

FUND69 Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2007

In attendance: Annie Uchtman, Laura Williams, Terri Lefler, David Donegan, Gil Poppenhagen, Dana Meltzer (for Alina Dellota), Haidee Fernandez

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

Minutes

The minutes from the general meeting on 1/10/07 were previously distributed via e-mail. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from this meeting without any corrections. It was carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Terri read a thank you note from Alina Delotta for the Barnes & Noble giftcard.

Committee Reports

1. Grants

The teachers should all now be aware of the deadline for spring grant applications – Friday, 4/4. The grant application on our website has been updated with the new dates. We expect to approve grants at the foundation meeting in May.

Our new policy will now be to issue reimbursement checks, after we receive the appropriate receipts or order forms, only at a FUND69 meeting. Each grant is funded only up to a certain amount of money. This information is taken from both the application itself as well as the board's official funding approval. Each recipient then receives a congratulatory letter stating the amount approved. By reviewing all of the appropriate paperwork at a meeting, the Board will be able to ensure that checks are written for the correct amount, not to exceed the amount originally approved. The recipient does not need to be present at the FUND69 meeting; a Board member will ensure that the checks are distributed accordingly within the few days after the meeting.

2. Corporate Sponsors

A mailing list was derived from information from Dr. Nelson (district), Ann Clark (Referendum Committee), and a vendor list. The solicitation letters will be mailed, and the committee will be making follow-up phone calls in April. David has a meeting scheduled soon at LaSalle Bank.

Old Business

1. Upcoming Events

The restaurant night at Graziano's will be on Monday, April 23rd from 4-10 pm. Flyers will be sent home on Friday, 4/20 to remind district families of the place and time. Information will also be included about a Potbelly's night on Tuesday, May 8th (pending confirmation of that date). The teacher representatives also offered to make copies of the flyers to put in staff mailboxes. All principals and teachers will also be asked to include this information in their school or classroom newsletters.

2. Planning for Next Year

Gil has spoken to the owners of the White Eagle in Niles. In summary:

- A guarantee of at least 175 people would be required (more than 175 people would be okay – our event would simply be placed into another room).
- The charge for one adult would be approximately \$24.50 plus \$4.15 for tip, or roughly \$30.00 total (the restaurant's cost). We would need to charge more.
- The event could either be adults only or could include children (a child would cost less than \$30).
- Flowers would be available for no charge.
- Free wine would be provided for the tables.
- Cash bar (tickets available).
- Could include a silent auction and/or entertainment.
- If an auction, we would need to decide what items we would have. Ideas included: teacher projects, classroom projects, donations from parent and/or local businesses. We would need to consider soliciting items for any auction or raffle soon.
- Teachers might be more willing to attend if they received a deal on the cost (one suggestion: \$69 per couple for FUND69). We might also want to consider reaching out and including community members.
- Open dates include weekends in October and November, although prices would be slightly higher than those quoted above for a Saturday night. Once the date is set, the White Eagle would require a \$500 deposit to hold the date & room.

We are still planning on having a book fair at Barnes & