

SMB:

**SARATOGA MUSIC
BOOSTERS**

A 501(c)(3) organization supporting music programs in the Saratoga Union School District and Saratoga High School

Table of Contents

Attendees	1
Executive Board	1
Music Directors	1
Booster Members	1
Welcome & Board Member Intros	2
June Minutes Approval	2
End of Year Financials	2
End of Year Cash Flow	2
End of Year Balance Sheet	2
End of Year Budget vs Actual:	2
End of Year Transactions	2
July Financials	2
July Budget vs Actual:	2
July Balance Sheet	3
July Transactions	3
Tax Filing Time for SMB	3
SMB Domain Transition Update	3
Year End SUSD Board Meeting Update	3
SHS Hall of Fame Update	4
SHS/RMS Liaisons / Student Webmaster Update	4
Winter Percussion Budget Update	4
SUSD Music Budget Update	5
Japan International Trip Update	5
Directors' Reports	6
Isabel McPherson	6
Jon Jow	7
Jason Shiuan	7
Sean Clark	8
Shelley Durbin	8
Summary of Motions	10

Regular Meeting in-person on August 19, 2025

Attendance: total number of attendees = 26

Attendees

Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President
Mrudula Prashant	Co-VP Donations
Tista Kapoor	Co-VP Donations
Sri Balakrishnan	Co-Recording Secretary
Tina Pao	Co-Recording Secretary
Sneha Melkote	Treasurer/ Pancake Breakfast Treasurer
Josh Rupert	Parliamentarian

Music Directors

Name	School
Michael Boitz	SHS
Sean Clark	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
Eva Fan	SHS Orchestra
Vrinda Gopal	SHS Band
Jiyoon Hwang	RMS Band
Suzie Kim	SHS Orchestra
Joyce Koh-Fernandez	RMS Orchestra / RMS Color Guard
Beryl Liu	SHS Band / Publicity
Oliver Su	Student Webmaster
Thea Widmer	Parent Webmaster
Eunjoo/Emily Yi	SHS Band

Alicia calls the meeting to order at **7:03pm**

Welcome & Board Member Intros

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: Students, Teachers & admin. I hope everyone is doing well. Let's have a quick intro for each of us.

<Self introductions>: Alicia, Mrudula, Dongni, Beryl, Raymond, Thea, Richard, Sneha, Erin, Tina, Shelley, Michael, Jon, Isabel, Jason, Sean, Eva, Joyce

<Continued Self introductions>: Suzie, Emily, Jiyeon, Tista, Vrinda

June Minutes Approval

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

June meeting minutes circulated over the weekend prior to meeting

Tina Pao makes a motion to approve the June 2025 SMB meeting minutes, **Mrudula Prashant** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

End of Year Financials

(Presented by Sneha Melkote)

End of Year Cash Flow

[EOY Cash Flow](#)

End of Year Balance Sheet

[EOY Balance Sheet](#)

End of Year Budget vs Actual:

[EOY Budget vs Actual](#)

End of Year Transactions

[EOY Transactions](#)

Review transactions 1062-1589

Vrinda Gopal makes a motion to approve the EOY 2025 financials and EOY transactions (1062-1589). **Joyce Koh-Fernandez** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Alicia: Webmasters can you make these public now that it has passed?

July Financials

(Presented by Sneha Melkote)

July Budget vs Actual:

[July Budget vs Actual](#)

Sneha: The Cash Flow is actually a study of the Budget vs Actual and Balance Sheet. So you see in June, we created that liability account and in July we brought it back as a recognized income for this fiscal year. I'm looking at the Budget vs Actual. Line #5 under Revenue. So what we actually got in June, we moved to July using 1 simple technique, and now we have an opening balance to be used for the Japan trip. But during July we had to make a few wires to pay for the trip and I'll show you that down the line. Some of our Paypal transactions are entered here but some of the matching and the deposits which relate to matching are still not captured so it's sitting under revenue in suspense, 4999. The only thing that happened in July was the Japan trip and the income and some of the parents that paid in advance, some got refunded. There were some stock donations toward the Japan trip and with the 2 wires that were sent out we were about equal.

