

**Save Our Kids' Music (SOKM)**  
Minutes, January 9, 2024, 7:00 PM  
700 Temple Ave, Room C3 and Zoom

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Thank you to Betty for refreshments. Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm and adjourned at 8:02 pm. Attendees were: Karen Gatchel, Richard Gatchel, Betty Weyek, Peggy Smith, Dorothy Hanchey, Maria Godina, Joan Rust and Serena Villalobos.
- Approval of SOKM Minutes and Agenda
  - November 7, 2023 Minutes and January 9, 2024 Agenda, motioned by Karen Gatchel and second by Peggy Smith, motion was carried.
- Happenings
  - PVSD Music Department & Youth Arts Academy – Betty Weyek
    - **Las Colinas by Reese Copsey-** The Las Colinas bands will have finished their holiday performances. The Las Colinas Advanced Band performed 5 times, including the Winter Holiday Concert, since Halloween. We will be returning music tomorrow and starting to get into music for the Spring season. The LC Advanced and Intermediate classes will have Solo/Ensemble concerts in March.
    - **PVSD YAA The Off Beats – Reese Copsey-** Off Beats have finished their holiday performances. The Off Beats played Somis Thursday Club again this year. It's been busy. The Off Beats are planning on the Newbury Park HS Jazz Festival, possibly on Friday March 22nd. Lots of new music to come.
    - **Monte Vista & DLA by Trish Copsey-** December was a busy month! More than 30 Intermediate/Advanced Monte Vista students marched in the Camarillo Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. The MVS Winter Concert featured Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Band students performing a wide variety of tunes on Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Camarillo Community Center Park. Additionally, Intermediate and Advanced Band students performed a short set of holiday tunes for their peers on Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at Nutrition, and the Advanced Band students played a special mini-concert for our office staff at lunch that day. The MVS Pep Band has now performed at four home games, with two more to go (finished by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February). Looking forward, Intermediate and Advanced Band students will be performing for a MVS Family afternoon/night at the end of January, and by the end of January they will start working on small ensemble pieces to prepare for their Solo/Ensemble Concert on March 19<sup>th</sup>. By mid-February, Intermediate/Advanced Band students will also start working on music for their Recruitment Tour on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Over the next few weeks, I will be working with our counselor to try to rearrange schedules and move some highly motivated students from my current 6<sup>th</sup> grade wheel class into the full-year beginning class for the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. I will be getting two new 6<sup>th</sup> grade elective wheel classes for the second semester. A big “Thank you!” to Beth Harris, Betty Weyek, and SOKM for helping get enough band instruments together to cover another 60+ new instrumental music students (the 6<sup>th</sup> grade wheel class is an Intro to Beginning Band 1-semester class). Happy New Year to all!
    - **K8 Bands & Mariachi by Raynard Solomon-** The K-8 beginning and intermediate bands as well as the mariachi had their concert on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and they did really well. For all of them, whether they performed before or it was their first concert, it was a learning experience to see what they can improve on for next time. I did have a few absences the day of the concert, but everyone made it through and we got a lot of good feedback from the audience as well as in the reflection activity I have my students do. One of my students was even planning on quitting the band after the winter concert, but performing through it

convinced her to want to keep playing in the band. The next big goal is learning more concepts and preparing for our next big concert in the spring.

