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 April 21, 2026

Attendance: total number of attendees = 21

Attendees

Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President
Tista Kapoor	Co-VP Donations
Tina Pao	Co-Recording Secretary
Rupert Josh	Parlamentarian

Music Directors

Name	School
Michael Boitz	SHS
Shelley Durbin	SHS
Jon Jow	RMS
Isabel McPherson	RMS
Jason Shiuan	SHS

Booster Members

Name	Role
Richard Aochi	Controller
Dongni Chen	SHS Band / Publicity
Lily Chow	Cookie Dough Co-Chair
Beryl Liu	SHS Band / Publicity
Isabel Oh	Member
Oliver Su	SMB Student Webmaster
Vivian Liu	SMB Student Webmaster
Thea Widmer	SMB Webmaster
Amanda Wroblewski	Member
Joyce Koh-Fernandez	RMS Orchestra Liason

Alicia calls the meeting to order at **7:06 pm**

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Alicia de Fuentes: Welcomed attendees and confirms quorum with three executive board members present.

March Meeting Minutes Approval

Alicia de Fuentes: The March meeting minutes were circulated over the weekend. Asked for questions or comments regarding march meeting minutes?

- Motion: Tina Pao
- Second: Dongni Chen
- Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

March Financials

Approval postponed until May.

Alicia de Fuentes: Reported Sneha was unable to attend. Budget vs. Actuals to be discussed at the next meeting.

Transaction List #1798–1842

Alicia de Fuentes: Noted one check (#1822 for Brook Windsor) was voided after it failed to reach its destination. Address confirmation is in progress and the item will appear again next month.

- Motion: Tina Pao
- Second: Dongni Chen
- Motion approved.

Budget vs. Actuals (Presentation Only)

Alicia de Fuentes: Reported a net revenue of approximately -$24K due to financial assistance commitments. Two major budget items are still missing: the International Trip budget and ASTA trip budget confirmation.

Discussion focused on the need to formalize and clean up budget reporting. **Shiuan:** Asked whether a formal budget had previously been presented.

Alicia de Fuentes: Said she will review past records and follow up if needed.

Balance Sheet (Presentation Only)

Alicia de Fuentes: Noted several balance sheet items requiring clarification, including choir and Redwood trip expenses incorrectly listed as assets. The board plans to work with previous treasurers to resolve these issues and align reported assets more closely with actual bank balances.

Tax Filing Update

Richard Aochi: Shared that requested information had been sent to the accountant and they are awaiting a response. Alicia encouraged continued follow-up.

Pancake Breakfast Update

Oliver Su presented PB numbers

- 603 tickets sold so far
- 45 teacher tickets sold
- Sales are currently about 60% of last year's pace

Board Discussion: Members discussed possible reasons for slower ticket sales, including broader economic and international concerns. Tina Pao shared that confirmation regarding sausage donations is expected later in the week. Jon Jow added that ticket promotions to students had just begun and sales may increase soon.

Approval of 2026–2027 Nomination Slate

Josh Rupert: Presented the proposed slate for officers, chairs, liaisons, and volunteers.

Only minor liaison updates had been made since the previous meeting. Josh noted that no positions were contested and that the executive team remains stable for next year.

Alicia de Fuentes: Emphasized the importance of maintaining filled executive roles.

- Motion: Tina Pao
- Second: Thea Widmer
- Motion passed.

Percussion Instrument Repair Grant Request

Jason Shiuan: Presented a grant request to replace damaged and out-of-tune xylophone and marimba bars caused by repeated indoor/outdoor use and normal wear.

The proposed replacement set would remain indoors to prevent future damage.

Although the proposal had not been circulated in time according to bylaws, the parliamentarian confirmed the board could proceed with voting.

- Motion: Josh Rupert
- Second: Joyce Koh-Fernandez
- Motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Student GoFundMe

Amanda Wroblewski: Asked about a student-created GoFundMe related to a leadership service project.

Jason Shiuan: Explained that student leadership applicants are encouraged to complete service projects and independently fundraise when necessary. Traditional fundraising such as bake sales or boba tea sales are typically used, and the GoFundMe approach was unexpected. Clarified that the fundraiser was not associated with SMB.

Music Directors' Reports (Part I)

Isabel McPherson

Shared highlights from the Southern California/Disneyland trip involving over 150 students. She reported that the performances and workshops went very smoothly and that students benefited greatly from the experience.

She noted that students especially enjoyed hearing recordings of their own performances during the soundtrack workshop session. Preparations are now underway for Pancake Breakfast performances, including combined orchestra performances.

Jon Jow

Shared updates and photos from:

- CMEA Festival
- Memorial tree plaque installation
- Winter Percussion and Color Guard competitions
- Disneyland trip highlights
- Chaperone appreciation efforts

Jon highlighted that Advanced Band received a superior rating in sight reading at CMEA. He also shared updates on the memorial tree plaque installation and explained that the tree had become notable enough to appear on the Saratoga city website.

