	Income	Expenses	Actual	Carryforward	Budgeted	Budgeted	23-24
					2023-24	Income	Expenses	Projected \$
SHS Band	43,444	223,950	172,468	94,926	43,444	254,370	278,539	19,275
SHS Concert Band	0		7,864	(7,864)	0		11,275	(11,275)
SHS Jazz Band	0			0	0		8,000	(8,000)
SHS Winter Guard	8,000	10,608	8,372	10,236	8,000	22,000	32,095	(2,095)
SHS Winter Percussion	10,000	89,975	37,498	62,477	10,000	87,630	80,500	17,130
SHS Orchestra	0	88,189	45,985	42,204	0	101,380	101,352	28
SHS Choir	16,575	15,200	10,210	21,565	16,575	18,000	34,575	0
SHS Band Trip(CASMEC)		14,160 [1]	8,639	5,521		27,995	27,990	5
SHS Orchestra Trip		140,069	147,096	(7,027)		[2]		0
SHS Choir Trip		49,863	24,670	25,193		36,000	36,000	0
SHS WP Trip		7,400	8,865	(1,465)		77,000	104,024	(27,024)
SHS WG Trip		0	0	0				0
SHS International Trip		0	0	0				0
SHS Totals	78,019	639,414	471,667	245,766	78,019	624,375	714,350	(11,956)
Redwood Marching Band	0		3,020	(3,020)	0	17,500	17,400	100
Redwood Ensemble	150	43,674	19,731	24,092	150	47,850	48,000	0
Redwood Upper Strings	0	18,005	20,447	(2,442)	0	30,745	30,600	145
RMS Color Guard	5,500	3,250	1,794	6,956	5,500	4,200	9,700	0
Redwood Chorus	9,625	1,050		10,675	9,625	7,700	17,325	0
RMS Trip/Tour	0	73,888 [3]	8,689	65,199	0	130,000	130,000	0
Redwood Total	15,275	139,867	53,682	101,460	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	139,867	53,682	101,460	15,275	249,215	263,525	965

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		1,500	519	981		34,000	17,500	16,500
Spirit Sales				0		0	0	0
Website and Publicity			123	(123)		0	3,000	(3,000)
Bank Interest/Charges/Sale		1,878		1,878		700	1,000	(300)
Benefactors/Matching/NonCash		178,358		178,358		120,000	0	120,000
Admin			4,355	(4,355)		0	19,000	(19,000)
Credit Card Fees			7,799	(7,799)		0	8,000	(8,000)
Other		53,290 [4]	2,620	50,671		0	7,000	(7,000)
SMB Unrestricted Funds		265,357	33,734	231,623		182,700	75,500	107,200
Unallocated	367,398			367,398	367,398	0	0	367,398
Program Wishlist			293,821 [5]	(293,821)		0	359,820	(359,820)
WP Instrument Fundraiser	0			0	0	0	0	0
Allen Orchestra Scholarship	2,875			2,875	2,875	0	200	2,675
Rowland Schwab	500			500	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	294,821	325,823	620,644	0	362,520	250,124
SMB Totals	620,644	265,357	328,555	557,446	620,644	182,700	438,020	357,324
Current Totals	713,938	1,044,637	853,904	904,671	713,938	1,056,290	1,415,895	346,333
SHS Trip Accruals		0	8,370	(8,370)				0
RMS Trip Accruals								
Grand Totals	713,938	1,044,637	845,534	913,041	713,938	1,056,290	1,415,895	346,333
			Net Revenue	199,102.71				

Projected Retained Earnings

Rev: This is talking about beginning of this year, we had \$713,938 carried over from 2023 in the bank. Out of which some funds were restricted or allocated for uniforms etc. And for those of you who don't know uniforms, every year we put away money because uniforms tend to be very expensive, and we don't want to do it in one year.

Meaning, the money we had to play with was \$260,692 at the beginning of this year, of which \$93,294 was allocated to band, orchestra, etc. to support the initial budget.