- **K-5 Music by Raynard Solomon-** Hope you had a good and relaxing holiday season, and happy new year! K-5 Music: I have finished up my ukulele sessions with Tierra Linda and Santa Rosa the week before the break, and will be teaching at Dos Caminos and PVSEA starting next week the 16<sup>th</sup>. I always have students so appreciative of having music lessons in school, to where some students bring in their own ukulele (either brand new ones or ones from their home that's been collecting dust for so long) or even expressed wanting to get a ukulele for themselves. Hopefully next year we can still have this opportunity to have students experience music-making at this age.
- **PVSD YAA Strings by Raynard Solomon-** The beginning strings and string orchestra had their concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and they performed excellently too. For the beginning strings, for a lot of them being their first performance they were all really responsive and tried their best, and I was really impressed by all the volunteer solo performers with one of our songs. They have all proven that they are ready to use the bow. The string orchestra started to be more comfortable as an ensemble and I think it showed in the concert. Again, it was a learning opportunity for a lot of them, and we'll be using that to prepare better for our upcoming concerts with our new music we are preparing. Again, thank you all for your support and help! Have a wonderful evening and hope everyone stays warm on these chilly days!
- **PVSD YAA Guitar by Mauricio Giron-** Hello everyone, Coming back from our winter break every one of the students in the classroom was eager to share their adventures. We took time to share our stories today and resume our rehearsal with the music that we are preparing for our upcoming concert next month. For those of you that were unaware, I decided to push the concert into February 6<sup>th</sup> to give the kids a bit more time to clean up the set that we are working on. Thank you all for your continued support and keeping the music alive in our community!
- **PVSD Chorus by Joan Rust-** Class was able to meet on 1/8/2024 even though there was no school. There are 24 students with 2 new sign ups. Sabrina has been promoting Chorus at the middle schools at PVSD. ACHS Director has brought Choir students during lunch breaks. Karen Gatchel has suggested PVSD Choir practice for 6-8 students to be held at one of the middle schools, older students may be more inclined to join knowing there are other middle school students participating. The December concert was packed and good turn out at the Camarillo Christmas Parade. Chorus will be performing with CSUCI Chorus at Rancho Campana and end of the school year concert. There is a new Choir instructor, Rebecca Guererra.
- **December Events Recap – Betty Weyek-** All performances were successful.
- **All State Honor Band by Betty Weyek-** These are the students auditioning for Ventura County Middle School Honor Band. FLUTE: Caroline Beck from Monte Vista, Ryan Finn from Las Colinas, Kayla Kwon from Las Colinas, Vivian Mei from Las Colinas, and Santino (Polo) Santiago from Monte Vista. CLARINET: Jett Garcia from Las Colinas, Seth Nguyen from Las Colinas, and Zhenni Xu from Santa Rosa Tech. BASS CLARINET: James Castaneda from Las Colinas. ALTO SAXOPHONE: Lucas Pena from University Prep Charter. TRUMPET: Aryan Tank from Las Colinas. TROMBONE: Jared Geronimo from University Prep Charter. TUBA: Savannah Somdahi from Los Primeros. PERCUSSION: Jaxon Lozano from Las Colinas and Jakob Perez from Las Colinas. Performance will be at VCHB Concert February 25th at 2 pm at Ventura HS Theater.
- **All State and SCSBOA Junior High Jazz Bands:** Jaxon Lozano on Drum set from Las Colinas MS. Performance will be at Safe Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento dates from 1/31 - 2/4/24 for All State and 1/26 in Garden Grove for SCSBOA.
- PVSD Music Department and YAA Newsletter – Dorothy Hanchey

- SOKM Donations
  - Toppers Pizza Place by Maria Godina- fundraiser raised \$437.71.
  - Restaurant Nights by Maria Godina - suggestions: Panda Express, Octavios and Yolanda's.
  - CSG Grant by Karen Gatchel- 2024 will be the second year to apply, due 1/19/24.
  - MSL Grant by Karen Gatchel- due 1/24/24.
  - Thank You Letters – Peggy Smith
  
- SOKM Finances – Maria Godina
  - FY 2023-24 Financials
  - MagicJack Phone Renewed by Karen Gatchel- paid through January 2025.
  - Reconciled Statements by Richard Gatchel- not done yet.
  
- SOKM Board Stuff
  - PVSD Music and Arts Plan by Karen Gatchel will be meeting with Beth Harris on Friday 1/12/24 at 10 am. Each school was supposed to hand in their plans prior to the winter break.
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- Next SOKM Board Meeting – 700 Temple, Room C3 and Zoom  
Tuesday, [February 13, 2024](#), 7:00 PM