

July 2003

WAME Alert!

*This is a **WAME Alert!** The **Wisconsin Advocates for Music Education** will email timely and important music education information on a monthly basis to keep you informed and involved. If you have ideas to contribute, please email Rich Mannisto, WAME Chair-Elect: rmannisto@aol.com.*

The WAME email newsletter this month is a case study (and a success story) of music advocacy. The message sent from this teacher to orchestra advocates speaks for itself. A visit to the "orchestra web site" will give you some indication of the strength of their communication network. Go to **www.oregonfoto.org**.

Representatives from the Oregon Friends of the Orchestra will also be presenting an advocacy workshop on October 31st during the Wisconsin State Music Conference at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Attend if you can (with or without a costume!).

May 13, 2003

Hi Friends,

Just a little update. As of last night's Board of Ed meeting in Oregon, the administrative recommendation handed in to the board included NO cuts to 4th grade orchestra or small group instruction. The orchestra students' program was part of the 5th tier, the last area to be looked at in the event of budget crisis. It was included there with other FTE time for other core classes. The 20+ orchestra parents at the meeting were very pleased with the superintendent's explanation of her decision to retain all parts of the orchestra program as a CORE curriculum. She also spent some time discussing how small group instruction was tied directly to curriculum/outcomes and did not qualify as "lessons" as had been targeted in the recent community survey. The BOE will now deliberate for approximately one week before making the final decision on how to set up the 2003-04 budget in light of the state legislature's cuts.

Thanks to all who have had input with administrators and board, as well as those who passed us support research and resources. This has been a group effort up to this point. Any support email/letters after this can go directly to the BOE members (addresses on Friends of the Orchestra web site <<http://www.oregonfoto.org>>www.oregonfoto.org under IMPORTANT NEWS). We are looking for anything that can positively identify the Oregon orchestra program as strong and influential in student lives and an important part of the total curriculum.

*Take care,
Leyla Sanyer*

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