



Suzuki Association of Ontario
Full Board Meeting
Minutes
Saturday, December 3, 2022 at 7pm on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84358804592?pwd=S2FEMkh4QUdHb1NYVkt4UVZaUFo0QT09>

Meeting ID: 843 5880 4592

Passcode: 535414

1. Welcome & Call to Order

- Welcome everyone!
- The Winter 2022 SAO Board Meeting is called to order on December 3, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom.
- Land Acknowledgement
 - Presented by Genevieve Schirm-Joyce
 - *The Suzuki Association of Ontario would like to acknowledge that Ontario is located on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples dating back countless generations. We want to show our respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treaty making in what is now Ontario. Hundreds of years after the first treaties were signed, they are still relevant today.*
- SAO Mission Statement
 - Presented by Debbie Hammond
 - *The mission of the Suzuki Association of Ontario is to promote and support the Suzuki Method of learning by nurturing excellence in education.*

2. Report from the Treasurer

- Updates on approved budget
 - The 2021/2022 SAO Actuals were presented by Genevieve Schirm-Joyce
 - Income:
 - Membership numbers are up, last years' conference income was higher (although expenses were also higher)
 - Urd Grander Scholarship is new; we have no details about stipulations
 - Newsletter Advertising is up
 - Expenses:
 - Previous Administrator payout has driven this expense up: Membee makes the position much more efficient
 - IT Expenses are Membee fees



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- Bookkeeper expenses are also much lower
 - Budget balances because of the scholarship - in reality we are in the negative for the year
 - This year we have been trying our best to spend in the most efficient, high-impact way possible
 - Conference actuals
 - Presented later in the meeting
 - Scholarships Update
 - The 2022-2023 Operating Budget was provided
 - The Conference actuals were much lower than was budgeted
 - Hopefully upcoming events will balance the difference - otherwise, we may have to put a hold on scholarships
- 3. Executive Report
 - Board member agreements for 2022-23
 - Please sign our 2022-2023 Board Member agreement for the year and post in Basecamp or email by December 21
 - Membership update
 - We are down to 81 Active members, but way up on Subscribing members
 - Losing 20 teacher members is considerable - we are now reconciling the Membership lists for Area Reps
 - Please reach out to members who have not renewed (we will provide some copy)
 - Newsletter deadline upcoming! Please assemble reports and post to Basecamp or email to Debbie
 - SAO will be on break from Wednesday, December 21 - Monday January 9th and Genevieve will be out-of-office until January 12th
 - Program updates
 - Planting the Seed Series was a big success!
 - 92 Registrations and lots of attendance
 - We had a lot of positive feedback at the Conference as well
 - February 4th event with Christine Goodner
 - Single event fee \$15



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- Subscriptions are still available - recordings of the previous talks are included
4. 2022 Conference Wrap Up
 - **Motion to go In-Camera (as a reminder, our Board Confidentiality Clause is in effect)**
 - **Motioned by: Debbie Hammond**
 - **Seconded: Lauren Taylor**
 - **All in Favour**
 - **Carried**
 5. SAO TEA Events
 - Potential topic or guest speaker ideas?
 - Please send in proposals for any topics you think would be interesting!
 - We are hoping to host a TEA at the end of May 2023
 6. Planting the Seed 2022-23
 - The sessions have been great so far!
 - Final session is coming up Saturday, February 4 at 7pm with Christine Goodner
 - Supporting home music practice
 - We are hoping for high attendance - please save the date!
 - Bonus Session: All about Institutes TBC with Josée Desjardins and assorted others who are involved in the leadership of Canadian Institutes.
[Planting the Seed Addendum 2022-23 - SAO - Full Board](#)
 - Our local institute is SOSI; ISM is the next closest
 - Disclosure: Genevieve is the SOSI Cello/Bass director, and Lauren is on the SOSI Board
 - We are hoping this will get people interested in Institutes again post-Covid
 - We are looking at a February/early March date for this session
 7. Planting the Seed 2023-24 [2023-24 Planting the Seed Proposal - SAO - Full Board](#)
 - Finding new series of speakers
 - We would like to hire Canadian teachers as much as possible
 - Introduction to Suzuki for session 1 (late September)



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- Paule Barsalou and Christine Zimmer for session 2 (October)
 - Older-student directed session 3 (October) - Ed Sprunger?
 - One other session (February)
 - We would like international speakers to be big draws
 - Carrie Reuning-Hummel gave a great Parent Talk at the conference
 - Ed Sprunger may be a great choice
 - Matthew Gould has some suggestions to send to Debbie - Thanks Matthew!
 - Scott Gossage
 - Witold Swoboda gave a great Parent Talk at SOSI a few years ago (Witold is also an SAO member)
 - We could also run a TEA event(s) with other teachers outside of the series!
 - Proposal: Paule Barsalou & Christine Zimmer, Scott Gossage, Sally Gross, Ed Sprunger, alternate Witold Swoboda
 - **Motion to go forward with the 2023 Conference planning process with clinicians proposed above**
 - **Motioned by: Debbie Hammond**
 - **Seconded: George Cleland**
 - **All in Favour**
 - **Carried**
 - We will be approaching member schools for program support
 - Setting up registration for 2022-23 will be prioritised
8. 2023 Conference Team
- Refresh on the format
 - The Conference Rebuild Proposal document was presented and can be found here: [2023 Conference Rebuild Proposal - SAO - Full Board](#)
 - Interest in running the SAO Conference was very low
 - We would like the conference to be run based on the SAA model, where the Executive team runs the conference with the help of a committee on the ground



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- Having a conference team take on the event made more work for the executive team
 - We would like for the conference to be more teacher-centred, with teacher sessions over 2 days
 - We have invited Rob Richardson as a keynote, as well as to do a parent talk
 - We would also like to invite Sharon Jones as a keynote, as well as to do a SECE revision course
 - We would also like to do a call-out for 4-6 teacher volunteers to do Teacher Day sessions (this will give teacher participants more variety as well as more opportunity to be heard)
 - Teacher participants would sign up for sessions in advance
 - The Student Day component would be replaced by a Play-In (with a larger Student Day event every 3 years - logistically, this is much easier to handle, and would allow more time to make a great event)
 - The Conference will take place on November 11 & 12, 2023 - please save the date!
 - [2023 Conference Detailed Plan - SAO - Full Board](#)
 - Proposed contacts for supporting the event
 - How do we get teachers to make attending a priority?
9. Newsletter Submissions
- Next deadline is December 5. Please get your reports in on schedule. The newsletter needs to be sent out on time.
10. Strategic Planning
- The discussion will be scheduled in the new year.
 - The February Board Meeting will be dedicated to Strategic Planning
 - The Strategic Planning documents are in Basecamp - please add any comments or suggestions if you have any!
 - Please look out for a Doodle Poll for dates
11. Membership Survey



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- Review questions from the survey used last year. Please make updates, additions/deletions as needed to reflect new questions.
 - We will discuss this further in our Strategic Planning meeting in February

12. Website Discussion

- Our current website is Wordpress based, which is not very user-friendly and will cost more than Membee
- We will be rebuilding the website and switching over to Membee hosting, so we will be revising the website over the next 6 months as well

13. Committees

- Our committees will remain the same, unless we hear from you!

14. Next Meeting: early February 2023

15. Motion to Adjourn the December 2022 FBM

- **Motioned by: Debbie Hammond**
- **Seconded: Lauren Taylor**
- **Adjourned**