

## Save Our Kids' Music (SOKM)

Minutes, November 7, 2023, 7:00 PM

700 Temple Ave, Room C3 and Zoom

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Thank you to Karen for refreshments. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and adjourned at 7:48 pm. Attendees were: Karen Gatchel, Richard Gatchel, Betty Weyek, Peggy Smith, Dorothy Hanchey, Beth Hams and Serena Villalobos.
- Approval of SOKM Minutes and Agenda
  - October 10, 2023 Minutes and November 7, 2023 Agenda, motioned by Karen Gatchel and second by Peggy Smith, motion was carried.
- Happenings
  - PVSD Music Department & Youth Arts Academy
    - **Las Colinas – Reese Copsey** via email- Las Colinas bands (3 classes) starting holiday music prep for Winter Concert. Adv Band played Nutrition Break on Halloween & will play a Flash Mob on Nov 16th. Adv Band also anticipates playing holiday music for both lunches at LC on Dec 22nd. All Int and Adv students are invited to be in the Christmas Parade. Don't know yet how many are interested. ACHS Marching Band played a superb performance at LC (and also MV) last week. Jon Sachs from RCHS came to speak to Adv class about music program at Rancho.
    - **YAA The Off Beats – Reese Copsey** via email- Off Beats preparing for Somis Thursday Club and Winter Concert.
    - **Monte Vista & DLA – Trish Copsey** via email- I hope everyone is doing well! Monte Vista Int/Adv students performed a short set of Halloween Music last Tuesday and will be performing a short set of patriotic songs for Veterans Day this Thursday. The ACHS Marching Band visit this past Friday was a big hit, and it was nice to see all the former MVS students in the band! Interested Int/Adv band students have started practicing as part of the MVS Pep Band and will play at MVS home basketball games this season. All MVS Band students are preparing music for our Winter Concert on Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and Int/Adv students have been invited to participate in the Camarillo Christmas Parade as part of the PVSD Band on Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. RCHS visited last week to talk about their music program and ACHS will (tentatively) be visiting next week to do the same.
    - **K8 Bands & Mariachi – Raynard Solomon** via email- The beginning bands at both LPSSA and SRTMS are doing well, our main focus so far has been playing their first five notes with a good tone, and now we are going through the book to apply their sound to new symbols, or learning to read music. If I haven't mentioned before, at LPSSA I have four students (2 trombones, 1 trumpet, and 1 clarinet) and at SRTMS I have 6 students (3 clarinets, 3 alto saxes), and it'll form a good balance as we prepare for our winter concert coming up. The intermediate bands are doing well too. Despite meeting only once a week on Fridays, we are meeting our rehearsal goals and I can tell they are putting in work outside of our classes. At LPSSA we have 6 students (and maybe one more who wants to play tuba) and at SRTMS we have 4 students. I do wish I had more time to work with them so I can teach them more intermediate musical concepts, but they are doing well so far in preparation for the winter concert coming up. Mariachi was off to a great start as we went into our method book and learned how we produce our first sound together as a group. Then I had to cancel classes for my 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they had early dismissal for conferences – though I was able

to spend a lot more time with our returning “intermediate” members from last year, and have more individual time working with my two other beginner middle school students. This week all my students are on early dismissal for Monday and Tuesday, but I will be seeing them one more time before the 3 day weekend. With all our rehearsals remaining, we’ll do the best we can to put on a show for our concert. For numbers, we have 3 returning members (hopefully we can get one more), 4 trumpets, 2 guitars, 1 vihuela, and 1 guitarron.

- **K-5 Music – Raynard Solomon** via email- I have recently finished up my 6 week session at both Camarillo Heights and La Mariposas, and will be starting at Santa Rosa and Tierra Linda this week until the start of winter break. It’s always sad for me to have to leave when students are showing really good improvement and starting to make a good ensemble sound with their instruments, but they are always so thankful and appreciative and I always tell them that all the skills they learn with me transfer over to everything musical they choose to do in their life.
- **YAA Strings – Raynard Solomon** via email- Beginning Strings are moving along well in their book, and between now and the concert it’s all about reinforcing posture while making sure we can all pluck our strings in time. I have 8 violins students, 1 viola student, and 1 cello student, which is smaller than last year but allows me to make sure everyone gets the help they need (especially since I don’t have a volunteer student this year). All of this is to prep us for our end of the year concert where if they do a good job, I get to teach them how to use the bow.

String Orchestra is making great progress on their pieces this year, and every time we warm-up and rehearse together I am impressed by how they are starting to sound like a true intermediate ensemble. So far we are finishing up one of our longer pieces, then soon we’re going right into the challenge piece for this semester where it’ll sound great once we put it together. Again, all preparation for our upcoming winter concert. Thank you all for your support!

- **YAA Guitar – Mauricio Giron** via email- AA Introduction to Guitar is coming along “poco a poco.” We are working on our right and left hand fundamentals in preparation for our first chords. I have a variety of ages and the older students are picking up quickly while the 4-5 grade students have mixed success. The books I requested weren’t in stock so we were set back a little.
- **PVSD Chorus – Joan Rust** via email- Jesus promised me a final flyer for the PVSD Chorus December concert. Will forward it as soon as I get it. (Betty) Almost there on collecting forms. Need just a couple more plus a signature or two. Young group (Little Melodies) is a good size. Older group (Grace Notes) is small. Those singers are going to have some near semi-privates for the rest of the year. They come out of the class with Sabrina SMILING! Will approach finding volunteers for the parade, then rounding up paperwork. Want to do some creative thinking for second and third trimesters & add middle-schoolers. The spring orchestra concert (with CHICO and adult/high school choirs) promises to be very worthwhile.

- **December Events – Betty Weyek**

- 12/13, 6:30-8:30, PVSEA, K8 Concert
- 12/14, 6:30-8:30, PVSEA, YAA Strings & Guitar Concert
- 12/16, 9:30-11:30, Com Ctr Park, LCS, MVS, YAA TOB Concert
- 12/16, 11:30-1:30, Com Ctr Park, LCS, MVS, YAA TOB Concert

- **PVSD Music Department and YAA Newsletter – Dorothy Hanchey-** will include a Sign-up Genius for Christmas Parade with a Volunteer forms link.

- **SOKM Donations**

- **Thank You Letters** – Peggy Smith for October Donations.
- **Board Donations** are due.

- SOKM Finances – Maria Godina
  - FY 2023-24 Financials
  - **Reconciled Statements – Richard Gatchel** - Checking is up to date through 10/31/23 in the new system. Savings account is up to date through 9/30/23 quarterly.
  
- SOKM Board Stuff
  - **PTA Roundtable – Karen Gatchel**- PVSD is working on incentive programs to reduce absences. Attendance still down from pre-pandemic levels. Drop in ADA from absences putting a big dent in budget.
  - **PVSD Music and Arts Plan – Karen Gatchel, Beth Hams and Peggy Burt**- Discussion about with hiring opportunities for Arts Plan with job classifications; certificated teachers, credential teachers, possible teachers with base skills–Look for instruments, things we already have access to. Next week will discuss staffing. Surveys sent out to teachers, check who is interested. During winter breaks schools are asked to give attentive plan. Co-funding pulling funds to start in the New Year.
  
- Next SOKM Board Meeting – 700 Temple, Room C3 and Zoom
  - Tuesday, [January 9, 2024](#), 7:00 PM ([No December Meeting](#))