July Balance Sheet

[July Balance Sheet](#)

July Transactions

[July Transactions](#)

Transaction list **1590-1595** reviewed.

Vrinda Gopal makes a motion to approve the July financials and July transactions (**1590-1595**). **Mrudula Prashant** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Tax Filing Time for SMB

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes & Richard Aochi)

Alicia: Alright, Richard, your cue! It's tax filing time for SMB.

Richard: Yes I have to pull things together and have been sending emails out . We will need all info assembled by the end of Sept.

SMB Domain Transition Update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: SMB is fully transitioning to the SMB domain. Please use this month to move to the new domain. Thank you!

Year End SUSD Board Meeting Update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: Request SMB board for support to speak on behalf of SMB.

1. Request a meeting first.
2. If that meeting doesn't happen, then will speak up under Public Comments as a parent at the board meeting.
3. If permitted by this board, speak under the SMB umbrella

Vrinda Gopal: makes a motion to allow Alicia to speak on behalf of SMB. **Mrudula Prashant** 2nds motion. 5 executive board members (Tista Kapoor, Tina Pao, Mrudula Prashant, Sneha Melkote and Josh Rupert) approve the motion.

SHS Hall of Fame Update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: This is fun. SHS is starting HOF where we recognize alumni, community members. We have an honoree among us – Mr. Jow. He will be inducted! And the sales are up and there are 5 Boosters supporting this event - Music, theater arts, PTSO, Foundation and speech & debate. We are all using this as a fundraiser but we're all here to support community and growth. If there is some income that's a bonus. HOF is a space where SHS and its community recognize great things that our people have achieved in or outside of the school. Tickets are on sale now. If you want to join us, it's Oct 4, 6-9 pm where there will be food, wine, drink, music. Question, do we have anyone in our ensembles that want to play?

Michael: Of course!

Shelley: I'm hoping to bring an acapella group with an appropriate theme song in the honoring process.

Alicia: Of course! If there are ensemble groups interested, we'll get them in the program.

SHS/RMS Liaisons / Student Webmaster Update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

Alicia: There are liaison positions still available: RMS & SHS Choir Liaisons. Eva Fan added as SHS Orchestra Liaison. We are looking to find a shadow student webmaster to replace outgoing senior, Oliver Su.

Winter Percussion Budget Update

(Presented by Sean Clark)

[Winter Percussion Budget for 2025-2026](#)

Sean: We're way ahead. I built this in May and some of it is not fully accurate, but for the most part this is what we did to present options for the WP parents. First tab, this is the cost of all the shows for A and World Class. 2nd tab shows the cost of the trip for Dayton. This is identical for 2024, slightly increased. I think the last year we went to Dayton, we asked for a program grant. Jason and I were talking about what would be best, and Jason and I decided on \$7500. In May we asked what parents would support because we're very cognizant of the costs if a family wanted to do winter percussion, band and Japan.

Alicia: Grant is how much?

Sneha: 7500\$

Michael: We're looking at some possible fundraisers we haven't done in a # of years but we might move forward with it.

Vrinda Gopal motions to approve the Winter Percussion budget as presented. **Mrudula Prashant** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

SUSD Music Budget Update

(Presented by Jon Jow & Isabel McPherson)

[SUSD Approved Music Budgets for Band-Sectionals/Choir/Color Guard](#)

Band, Color Guard and Choir budgets presented. Current enrollment at RMS is approximately 224 students, and donation amount is \$390. Mr. Ramirez requested formal uniforms for Choir. Previously used uniforms (80 qty) can be used for the 27 students currently enrolled in Choir.

Color Guard budget is a place holder currently as the program doesn't begin until after Labor Day.

Alicia: With Color Guard, do we have kids already signing up?

Jon: No, we will start in Sept and meet right after Labor Day.

Alicia: Do you have a min # of students you need to be able to take this on?

Jon: I can ask the instructor, good question. It's tricky because it's an entry point to SHS, but it's a good conversation to have.

