Orchestra Parents Association
General Membership Meeting
December 7, 2009

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Cathy Davies, President of the Orchestra Parents Association (OPA) at 7:08pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 OPA meeting and Cathy called for a vote, which was affirmative. The minutes were approved.

2. OPA President's Report – Cathy Davies
   - Cathy showed the group the new t-shirt and sweatshirt that will be on sale at the Winter Concert on December 15th.
   - The Winter Concert Ticket Order form was distributed. Cathy pointed out that the ticket order form also contains an order form for orchestra gear and CD/DVD. For the first time the concert will be professionally recorded. Susan Vance described the holiday boutique that will be held before the concert. There will be plants, succulents, baked goods, lollipop trees, cards, etc.
   - Cathy informed the group that the holiday CD is in the process of being re-mixed and will be available shortly. If you pre-order now you can pick them up at the Winter Concert.
   - Cathy reminded people to sign up for e-scrip and said that forms will be available at the Winter Concert as well.

3. Fundraising Report - Robb Brown and Sandy Wells

   B&N – Sandy Wells
   The Barnes and Noble fundraiser is this Saturday.

   Bowl-a-thon – Sandy Wells
   If kids haven't turned in their money please be sure they do.

   Salon Series – Scott Ferguson
   Scott reported that the first salon series will be on 12/27 at Saeed Farzam's home. Current and alumni Samohi students will perform. Also there will be art on sale from current students and alumni. Cost is $20 per ticket with pot luck food and beverages. People who volunteer to work will get comp tickets. Kids are $10. Tickets will be available at the door, but order early because in homes seating is limited.

   Rosti Night --Roz Templeman
   The next Rosti night is 12/15. Rosti night will always be the last Tuesday of each month (except December when it is be the third week). Please plan to get dinner at Rosti that night to benefit the orchestras.

   Pinkberry
   It was announced that every Monday at 16th and Montana just mention the Orchestras and 15% of the sale goes to OPA.

Orchestra Bakery and Cookbook -- Jennifer Bennett
Jennifer reported that so far 18 recopies have been sent in to her. She needs more salad, main dish and appetizers.

Grounds for Change -- Nicole Maury
Nicole reported that she will be selling a gift basket of coffee and a "Music Can Change the World" mug for $18 at the Winter Concert holiday boutique. This would be a wonderful teacher gift!

Charity Buzz – Robb Brown and Kuniko Usui
Charity Buzz is a website featuring high end celebrity meet and greet and vacation opportunities for auction. The bids for encounters with celebrities go into the tens of thousands of dollars. The idea they presented is for OPA to put a package together and put it up for bid. People were asked to make use of their connections with the entertainment and sports industries to connect us to celebrities. The advantage of this site is that is puts the package out to a nation-wide community for bidding.

4. Spaghetti and Strings – Allyson Dworkin
   Allyson reported that S&S is coming quickly on January 30th. She handed out silent auction donor forms and solicitation letter and reported that they will also be available on-line and by email. Symphony students are required to solicit 2 donations per student. All others will receive extra credit for donation. Allyson described the types of items we need to solicit such as restaurant certificates, beauty certificates, vacation spots, jewelry, gift baskets, event tickets, etc. She also reported that raffle tickets will be handed out to students the day they get back from winter break. They will have 2 weeks to sell them and turn in the money. Susan Vance asked people to encourage their students to think about potential performances for S&S.

5. Special guests from SMMUSD School Board – Barry Snell and Maria Leon-Vazquez
   Barry Snell, School Board President and Maria Leon-Vazquez (also an orchestra parent), School Board Member described the California School Bard Meeting they attended this week. They told the group that SMMUSD is one of the few districts that have maintained the arts programs. They also cited counselor ratios of 300 to 1 and School nurses being eliminated elsewhere. Mr. Snell described the difficult cuts ($12M over 18 months) that SMMUSD will have to make. He warned the group that this is a very serious matter and that the music programs in elementary schools could be affected and stressed that parents need to understand what the district is facing and the types of cuts that will be needed.

   Another issue that brought them to our meeting had to do with the equity fund. An agenda item was put on the School Board agenda for Thursday regarding the 15% equity fund and that some of the money paid should have been exempt. Amy Van Pelt offered that she could provide details to them after the meeting as she was involved in calculating the recent payments.

6. The General Meeting was adjourned by Cathy Davies at 8:10 p.m

Submitted by Pat Eastman
01.12.10