Jon Jow and Isabel McPherson reflected on the enthusiasm and growth of students participating in Winter Percussion and combined middle school/high school performances.

Dongni Chen: Thanked Mr. Jow for transporting alumni artwork from Southern California for the silent auction. Jon shared updates and photos from:

District RSVP Requirement Discussion

The board discussed a new district requirement that students RSVP for performances outside school hours.

Jon Jow: Explained that families have historically communicated conflicts in advance and that the main change is related to grading and attendance tracking.

Shelley Durbin: Clarified that performance attendance has generally been evaluated through communication and group commitment rather than direct grading. She added that students who repeatedly miss performances may impact their standing within advanced groups and ensembles.

Josh Rupert: Notes that participation expectations are especially important for groups such as chamber ensembles.

Amanda Wroblewski: Asks whether concerts could ever be held during the school day. **Isabel:** Responds that evening performances are necessary so families can attend.

Alicia de Fuentes: Expresses concern that the district may have unintentionally complicated the process for students and families by requiring formal RSVPs. She noted that under the previous system, students could often communicate conflicts and be excused more informally.

Michael Boitz: Questions whether other departments were being asked to follow the same procedures and commented that the requirement felt punitive if applied only to music programs.

Shelley Durbin: Reiterates that she evaluates communication and commitment rather than simply grading attendance at performances.

Jon Jow: Shares that Mr. Hamm is available to answer parent questions regarding the new policy.

Commission Buy-In Approvals

Steven Juliani Piece with Seraph Brass Quintet presented at previous meeting.

- Motion: Tina Pao
- Second: Dongni Chen
- Motion passed.

Shruthi Rajasekar Commission Buy-In presented at previous meeting.

The board discussed plans to perform the commissioned work during the following school year.

- Motion: Tina Pao
- Second: Dongni Chen
- Motion passed.

Japan Trip Update

Michael Boitz: Reported a fuel surcharge increase affecting ANA-operated flights. JTB (air vendor) and Aki @ Bravo Music are helping absorb part of the added cost to reduce the impact on families.

Discussion included:

- Potential additional charges
- Communication with families
- Concert attire logistics
- Packing checklists
- Concert ticket information
- Parent travel coordination
- Visa responsibilities

Michael Boitz noted that the trip budget had been built conservatively to allow some flexibility for unexpected expenses.

Music Directors' Report (Part II)

Michael Boitz

Reported successful orchestra performances at CMEA and preparations for Pancake Breakfast and chamber music festival auditions.

He noted that the orchestra program continues to grow and that students were especially well prepared during auditions this year.

Jason Shiuan

Shared updates from the hosted CMEA festival, Winter Guard championships, and Winter Percussion's trip to Dayton.

Shiuan said judges were highly complimentary of both the students and parent volunteers during the CMEA festival. Shiuan also highlighted the strong performances and growth shown by Winter Guard and Winter Percussion students throughout the season.

Shiuan added that Mr. Clark wanted to express gratitude to Music Boosters and parent volunteers for making the Dayton trip possible.

Alicia de Fuentes: Mentioned that Joshua Zhang had shared Mr. Clark's speech to students after their performance and described it as moving.

Jason Shiuan: Added that band and jazz band preparations for upcoming tours and year-end concerts are continuing smoothly.

Michael Boitz: Reflected on the emotional impact of senior night performances and the meaningful experiences students gained through the season. He emphasized the value of students being emotionally vulnerable and supportive of one another.

Shelley Durbin

Reported on:

- The successful pop show format
- Collaboration with Lynbrook choir
- Upcoming retreats and performances
- Preparations for CMEA and Japan

She emphasized the choir program's focus on collaboration, musical growth, and cultural exchange. Students are also preparing collaborative music with partner choirs in Japan, including songs in Japanese.

Additional Reminders

Alicia de Fuentes: Reminded members not to open student music WhatsApp groups until after Informance to ensure students are officially committed to the ensemble.

A Winter Percussion slideshow was presented.

Meeting adjourned at **8:36 PM**.

Summary of Motions

Approval of March SMB Meeting Minutes	**Tina Pao** moves, **Dongni Chen** seconds, motion carries
Approval of March 2026 Transactions **#1798-1842**	**Tina Pao** moves, **Dongni Chen** seconds, motion carries
Approval of 2026-2027 Nomination Slate	**Tina Pao** moves, **Thea Widmer** seconds, motion carries
Approval of Commission Buy In: Steven Juliana / Seraph Brass Quintet	**Tina Pao** moves, **Dongni Chen** seconds, motion carries
Approval of Commission Buy In: Shruthi Rajasekar piece	**Tina Pao** moves, **Dongni Chen** seconds, motion carries
Approval of Percussion Instrument Repair Grant	**Josh Rupert** moves. **Joyce Koh-Fernandez** seconds, motion carries.

Thank You,

Sri Balakrishnan / Tina Pao

Co-Recording Secretaries