Alicia: You might not be able to go into competitions if you don't have a min # of kids. However, we do want to start building the group regardless of the number required for competition entry.

Vrinda Gopal makes a motion to approve the 3 RMS budgets as presented. **Mrudula Prashant** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Japan International Trip Update

(Presented by Michael Boitz)

Michael: An updated itinerary is available from Bravo Music Travel with details filled in. In June, Mrs. Shiuan, Boitz and Mrs. Hasegawa visited all the hosts, event sponsors, concert halls, hotels and a number of the exchange schools and took a 9 day/7 night equivalent of the upcoming 15 day/13 night Japan trip. ANA and United will be the flight carriers and will allow for 2 pieces of checked luggage per traveler which will come in well under the original budget set up to pay for extra luggage / instruments.

Air deviation forms will be sent out soon to allow for families requiring return flight changes to other locations.

Lynbrook Choir has been invited to join the Choir portion of the Japan Tour as we have done in the past. Presentation will be made to their group on 9/3 or 9/4. This should round out the Choir portion to between 40-50.

Michael: I think we have about 450-460 staff, students and families traveling at this time. Not counting Lynbrook. I know that Bravo Travel was already getting seats on the bullet train for June 2026 ahead of the time that they are actually for sale. So if you've ever been on a bullet train before, it's not going to be a free for all - we will be assigned seats.

Michael: The properties are amazing. We prepared everybody for what is more often really tiny, compartmentalized hotel rooms compared to the U.S., but because our group is so large we were able to get the largest properties and they tend to be a little bit nicer than they should be for a high school group. We were delightfully surprised when we were there. One of the properties, when we go to the Mount Fuji Music festival is right outside of Lake Kawaguchiko, you literally can see the top of Mt Fuji from every hotel room. We're in for a treat.

Alicia: It's my understanding, we have no more availability for more band kids at this time?

Michael: Yes, we're really at capacity for Band. If we add more, that means getting another coach bus and if you don't have enough people to spread the cost then that will increase total costs. We do have a few spots left in the Orchestra that might have been filled today. For the Shadow tour, we have a fair # of spots. Shadow tour people tend to decide last minute. If you're still thinking of coming with us, shadow tour. It's a super fun time for anyone who has never traveled on our shadow tour. AND we have room for choir as of this moment. As soon as Lynbrook signs up, we will have to close up. For students who would like to join the choir, let's do that sooner than later. That will fill up quickly.

Directors' Reports

Isabel McPherson

Isabel: Hello. I've seen most of the 5th grade classes. We started off the year with our now normal system of trying out band and orchestra instruments. I noticed there are many younger siblings. That's a lot of fun. Snitching on your sibling is fun. At Redwood, as Mr. Jow said, we're fortunate to have almost all the ensembles together again. Beginning being split is not as hard. 4th period is both Chamber for me and Beginning Orchestra for Mr. Jow. But we'll figure it out. I've always said I wanted a leadership program so this schedule might allow for that. We did all the petting zoo for Orchestra instruments and it went pretty well. It's one of those weird years that no one wants to play violin for some reason. It happens every couple of years, not sure why. We'll figure it out. Looking forward to all the trips planned for this year.

Alicia: Have the trips been approved by the board?

Isabel: I still have to submit the paperwork but they are day trips so it shouldn't be hard. I have to have the schedule confirmed before sending the requests. We'll have answers some time soon I'm sure. Intermediate is back together.

Alicia: Was it worth the advocacy?

Isabel: Yeah. Jon can speak for his classes, but yes for me.

Jon: For me, yes. It's a big difference.

Alicia: Do you need more instruments?

Isabel: We have all the tiny basses from last year. We'll never utilize the full inventory.

Alicia: What is the biggest ensemble?

Isabel: 52, but all the ensembles are around 50. Beginning is basically 50 also but in 2 classes. Last year there's a lot of talk of people not getting their music classes, but we haven't heard any complaints this year. If you have heard, please let us know!

Alicia: Liaisons, have you heard?

Joyce: It's been quiet. It's good.

