

RMS PTA

General Association Meeting

August 29, 2025

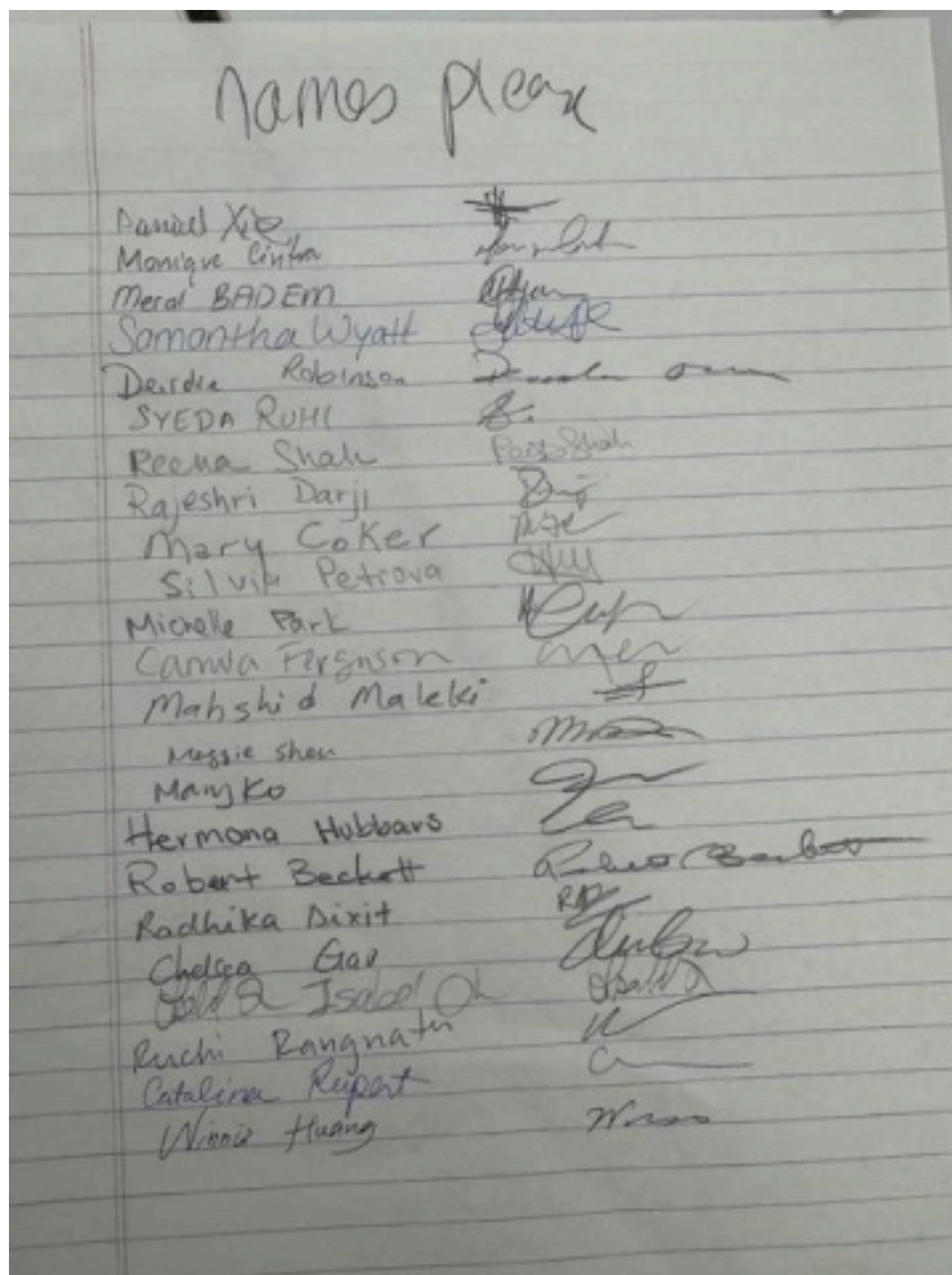


1. Call to Order & Welcome

Lorrie called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Members present were Daniel Xie, Monique Cintra, Meral Badem, Samantha Wyatt, Deirdre Robinson, Syeda Ruhl, Reena Shah, Raheshri Darji, Mary COker, Silvia Petrova, Michelle Park, Camila Ferguson, Mahshid Maleki, Maggie Sheu, Mary Ko, Hermona Hubbars, Robert Beckett, Radhika Dixit, Chelsea Grav, Isable Oh, Lorrie Peeters, Ruchi Ragnath, Catalina Rupert, Winnie Huang, and me, Farnoush Drexel, and Sneha Melkote on zoom.

Lorrie thanked everyone for coming. The association meetings are important and we are thankful for the members' time. PTA is evolving and we are constantly trying to improve in ways that best benefit us. We are working with the administration and we are trying to bridge the gap between the elementary and the middle schools.



2. Membership Update

Catalina presented that we have. She stated that we have 24 new 6th grade members, 17 7th grade, and 6 8th grade and 1 alum

3. Treasurer's Report

Daniel presented and gave us a report on the treasure's report. The balance on hand is \$5,747.13 in the savings account and \$158,263.82 in the checking account. From July 1 to August 28 we have total disbursements of \$5850. Daniel brought forth a motion to ratify checks 8673 and void checks 8671 and 8672, Sam seconded, all agreed, no nays, and the motion was passed.

FY 2025-2026 Treasurer Report

July 1, 2025 – August 28, 2025

Checking Account		Saving Account	
Balance on Hand 07/01/25	\$163,918.82	Balance on Hand 07/01/25	\$3,878.08
Deposits (recorded up to 08/14)	\$195.00	Deposits	\$1869.05
Disbursements (up to 08/28)	\$5,850.00	Disbursements	\$0.00
Balance on Hand 08/28/25	\$158,263.82	Balance on Hand 08/28/25	\$5,747.13

•**Termed CD Account: \$80,000** (07/15/2025 – 02/15/2026, at interest rate 3.93%)

FY 2025-2026 Expenses Overview

- July 1 – August 28
 - Total Disbursements of **\$5850.00**
 - Ratify checks #8673 (1 checks)
 - Void checks #8671, #8672 (software printing issue) (2 checks)

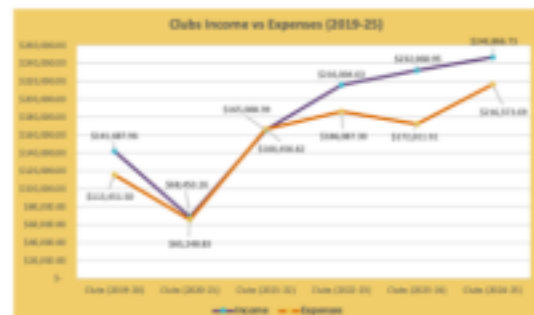
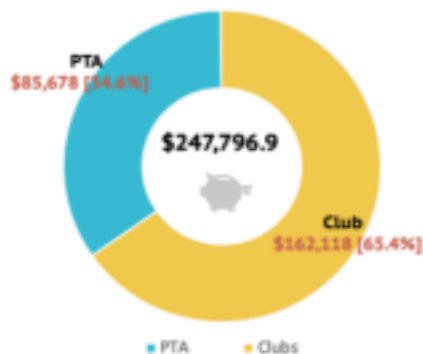
Detailed Check/Expense reports

8673	CHECK	school dances and leadership group-led lunchtime activities and related e	Saratoga Union School District	(5,000.00)
435	ADJUSTMENT	payment to Membership Toolkit subscription		(850.00)

Lorrie further stated that a recurring question every year is that it looks like we have money and so why would we need more. However, we work at a deficit on a yearly basis. We cannot carry over a large amount of money since we are a non-profit and we want to spend the money each year. The PTA general fund cannot spend the club fund.

Bank Balance = PTA + Clubs Funds

- As for June 2025



Remaining Balance Over Years

- PTA planned to spend down past rollover funds to give more back to students.



4. Programs/Clubs Update

 PROGRAMS/CLUBS UPDATE 	
LUNCH No registration necessary	AFTER SCHOOL
• Club 19 • Garden Club • Intramural Sports • Rainbow Alliance • Science Bowl 	• Quiz Bowl • Musical • Drama • Girls who code • Science Olympiad • FBLA • Economics Club • Spelling Bee • Speech and Debate • Robotics Reg open Reg open Reg open Info Session via Interest form Application open TBC - Interest form Need parent volunteer Closed- waitlist Closed

Camila discussed our club updates. She touched on each club and discussed each. Samantah asked weather anyone can still join robotics at this time and Camila will look into it and also said the leads can be emailed directly to help out. The clubs are their own thing with their funding. PTA pays for lunchtime clubs and fully funds them. A large percentage comes through for the lunch clubs.

5. Pathways

She stated that the initiative comes from Global California 2030. It is for students to dive into the three goals driven by the state. The goals are stated below

Students must achieve these three goals by completing two benchmarks per goals:

- a. Developmentally appropriate proficiency in the home or second language
 - b. Active use of the home or second language
- Positive attitudes towards multilingualism

A member stated she had a daughter participate and liked it. Catalina stated 100% of our fund will go directly to the teacher versus last year half went to Mr. Puhvel and half to food. However, this year, we will pay him more as he worked for less pay than he would. Last year Catalina started with 22 students but the numbers dropped in March. A requirement of our school is to present at the multicultural night. There is an upcoming zoom meeting. This is for 8th graders only.

6. PTA Events This Year

- 10/17: Fall Festival & Movie Night
- 12/3: Holiday Potluck
- 12/5: Winter Event
- 2/11: Teacher Cookies & Sweets
- 4/24: Multicultural Night
- 5/6: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 5/15: Rising Sixth Grader Parent Info Session & Student Panel ●
- 5/22: Final Association Meeting & Appreciation Event

We may add another fundraiser this year and we are still mulling it over.

7. Prior minutes

Farnoush read the minutes from the last meeting.

General Association Meeting 5/23/2025

Lorrie brought forth a motion to pass the minutes. Mahshid seconded, all agreed, no nays, and the motion was passed.

8. SEF 5K & Update from SEF

Mahshid discussed SEF and stated the following points as important distinguishers.

- Fundraising to support and enhance district-wide educational programs, initiatives, and resources that go beyond the standard SUSD school budget.
- Addresses district-wide gaps and provides additional opportunities for SUSD students.
- Raises money through donations and grants, and larger-scale fundraising campaigns

SEF is behind the scenes so the visibility is poor for parents. But SEF does a lot.



Saratoga Education Foundation & Programs at Four Schools

Saratoga Education Foundation (SEF) fundraises each year to help support SUSD enrichments at all four schools.

Redwood Series Seminars

- A series of speaker sessions and seminars designed to equip students with the skills and guidance they need to navigate the challenges of middle school in today's world.



Parent Workshops (All SUSD Families)

- Launched last year to support families district-wide
- Several sessions on parenting, student wellness, and academic support

Field Trips & Transportation for All Grades (SUSD)

- SEF proudly funds all grade-level field trips across SUSD
- Transportation covered for all field trips - no parent driving or extra paperwork for staff



Note: Field trip transportation is subject to bus availability and not guaranteed.

- All sessions are held in person at Menlo Church

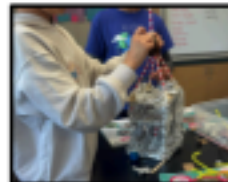


Saratoga Education Foundation & Programs at Four Schools

Saratoga Education Foundation (SEF) fundraises each year to help support SUSD enrichments at all four schools.

Science Labs for TK-5:

- Fully equipped with tools for research
- Science aides prep and lead engaging, hands-on experiments
- Weekly lessons that enhance and support the science curriculum



Makerspace TK-5:

- A collaborative space that nurtures creativity and problem-solving
- Activities range from fine motor to engineering skills
- Supports a growth mindset and hands-on learning
- Makerspace aides assist in lesson prep and instruction





Support SEF - Goal : \$552,000

How You Can Support SEF Fundraising Efforts?

- **Donate!**
 - We recommend a donation of \$1,000 per student, \$2,000 for two students, or \$2,500 for three and more students, **but we gratefully accept any amount you're able to contribute!**
- **Corporate Match**
 - Check with your employer or our website at www.sef-ca.org
- **Spread the Word**
 - Help to raise awareness about SEF and encourage friends and families to get involved
- **Attend Meetings and Offer Feedback**
- **Volunteer for our 5K Fun Run**
 - Become a business sponsor
 - Donate Raffle Items
 - Help market the event and promote it to other vendors and businesses

Projected Budget : 2026-2027

Program / Expense	Grades / Notes	Amount
Grade Level Trips and Transportation	TK-8th	\$200,000
Science Lab	TK-5th	\$120,300
Makerspace Aides	TK-5th	\$146,500
Redwood Leadership Seminars	6th-8th	\$20,000
Parent Workshops	SUSD- Family	\$35,000
SEF Operational Expenses	PayPal, DonorPerfect, websites, banks...etc	\$30,000
TOTAL		\$552,000



Join the Saratoga Education Foundation & Enjoy the Run and Appreciation Event **Together!**

SEF Donor Appreciation Event



Learn more:

- Newsletter from Parent Square
 - @ PTA events and meetings
 - Website: www.sef-ca.org
- Donate Today!**



5K Event Registration
saratoga5kfunrun.itsyourrace.com
SEF General Meetings
@ District office at 9am
 September 25, 2025
 November 20, 2025
 March 26, 2026
 May 21, 2026

SEF 5K FUN RUN



9. Members' comments.

Samantha stated next Wednesday, we have a fundraiser at Shake Shack. Camila stated the original Freaky Friday is a good middle school movie. Daniel handed out the PTA whistleblower conflict form and members took it. Catalina wants to make the movie selection a competition to draw more memberships. Lorrie wants to know when the deadline for selection will be and that it will determine if they can have a selection or not.

Maggie discussed how company matching is through Benevity. It is a company portal, and you chose Redwood Middle PTA and there are other portals, like booster, sports..., so you have to choose the PTA portal and in the comments you

can put your child's name. When that order is placed, the treasure links it to the student. Also, the volunteer hours are helpful to record on the site. Perhaps we can make a step by step on the site to simplify. If parents did not input in the notes to whom the account is linked, they should email the treasurer so he can find the loose thread.

10. Mr. Hamm joining us and Q & A

Mr. Hamm joined us. He discussed that normally he tries to start with the above/below the line activity as that shows other attendees where you stand and voicing it neutralizes the room and neutralizes everyone's mindset. The question of today is "What was a pleasant surprise that happened at the beginning of the school year." Attendees went around and answered the question. Mr. Hamm further stated that club day was a success. Some students wanted to create new clubs and that entrepreneurialship is nice to see. Mr. Hamm is guiding the students on how to create these. Samantha asked whether there is a document to allow the creation of clubs for students and parents. Mr. Hamm stated there is none for parents but there is one for kids. She further stated how we as a PTA can organize the parent volunteer aspect of club creation. Camila stated once there is a club, we can create the forms to gather volunteers. Catalina stated her son may want to create a "jamming" club where children gather and play music. Mr. Hamm further stated Back to School night was a success.

I-ready tests start next week. It is a good data gathering tool for the school. It compares the student's progress through time and allows intervention if needed.

Keith Hawkins is coming to speak with the students and also this year, also a meeting for the parents. This will be distributed amongst the parents soon.

Catalina mentioned that the Kahoot exercise would be a nice way to bring in parents to see Keith Hawkins.

Samantha asked what the Griffin pride is and Mr. Hamm stated it is a reward for doing the right things even if no one is looking. It is a reward system to teach children how to be good humans. They can change it for a prize. Catalina wanted a membership table at the Keith Hawkins meeting. Samantha brought up the traffic situation and what should the parent do in case of parent traffic violations. Mr. Hamm stated he can pass along video and images to the School Resource Officer (SRO).

The city is really trying to make some safety changes. Mr. Hamm wants to rip out

the Eukolyptis trees to create a sidewalk of sorts. He doesn't want randoms to walk on campus since there is no sidewalk. Mr. Hamm stated you should ONLY drop off and pick up in the designated spots of the front of school and the Allendale loop. Radhika stated that parents have started parking at the post office and this is a new thing from last year. She asked whether students can hold signs and direct traffic. Mr. Hamm stated he does not want to place children in that position since it is a position of danger.

Catalina wants to apply the Griffin Pride to children who carpool but that would be difficult logistically.

Samantha wants to know whether there is a site where parents can join to carpool. However, Mr. Hamm cannot share parent information.

Lateness, along with driving habits, are not the fault of the student. These go to the parents.

Robert stated he seconds removing the Eukolyptis trees. Secondly, he wanted to know where he can go for the TB test. At the district, they see parents who have low risk of TB. Otherwise, you may have to go elsewhere.

Isabel wants to know if there is a chance for another bike rack and Mr. Hamm will look into it.

Deirdre wants to know when there will be a "Best Meeting Ever," and he will look into scheduling it.

Mr. Hamm stated this year there was little issue with the elective choices. The wheel may disappear in the future. Pulling the wheel may give more options for more students to take media arts for example.

Lorrie called the meeting to a close at 10:00 am.

This document represents a true representation of the meeting and is signed electronically by me, Farnoush Drexel as true and accurate.

Farnoush Drexel