Orchestra Parents Association
General Membership Meeting
February 8, 2010

Minutes

1. Cathy Davies, President of the Orchestra Parents Association (OPA), called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010, OPA meeting. The minutes were approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Amy Van Pelt
   - The December, 2009, Orchestra Treasurer's Report was submitted
   - The ending balance as of 12/31/09 was $93,000. Refer to the Orchestra Treasurer's Report or see Amy for more detailed information

3. **Orchestra Directors' Report** – Joni Swenson, Jason Aiello
   - Joni thanked everyone for their work with Spaghetti & Strings (S & S)
     - March 2—Symphony Tour Parent/Student meeting after Symph. rehearsal
     - March 5—SCSBOA Orchestra Festival: all orchestras come to Samohi; there will also be a welcome for a Samohi alumnus who is an astronaut
     - March 11-13—CMEA All State Orch., Sacramento: Symph. will not participate because of a performance at Disney Hall on March 13. Two Philharmonic students made this All State group
       - Disney Hall rehearsal on Thur., March 11 with details to follow
     - April 14—David Robertson, Conductor of the St. Louis Symphony and Samohi alumnus, will visit Samohi in the morning; important to get information about David out into the community as a way to spotlight our music programs
     - The end-of-the year Orchestras Calendar has been adjusted to reflect the 5-day furlough which will take place the last five days of this school year
   - Jason highlighted these events:
     - April 16—Spring Concert
     - April 23—Beatles at Barnum: lead by Scott Ferguson
     - April 24—Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, Santa Monica College, Madison Campus (8am-5pm)
       - Students play for a judge; required for Phil. and Symph.
       - Now is the time to get music for this together
       - Accompanists are recommended for soloists (Leo Marcus)
       - Parent volunteers needed; sign-up sheet circulated
     - May 27—Pops Concert (moved because of the 5-day furlough)

4. **OPA President's Report** – Cathy Davies
   - Cathy thanked volunteers and musicians at S & S
   - Orchestra merchandise and Grounds for Change sale and Escrip drive continue
   - The updated 2010 Calendar of Events will be posted and e-mailed
   - SCSBOA Festival, March 4 & 5 @ Barnum: Kuniko Usui circulated sign-up sheet and will organize volunteers

        - Helen Weary was thanked for having the Samohi Bands run this festival because it is a travel year for Symph. Orch.
    - *Conversations with Frank Gehry*, March 18 @ Barnum: Joy Horowitz reported that the evening will include an interview and discussion with LA Times journalist and author Barbara Isenberg, and feature cellist Lynn Harrell
        - Focus will be where architecture meets music
        - Book sales/signing and possible viewing of a Sidney Pollack film
        - Bob Kronovet and Harlow Sharp volunteered to transport books to/from Barnes and Noble
        - Joy circulated a volunteer sign-up for the event
        - Outreach to the architecture community (i.e., USC, UCLA) was suggested

5. **Fundraising Report**
    - Charity Buzz – Robb Brown reported that "The Office" package was up to $4000 ($3200 to Orchestra) when he checked the site prior to the meeting, with two more days remaining; contact Robb with possible Charity Buzz items
    - Salon Series—Beatles at Barnum, April 23—Robb for Scott Ferguson:
    - Rosti Night--Roz Chao: Rosti night will always be the last Tuesday of the month; next will be February 23; March 30 TBD

6. **Spaghetti & Strings** – Allyson Dworkin
    - Event recap: Allyson thanked all for help on S & S
        - Preliminary numbers: $15,240 ($11,415 from Silent Auction)
    - There will be an online auction for unsold items (i.e., Benefit Beauty Bash, girl's bike, services)
    - Donor thank yous will be sent
    - Basketball tickets have been resolved
    - Pizza Night w/ Joni and Jason @ Bencivengo home: information TBA via e-mail
7. **New Business**
    - Save the Arts! Samohi Budget Crisis Meeting, Feb. 9th, 7 pm:
        - Elizabeth Stearns reported that the music department, among other programs (i.e., elementary music, frosh/soph athletics, counselors, class size) are very vulnerable if there is no funding increase
        - The School Board passed a motion to approve the Local School Funding Measure to be put before the voters in May, however, even if it passes, our district will still face budgetary challenges
        - PTSA Meeting, Feb. 9, 7:00 pm, Cafeteria, to discuss what our programs will look like with and without this funding
    - Other new business
        - First Annual Ed Foundation Poetry Slam, Wed., Feb. 10, 7:00 pm, Barnum
        - Suggestion of a Crafts Fair @ the Solo/Ensemble Festival; see Cathy if interested
        - Next OPA meeting-Monday, March 8

8. Cathy Davies adjourned the General Meeting at 8:05 pm

Submitted by Chris LeGagnoux