Jon Jow

Jon: Let me see what we didn't talk about. Intermediate/ Advanced bands are back together. We're excited. Beginners will start mouthpiece trials this week. Colorguard/WP are in early stages of planning but hopefully last year set the precedent. Aiming for the end of Sept / beginning of October to start WP season. Our 1st event of the year is Advanced Band's guest appearance with SHS at the football game on 9/26. Field trip planning is under way. We're planning to go to the Symphony with the Advanced students. The Symphony is doing a live play along with Home Alone. The Disney trip is moving forward. Mr. Ramirez is discussing trips for choir. I suggested BroadwaySF or BroadwaySJ. We have a lot of really great things happening.

- We're back at it! We're pleased to share that all non-beginning instrumental ensemble classes at Redwood this year occur during the same class period and are able to rehearse together. We currently have over 220 band students at Redwood, beginning to advanced. Intermediate and Advanced Bands will start playing their instruments on Thursday. Beginning will be starting mouthpiece trials and moving forward with instrument selection on the same day.
- Color Guard will be starting soon, aiming for the beginning of September. We will have the consistency of our two color guard staff members from last year, and are aiming to add one more to help serve these students better and continue to build on the success of last year.
- Winter Percussion is in the early planning stages thanks to Mr. Staab. We're hoping to hit the ground running around October to start preparing for a competitive winter percussion season if all goes well.
- Our first event of the year will be our guest appearance with SHS at this year's SHS football game on Friday, September 26. We're looking forward to giving our students the opportunity to meet and interact with their high school counterparts again!
- Field Trip planning is already underway and we'll have more information and registration for applicable families soon.

Jason Shiuan

Jason: Band camp has been off and running since the beginning of August. Great start to the season. Ms. McPherson has been spending time with us, and it's been really great to see the progress the students have made already. Informance is on Saturday.

Mr. Clark has been building and writing this show since Nov of last year. This show has a special connection to the past. Part of Band Camp this year was Mr. Boitz, and my former band directors, Dr. Zarkow, speaking to all the students about where the program was when it started and where it is now. On the 2nd day, we got to have Mr. Jow, Ms. McPherson, Mr. Pwu and me talking about the special connection to our past.

We discovered Mr. Jow was Mr. Boitz's 1st 4 years of teaching, then Mr. Pwu was the next 4-5 years when the program really shot up, and Ms. McPherson and I were the next 4-5 years with Macy's Parade and the Rose Parade and Mr. Pwu came back and taught as a teacher and then I came back to teach. So, between the 4 of us, we spanned Mr. Boitz's 28 years of teaching. That was very special to share.

Anyway, as mentioned, our Informance is a great evening to share a preview of what's happening for the year. We were supposed to have our 1st home football game on Aug 28th but for reasons

thru no fault of Saratoga's, it got moved to August 30th. Due to the long weekend, we are not going to be going to that game. We will be at the next home game.

Sean Clark

Sean: Marching Band Percussion is the largest we've ever had. I think we're at something like 40 kids. Front Ensemble this year is ridiculously large - kind of comical - but a big win is the leadership, it is really strong. We've had a large influx of Freshman - 7 or 8 in Front Ensemble and 6 of 7 in Battery and they are all really strong. It's a strong crop. Props to all of our people at Redwood. And to Joey Staab. The front ensemble is in a whole different look. They're not so much in the front, but in an ensemble off to the side. Marching Band stuff is going great.

This year's show is really cool. It's called the Threads Between Us. Inspired by Boundless, which was the show the first year Mr. Shiuan was a Freshman.

On the WP front, we already have a lot of the work done.

In jazz band land, Mr. Shiuan is in touch with an artist named Vienna Teng. She is an alum and a wonderful songwriter and musician. She wrote a song called "The Boy at the Piano" about a boy she had a crush on at Saratoga. And our Jazz band will be working with her. Raymond will be arranging part of the tune with the jazz band. That's a fun little mid semester project the kids will work on.

Alicia: Fantastic!