We also had wish list approval for \$342,881. That leaves us with \$7,758.

<u>This Year status of Funds:</u>		
Beginning of year money in the bank(Carry Over 2023):	\$713,938	<- AKA Retained Earnings / Carry Over
Less Restricted/Allocated funds :	\$253,246	Uniforms etc.
Remaining:	\$460,692	
Less Beginning of the year Program Grants for Band, Orchestra, SUSD:	\$93,294	
Remaining:	\$367,398	Unallocated Carryover from 6/30/22 with no Carryover wishlist items
Less Winter Program Grants:	\$16,940	
Less Wishlist	\$342,881	\$242K SHS and \$100K SUSD
Remaining:	\$7,578	

Another way to look at the same information: income this year is projected at \$1,056,290. We already collected \$1,044,637- including trips, donations and all of that. It is looking really healthy. Expenses are budgeted at \$1,415,895. \$342,680 is projected to be carried forward to 2024. We will be left with \$89,434 theoretically to support our programs next year.

<u>Next Year Projection:</u>		
Carry Over 2023:	\$713,938	
Actual Income(1/31):	\$1,044,637	Budgeted Income: \$1,056,290
Budgeted Expense:	\$1,415,895	Assume we will spend according to budget.
Projected Carry over for 2024:	\$342,680	i.e. Money in bank at end of year
Less Restricted funds:	\$253,246	Uniform etc.
Projected funds available for funding SHS/SUSD programs:	\$89,434	<- For reference this was \$128K last year
The good news is that we still have money to be collected for 4 more months and expenses may not be 100% especially for SUSD.		

Josh: Is it assumed in the actuals?

Rev: Yes, it adds to the \$89,434.

Josh: Actual does not include pancake breakfast, does it?

Rev: We expect to make about \$16,500 at pancake breakfast. So, we expect to make \$34,000 and spend \$17,500. That is modest, right?

Alicia: Yes, this is a modest projection. With respect to program expenses, the programs usually do not spend all that has been budgeted for them. And also, this year we had really great wish list of items that we're so proud of the fact we are able to equip the music departments with instruments that were needed. And that's what we're about. We're not about making a profit.

Josh: It is kind of late, but is the wish list not the same amount as we programmed last year?

Boitz: For the high school typically there's a chunk that we use to offset the cost of the fall marching band season, because that kind of production is a money suck. It's the biggest, the biggest cost thing and then we help to offset that.

This year was extraordinary. We had this influx of kids – we have 70 kids on percussion instruments. We need to get a new drum line. It is a whole bunch of instruments. It is not common that we need to do all of that.

If they need an instrument, we have access to it. Even if it is a violin which students typically have at home, we cannot say no if they want to do it.

Rev: We have \$89,434 projected funds available now. That's what we have to play with – to support programs and wish list after that.

Boitz: Right now, our uniforms look really good – they don't look their age. We need to consider doing a depreciation on instruments in general. That allows the bottom-line to be more predictable. Might be something to look at in spring.

Alicia: I cross-pathed with a parent that led the jazz fundraiser something SMB used to do. Could we do something like that so that the jazz kids have something? My younger one fell in love with jazz.

Shiuan: Finding the month and time is the hardest part. There is no good time.

Alicia: If you could tell me a month that it will work, I can get people to sign up. We can bring back what we used to have before COVID.

Boitz: It worked in our room – we discovered we needed to use a generator. Time of the year is the challenge

Shiuan: Without overwhelming the students.

Checks

Rev: Need to approve checks 1520 to 1569. Ramya approves, Josh seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Motions

Approval of January Minutes	Arnita moves, Susie seconds, motion carries.
Approval of January transactions 1520 -1569	Ramya moves, Josh seconds, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9.06 pm.

Bharti Ramaswamy/ Nisha Hebbalae
Co-Recording Secretaries