

FUND69 Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2007

In attendance: Annie Uchtman, Laura Williams, Angelica Studer, Terri Lefler, David Donegan, Gil Poppenhagen, Debbie Rizki, Shannon Griffiths (for Alina Dellota), Haidee Fernandez, Mylinda LaPaglia, Lori Miller, Renee Miller, Carla Leone-Sands

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

Introductions were made.

Minutes

The minutes from the general meeting on 3/14/07 were previously distributed via e-mail. One correction was made to the date for the next FUND69 meeting after distribution of these minutes: the correct date should be April 11th and not May 9th. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended minutes from this meeting. It was carried unanimously.

Correspondence

We have received several donations in response to our "In Honor Of" forms that recently went home with the last issue of the FUND69 newsletter. The honorees included: Rachel Gerber (Molloy – NTDSE), Linda Balgemann (Madison & Edison – art), Sheryl Banser (Madison – NTDSE), Jennifer Miller (Madison – NTDSE), and Mary Walsh (Madison – preschool). Each of these teachers will be notified of the donations made in their name. We also plan on including their names in the last FUND69 newsletter of the school year.

Committee Reports

1. Grants

We have received 15 grant applications for the spring award cycle. The Grant Committee will be meeting to evaluate these proposals using their rubric. They will also meet with Dr. Nelson and the school principals to discuss them before distributing a summary to the Board. Voting will occur at the next FUND69 meeting on 5/9.

2. Corporate Sponsorship

Approximately 160 solicitation letters were mailed, and we have already received \$800 in donations. The committee will be making follow-up phone calls in late April. If anyone has any contacts who might be willing to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact Dave.

Old Business

1. Fine Arts Booster (FAB) Club

Carla stated that there are currently ~25 individuals involved in FAB. At present, they are operating as an activity fund in the district, which limits the amount of money they can raise to under \$1000. Starting this spring, they are planning on selling ad space in the programs for the spring arts events (e.g., spring play, band & orchestra concerts). However, they would like to be able to fundraise to be able to purchase more expensive materials for use in the arts programs. To do this, they would either need to become a not-for-profit group or become associated with the foundation. If the latter, FAB would propose that targeted fundraising events be held.

Targeted fundraising would first require identification of a specific arts-related need, such as purchase of risers for the stage at Lincoln. Assuming that money would not already be available from the school district for this purchase, an “arts” grant would be written by a teacher. (It is likely that any arts-related grant would first need to be reviewed by the appropriate administrator(s) prior to submission to the foundation in case money would be available from another source). An event would then be planned to try to fundraise to fulfill this need. The grant proposal would subsequently be reviewed by the Grant Committee using their rubric to determine its merit, followed by a vote of the entire FUND69 Board. This vote would then determine whether or not the proposal was approved. If funded, the money for the grant would be drawn from the amount raised at the targeted fundraiser.

The question was posed: What would FAB do for FUND69?

Any targeted fundraising event would be planned and run by members of FAB; the FUND69 name would simply be donated to the event. This could potentially increase the number of volunteers who help out and participate at FUND69 events at other times of the year. It could also increase visibility of FUND69 within our district. Based on her experience with the Referendum Committee, Carla stated that individuals are sometimes more likely to make donations if they know exactly how the money would be used.

On the other hand, objections were raised that this relationship could complicate accounting procedures. Extra attention on the part of the treasurer might be required, even if separate bank accounts for FUND69 and FAB would not be necessary. Also, it’s not yet known if such an arrangement could have tax implications. In addition, if the targeted fundraiser did not raise all of the necessary money, additional fundraising would be needed. This, too, could complicate bookkeeping. Finally, could a relationship between FUND69 and FAB open up the door to requests from other special-interest parent groups within the district (e.g., athletics)?

Annie felt that a link between FUND69 and FAB would not violate our by-laws, as currently written. According to the by-laws, “we raise money to give mini-grants to teachers.” Therefore, it would be permissible to help with targeted fundraising efforts. It was suggested that we could limit targeted events to only once a year. If other parent groups were organized and interested in linking up with FUND69 at some point in the future, we could give each one equal consideration.

After a lengthy discussion, the following was suggested:

- Determine if a relationship such as this would affect our 501(c)3 status – would we need to notify the government in advance?
- FAB should submit a written proposal to us for consideration (per Carla, the next FAB meeting isn’t expected until September).
- We should continue the discussion in June instead of May because of the grant voting next month.

2. Upcoming Events

- **Graziano’s, Monday, 4/23, 4-10 pm**
 - A flyer will be sent home on Friday, 4/20 to remind district families to go. This event coincides with the beginning of TV Turn-off Week. Families need to mention FUND69 when placing & paying for their meal in order for us to receive proceeds from each sale. Annie asked that Board members attend wearing their FUND69 shirts to help remind customers. We are not allowed to pass out flyers there.
- **Potbelly’s (Old Orchard), Tuesday, 5/8, 5-8 pm**
 - A flyer will be sent home on Friday, 5/4.

Annie will also contact each of the school principals to ask them to include this information in their school newsletters. They will also be asked to forward these dates to all of their teachers.

3. Events for Next Year

- **White Eagle, Oktoberfest**

No firm date has yet been set although a fall, Oktoberfest adults-only event is attractive. We would like to have entertainment at the event also (Miller Brothers, perhaps?). The teacher feedback so far has mostly been positive, although most would probably not bring their spouses. They would also be more interested in attending if the cost was under \$30 and if the event were held on a Friday evening. Teachers might also be willing to staff any raffle or silent auction we might hold on that night.

The primary concerns at this point focused on whether or not we would be able to guarantee the minimum number of attendees. It was suggested that local businesses might be willing to purchase a table for their employees to attend the event. Also, we could consider having a discounted rate for larger groups, such as 10 or more (this could correspond to the number of seats at one table).

The Board will revisit this event at the May Board only meeting but, in the meantime, Gil will look into securing Friday, 10/19 as a possible date (or at least see if a hold can be put on a room).

- **Buffalo Wild Wings, September 7th and 8th**

This event will span one of the first weekends we are back in school. Teachers will receive flyers encouraging them to go to this restaurant on Friday afternoon/evening. Families will be encouraged to attend on Saturday (all day). We will be able to earn 15% back on sales of all food and soft drinks (not alcohol) over those two days.

It was suggested that we advertise this event during the Open House that will be held at least at Madison before school starts.

4. Board Positions

Nomination forms are now available on our website.

Renee Miller has offered to fulfill the remaining time in the Secretary's term. Terri will be moving to the position of PTA Representative.

Other available positions include those of Chair, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Treasurer. If someone expresses an interest in one of these positions, please encourage them to complete a nominations form.

New Business

None.

Open Forum

None.

Next meeting dates:

- FUND69 General Meeting – Wednesday, 5/9/07, 7:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.