

FUND69 Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2006

In attendance: Annie Uchtman, Laura Williams, David Donegan, Terri Lefler, Angelica Studer, Mylinda LaPaglia, Lori Miller, Keith Shaffer (for Dr. Nelson), Debbie Rizki, Brad Stein, Therese Block, Renee Miller, Maggie Meixner

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the meeting on 12/14/05 as written. The minutes were approved without corrections.

1. Gift Requests

Each teacher representative presented the requests from their respective buildings.

Lincoln has decided upon two specific requests based on a vote of the entire faculty. Therese Block presented the following two proposals:

- The “We Are” Project (Art Department) would involve the creation of permanent, large-scale, wooden symbols by 8th grade art students representative of the four core themes endorsed by the entire school district: Culture, Unity, Respect, and Peace. The artwork will be produced during the 3rd and 4th quarters of this school year, and participation will be open to any interested 8th grader (estimate: approximately 30 students). Upon completion, each finished piece will be placed throughout the main floor of the junior high building for students, faculty, and visitors to view and experience. The total cost for this project will be \$206.58. A motion was made to approve this project, seconded, and approved unanimously. A check will be issued directly to Ms. Donna Seitzer, the art teacher at Lincoln.
- The Physical Education Department is requesting that three BOSU (BOth Sides Up) balls be purchased for use in the Fitness Center. This equipment would be used by students in all three grade levels. Because of this, it has been recommended that commercial BOSU balls be purchased, rather than the home version. A BOSU representative has provided Patricia Skonberg, the 6th grade PE teacher, with a quote of \$282.00 for three balls (\$85 each plus \$9 per unit for shipping). Because of liability concerns, it was decided that the check from FUND69 will be made out directly to Mrs. Skonberg for this amount. A motion to approve this proposal was made and seconded; the proposal was approved unanimously.

Brad Stein presented the proposal from **Edison**:

- When the Edison staff discussed possible ideas for their gift, they agreed that they would like to focus on reading comprehension skills, an area that matches one of their overall goals as a school. Therefore, on the recommendation of their Title I teachers, the Edison staff would like to purchase materials from the “Games to Go” program. The games, which would focus on either math or language arts, could be used at each grade level (3rd, 4th, and 5th) and are appropriately leveled. The goal would be to lend games out to students and their families for short periods of time, probably for at least one night. Although the target student population would include, at minimum, those in the ELL and Title I programs, any student would be eligible to check out the games. Individual games cost between \$10 and \$15. The Edison staff would like to purchase a variety of games, all of which would be interactive. They are currently evaluating which games they feel will be most beneficial to the students, so an exact cost has not yet been determined but is expected to be within the \$500 limit. A motion was made to approve the proposal with the understanding that the amount cannot exceed \$500. In addition, it was requested

that specific information about the costs be presented to the Board on or before the next meeting in February. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Debbie Rizki reviewed the **Madison** proposal:

- Reading comprehension is also a school goal at Madison. Two issues, however, are of on-going concern to the Madison staff: how difficult it is to find books with simple text for beginning readers, and the financial challenges faced by some of the families in the district. As previously discussed at foundation meetings, Madison is therefore interested in improving the literacy skills of their high-risk readers by purchasing a set of books from the "Keep Books" program. Some of these materials are currently being used in the Title I classrooms and have been very successful. Like at Edison, the initial target population would, at minimum, include those children enrolled in the ELL and Title I programs. In addition, kindergarten teachers would be able to identify, based on their reading assessments in January, those kindergarten students who are ready to read and who might benefit from involvement in the program. Finally, other teachers would be invited to recommend those students who perhaps are not in either ELL or Title I but are reading below grade-level or are on the border. In total, it is estimated that approximately 260 children would be affected. Each child would receive a set of 8 or 9 books during the school year for their use at home and at school. The cost of the program is \$100 per 400 books, so a \$500 grant would provide Madison with approximately 2000 books total (minus any shipping & handling fees). A motion was made to approve this proposal with the understanding that the total would not exceed \$500. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

It was again reemphasized that we will require documentation of the effect of these purchases on the student population(s) as follow-up as well as copies of the appropriate receipts.

2. Website

It should be relatively easy to make the switch for the foundation website to the server for district 69. Annie has provided Keith Shaffer with the name of the contact person at her husband's workplace. In addition, Keith has given Maggie Meixner the appropriate software to easily facilitate the transfer. Major modifications are not recommended until after the website has been transferred. However, minor changes, such as the logo, can be made; Annie has the logo used for the walk-a-thon on a disc, she will e-mail it to Maggie. We will also need to update other information, such as that from the walk-a-thon (sponsors, number of walkers, amount of money raised, and pictures). We will also in the future be able to include copies of our (past) meeting minutes and (upcoming) agendas – Keith will be able to attach these documents as PDF files.

A Board resolution was made that Laura will act as the contact person for any necessary website edits and updates and shall provide this information to Maggie. The deadline for Board members to review the current website and e-mail Laura with any suggested changes, additions, etc. was set for Jan. 18th. Annie will e-mail Maggie directly with the logo as well as the list of walk-a-thon sponsors. Mylinda will contact Connie Greenan about walk-a-thon pictures and will send Maggie this information.

3. Protocol Update

It was established at the earlier Board meeting that we will continue to have a closed Board meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm, immediately before the monthly open meeting. The agenda will be distributed to all Board members beforehand, both voting and non-voting. All Board members will be welcome to attend. However, non-voting members, as well as the teacher representatives, may choose whether or not they would like to attend based on the agenda items. All formal voting will occur at the open meetings.

4. Spring Fundraiser – Barnes & Noble

A spring fundraising date was originally targeted for Saturday, Feb. 4th, at the Barnes & Noble store at Old Orchard to coincide with Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) week at Madison School. However, it was later suggested that this event be held later in the spring to coincide with TV turn-off week at the end of April (this year's dates are 4/24-4/28). Barnes & Noble is flexible about the date. Additionally, the store could also provide different types of activities during that week. It is possible that we could even have some of our teachers act as guest readers! After a brief discussion, it was agreed that we will change the date to Saturday, 4/22, the start of TV turn-off week. This date is additionally attractive since it will not conflict with any referendum efforts.

5. Open Forum

Myllinda announced for Kathy Zipperer, who could not be at the meeting tonight, that there will be an Open House at Madison on Thursday, 1/19, from 5:30-9:30 pm for parents and community members to get their questions answered about the upcoming referendum. A voter registration table will be set up as well. Babysitters from 6th and 7th grade Girl Scouts will be available in the Madison gym that night. Also, a Referendum Kick-Off meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1/25 at Annie's Pancake House starting at 7:00 pm. Volunteers are welcome to come hear about the efforts so far as well as sign up to help canvas and/or make phone calls.

Annie stated that the March FUND69 meeting may be cancelled to support the Referendum Committee unless issues arise at the February meeting (2/8). An alternative could be to hold a smaller, second business meeting in February at a date to be determined.

Keith announced for Dr. Nelson that the School Board did set a rate for the referendum at the School Board meeting last night, and that she thanks FUND69 for their cooperation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.