

**FUND69 Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2005**

*In attendance:* Annie Uchtman, David Donegan, Terri Lefler, Angelica Studer, Lori Miller, Cathy Crawford, Cathy Iverson, Gilbert Poppenhagen, Keith Shaffer (for Dr. Nelson)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

The minutes from the previous meeting (11/9/05) were distributed. No corrections were made.

Introductions of the Board members and meeting attendees were made.

1. January gift-giving

Based on the revenue from the walk-a-thon, \$500 will be given to each of the three school buildings in January. Ideas/proposals have been requested from each school. Madison is interested in using their money to purchase materials from the "Keep Books" program which provides books for learning readers. These books are not available at the library or most bookstores, and would be given to specific children based on either financial need or ability. We are still waiting to hear from Edison about their request. Lincoln is interested in using some of their money to purchase a "Dance Revolution" system for their new Fun Lunch program, a monthly reward party intended to promote positive behavior and whose goal is to reach every student at least one time during the school year.

We will be using the information from District 73.5 as guidelines for our own grant requests. Annie will formally type up the request forms and distribute them to each of the three teacher representatives. It will be necessary for each request to include information about how the desired material(s) will affect the students. We will additionally request follow-up information about the effectiveness of the material and how it was used. Our goal is to have formal, written proposals in-hand from each of the schools by the January foundation meeting.

2. Website

Currently, the FUND69 website is on Annie's husband's server. However, we would like to eventually transition it to the district website with Keith Shaffer's help. Any "small stuff" maintenance will be then handled by Keith while any larger revisions will be managed by Maggie Meixner (and, in turn, then directed to Keith who will be able to give Maggie some appropriate software).

Eventually, we would like to receive donations over the website. This would require a secure server (encrypting, etc.), and the district does not have this capability currently. Alternatively, we may want to consider creating a donation form which people can mail in. Pay Pal could be another possibility for handling donations.

3. Spring Fundraiser

Since we would like to be able to award our first teacher grants next fall, a small fundraising event is being considered for the spring to supplement our available funds. We anticipate that the walk-a-thon will be held in September 2006. Consequently, we may decide to delay grant awards until October. Nonetheless, a low-key fundraiser in the next few months is still appealing.

Gil Poppenhagen inquired as to why any such fundraiser would be "low-key," and was informed that the foundation board had previously agreed to keep a lower profile in the springtime because of the anticipated referendum and the work of the Referendum Committee. He respectfully disagreed, stating that, in his opinion, publicity about foundation efforts could be very helpful in

demonstrating to the community how FUND69 is seeking to help our district despite (or because of) the continuing financial issues. David pointed out that we are attempting to keep the distinctions between FUND69, the PTA, and School Board, and how each provides funding to the schools, as clear as possible.

It was agreed that a spring fundraiser should ideally involve a minimal amount of effort on our part. Suggestions have been made about possible events, including a cookbook fundraiser or a children's art fair. The possibility of alumni events was also raised. These ideas may be better suited for a fundraiser next year (i.e., 2006-07 school year). Therefore, we will most likely organize a Barnes & Noble sale, similar to Jewel Shop & Share Days, where we will earn a percentage of total sales during a specific time period. Barnes & Noble coupons could be distributed to places other than just our schools, such as local day cares, preschools, and the high schools. A target date for coupon distribution was tentatively set for late January, with Barnes & Noble shopping dates expected in early February, prior to Valentine's Day. Publicity for the fundraiser in any upcoming district/school newsletters will be needed.

#### 4. Other FUND69 Activities

The 501c3 application for not-for-profit status has been submitted to the state and is "in process." We do not have a specific timetable as to when it may be approved; it is possible that we may need to make revisions before this happens.

We plan on making the fall walk-a-thon an annual event, but Annie queried whether anyone feels there are other activities we should also be doing/considering.

- Corporate links – Establishing these connections will be more likely (and more successful) once we have obtained our not-for-profit status. David already has ideas as to which local businesses or business organizations he will be contacting.
- Committee formation – We will probably focus on this later this spring, after the referendum vote. Hopefully, this will help us get other concerned district residents/parents involved, including non-native English speakers, as well as other community members.
- Newsletter – This will be instrumental in advertising what the goals of FUND69 are, how we are different from other organizations within the district, and how our fundraising efforts will benefit our teachers and our students. It is important that we advertise the upcoming gift awards to the schools to demonstrate how the funds raised at the first walk-a-thon will be used. Ideally, we will be able to publish our first newsletter by the end of January 2006. In the meantime, it is important that our efforts be presented in the next District 69 newsletter which is mailed to all district residents (not just families with children in our schools).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.