Sean: One last thing. Last year we went to Midwest Clinic but because of it, we lost out on a lot of teaching the fundamentals. We have now a 5th period percussion class. Because of that, we can focus on teaching fundamentals which has been really fun. It makes me super excited that the kids are getting a lot stronger just in the past week.

Michael: I want to say a special thank you to Sneha bc of the budget. Anybody who knows anything about our budget & financials knows It is a massive undertaking. It is a Herculean task for Richard dealing with the taxes. We can't thank you enough because we can't do what we're doing without your support. To everybody on the board, we want to say a huge huge thank you for participating, for helping. We hope you're looking forward to a great year.

Michael: Ms. Durbin, are you ready?

Shelley: I am ready.

Shelley Durbin

Shelley: In case you weren't at last Spring's Meeting. I'm Shelley Durbin. I'm in my 37th year of teaching. I am an extreme extrovert, so please just come talk to me anytime. I've been very happy with the beginning of the year. The kids have been very welcoming and my colleagues have been helping out. I can tell you that it doesn't matter how many years you've taught. Your first year at any school is your first year.

I do want to say that it was interesting going to the MB legacy meetings. But, it did emphasize that music kids are accomplishing so much but you still go away with these stories you have in common of how we got into trouble.....those things that bind things together. Also it made me feel like I was joining this very special society. Reinforced how privileged I feel to be here. So it was really cool. It was like being in on a secret initiation.

As Mr. Boitz mentioned our #s are growing both in Choir and AP theory class. I've been really happy with how all of that is launching. One thing I have picked out immediately is how assertive, independent, motivated these students are, and like with the choir kids they were so organized and so ready to go and motivated. So we got together to have a meeting to hear what their plans were.

With regards to what they're doing. I've been teaching for a long time but I'm very much not into wanting to overturn their apple cart because they are so invested in what they are doing. I don't feel the need to come in to overhaul anything. I think we have good communications going on. The students in leadership in Choir are very aware of the younger students. It's not just me coming in and saying let's grow the choir. They are already thinking of that and working on it.

So I talked with Alicia. I'm still working on the details of our budget because I would rather come up with an accurate budget vs just throwing numbers out there. Part of the need for that is that our choir leadership has expressed what they valued, and what they want. I am still trying to research things like costs, fees, etc. and want to present real #s and not fake #s. So basically I want to maximize how we're using the budget as it aligns with my skills and my strengths.

My plan is to keep the ask very similar to what's been there as I don't think a transition year is a good time to have a financial shock and I think we'll be able to accomplish really what we need to do within those guidelines. We will have a collaborative pianist coming on board. It'll look a little different from the past because I'm used to running a class without one but the person I know is super excited to come work with us, her name is Nancy Whitecar and she is primo, top of the line, coming from Ragazzi Boy's Choir. She's super excited about coming here. We've worked together a lot and I'm really excited about that opportunity. That's all I've got. Questions?

Alicia: We did approve a preliminary budget but we know we may need to tweak it. Don't worry, we're here for you to support you.

Alicia: So as you can see, we're so lucky to have people who keep on giving whenever they can. I'm so grateful for the body of parents who support SMB. Any questions? Comments?

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Summary of Motions

Approval of June SMB Meeting Minutes	Tina Pao moves, Mrudula Prashant seconds, motion carries
Approval of EOY Financials and Transactions 1062-1589	Vrinda Gopal moves, Joyce Koh-Fernandez seconds, motion carries
Approval of July Financials and Transactions 1590-1595	Vrinda Gopal moves, Mrudula Prashant seconds, motion carries
Approval of Alicia speaking on behalf of SMB at future SUSD Board Meeting	Vrinda Gopal moves. Mrudula Prashant seconds motion. 5 executive members approve (Tista Kapoor, Mrudula Prashant, Tina Pao, Sri Balakrishnan and Josh Rupert). Motion carries.
Approval of Winter Percussion Budget	Vrinda Gopal moves, Mrudula Prashant seconds. Motion carries.
Approval of SUSD Music Budgets	Vrinda Gopal moves, Mrudula Prashant seconds. Motion carries

Sri Balakrishnan / Tina Pao
Co-Recording Secretaries