

## Save Our Kids' Music (SOKM)

Minutes, Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:15 PM  
700 Temple Ave, Room C3 and Zoom

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Thank you to Peggy for refreshments. Meeting called to order at 7:19 pm and adjourned at 8:29 pm. Attendees: Karen Gatchel, Richard Gatchel, Betty Weyek, Peggy Smith, Dorothy Hanchey, Maria Godina, Beth Harris, Joan Rust and Serena Villalobos.
- Approval of SOKM Minutes and Agenda
  - January 9, 2024 Minutes and February 13, 2024 Agenda, Karen Gatchel moved to approve, Peggy Smith seconded, motion passed.
- Happenings
  - **PVSD Music Department & Youth Arts Academy – Betty Weyek**
    - **Las Colinas – Reese Copsey** - Las Colinas is busy with starting to prepare for Solo/Ensemble concerts, Advanced on Mar 14<sup>th</sup> & Intermediate on Mar 21<sup>st</sup>. I'm also going to have the Beginning Class do solos/duets in front of the class in the classroom, just for the experience of a performance. We just moved 9 students from the Beginning to the Intermediate class. A better match for quick accomplishments. Just added 2 new beginning students who are doing well. Hoping for more students this next year. 5 students from LC were accepted by Ventura Co. Honor Band. Concert on Sunday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at Ventura HS 2 pm.  
Thank you to Betty for keeping up with the changing instruments and repairs. Always something new. Thanks.
    - **YAA The Off Beats – Reese Copsey**- Off Beats are anticipating the Newbury Park Jazz Festival on Friday Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> but don't yet have confirmation.
    - **Monte Vista & DLA – Trish Copsey**- First off, a big “Thank you!” to Betty for getting more than 50 instruments processed so we could hand them out to brand-new Music 6 students last week. The students were very excited to put them together and try to make a sound! We will finish getting instruments for students who were absent last week over the next day or so. Thank you to SOKM and Beth (CTE funds) for helping get enough instruments together to make two Intro to Band classes possible this semester!  
Full-year MVS Band students are currently working on new music for their spring performances. Beginning Band students are about halfway through the method book (Standard of Excellence Book 1) and are now working on four different band arrangement pieces as well. Intermediate and Advanced Band students are finding small ensemble music to perform at our Solo/Ensemble Concert in March and have started on new band arrangements for both that performance and our Recruitment Tour in April. The performance on January 31<sup>st</sup> for Monte Vista's Incoming Family Extravaganza went well, with students performing a variety of pop, rock, and swing pieces to entertain new families visiting our campus.  
Monte Vista's two honor band students are currently attending rehearsals once a week with the Ventura County Middle School Honor Band and the group will perform on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at the Ventura HS Theater. The Ventura County HS Honor Band will perform that afternoon as well. As always, thank you for your support!
    - **K8 Bands & Mariachi – Raynard Solomon** - The beginning band of LPSSA and SRTMS are progressing well, and we are generally in the same place as we

were last year. Soon, I will be introducing their first big piece – a march in their book. The intermediate band at both schools are also progressing well and showing great progress on their piece despite only meeting once a week. I wish I could meet with both bands more times a week, but everyone has been working hard and progressing as best they can.

The mariachi is also doing well, working hard on their short pieces and starting their first big piece of music as well. This semester I split the group as beginners and intermediate while both being in the same class so that everyone receives a challenge at their musical level.

Both groups are working hard in preparation for their concert, which I believe to be in the beginning of June. I hope to have another mariachi performance opportunity, maybe open house like we did last year.

- **K-5 Music – Raynard Solomon** - Ukulele classes are progressing well, I am currently at PVSEA and Dos Caminos teaching all their 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Again, a lot of students were able to retain or at least quickly review everything I taught them last year, so now it's just building up from those skills. I will be starting at Rancho Rosal in three weeks, then after their session only leaves Las Posas and LPSSA. I am still in talks with Beth Harris to see if we are continuing ukuleles in some form or another, or if they will transfer me to another assignment if I were to come back for next year.
- **YAA Strings – Raynard Solomon** - Our beginning strings are progressing well, learning more technique and practicing their craft every time I see them. We are around the same place as we were last year, and next month we are on track for them to learn their first big piece of music.  
The String Orchestra has been preparing their three pieces for their Band and Orchestra Festival at Rancho Campana on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Their performance starts at 10am, and we will both be judged with a score and have a clinic as well. It's our third time attending (and their third time hosting) so I am excited to be able to go once more and give this opportunity to these students. After the festival, we will be preparing for both our own concert and the bus tour.  
Thank you again for all your help and support. Have a wonderful day/evening!
- **YAA Guitar – Mauricio Giron** - Last Monday we had our Concert and the students performed well. They presented their skills playing a series of simple melodies for the audience. We then transitioned to some of my more advanced students demonstrating their skills as solo performers. For our finale we played a couple Beatles tunes (Yellow Submarine/Paperback Writer) accompanied by my more advanced students and with vocalists from the guitar class. I hope you all make it to our next concert in May. Thank you for everything you all do.
- **PVSD Chorus – Joan Rust**- There is a new music instructor: Rebecca Guevarra for the younger students. While Sabrina will continue to work with the older students. Next Choir meeting will need to discuss what will happen to the Choir, and we need to learn about the NeonCRM program for registration. Concerts May 4th and 5th with CHICO and CICA. Spring Conert 6/2 @ DCS.
- **YAA Guitar Concert – Betty Weyek**- The concert had a small number of students, however all the students did well including the singer.
- **Honor Groups – Betty Weyek**- will be honored at the next Board meeting at VCOE on Adolfo Rd on 3/7/24 at 6 pm. 9 students in total.
- **SCSBOA Festivals – Betty Weyek**- YAA strings will perform on Saturday 3/9/24 at 10 am. Festival runs from Wednesday 3/6 to Saturday 3/9/24.
- **Solo Ensemble Concerts (LCS, MVS) – Betty Weyek** - 50 instruments were handed out for the two Beginning Band classes at MVS.
- **Summer School – Beth Harris** No decisions yet.

- **PVSD Music Department and YAA Newsletter – Dorothy Hanchey** Send next one beginning of March
- SOKM Donations
  - **PVSD Board Meeting:** Thu 3/7, 6:00 PM, Ventura County Office of Education – Karen Gatchel. SOKM will be presenting PVSD YAA Donation checks. Honor Band students will be recognized.
  - **CSG Grant – Karen Gatchel** - Turned in 1/19/24. Requested 1 bass clarinet and 1 bass trombone.
  - **MSL Grant – Karen Gatchel**- Turned in 1/22/24. Requested 72 Music and Movement kits for students K-2.
  - **Restaurant Nights – Maria Godina**- Yolanda’s has changed how they run fundraisers, now gift cards will be sold and presented at time of purchase. After discussion, it was decided not to try the gift cards. Suggestions for funders include: Octavio’s, Presto Pasta, and Panda Express.
  - Thank You Letters – Peggy Smith. Mailed for January.
- SOKM Finances – Maria Godina
  - FY 2023-24 Financials
  - Reconciled Statements – Richard Gatchel. Reconciled checking through 1/31/24
  - FY 2022-23 990, 190 and RRF-1 – Richard Gatchel. Submitted 12/15/2023
  - WAVE Changes – Richard Gatchel- The free plan is what we are currently using. The Pro Plan includes attachments and enhancements. Will double check if uploading receipts is an attachment function.
- SOKM Board Stuff
  - **PTA Roundtable – Karen Gatchel** - Schools celebrated Valentine’s day, 100th day and Lunar day. Pandemic funds are running out, unsure of how many shifts and hours the schools may lose for counselors. Class sizes will tighten up from 24 students minimum to 35 maximum. Mainstreaming Special Education students into general classes. Hoping for increased attendance by students over entire district. Down since pandemic. Attendance = \$.
  - **PVSD Music and Arts Plan – Beth Harris**- An overview of every school wishes and hopes for the funds to implement at each school, positions, funds for jobs and how many hours to try and continue current classes that SOKM and YAA have provided. Instead of after school, have programs during school hours. Arts and music would like to hire to add Theater Arts for Monte Vista Middle School to run with current elective and regular classes with Bands. Will Prop 28 carry over to summer program or programs for Special Education integration? Will summer school continue to be for remedial education or open for all students? on going conversations are in the works.
- Next SOKM Board Meeting – 700 Temple, Room C3 and Zoom
  - 2024, 7:00 PM Tuesday, [March 12](#),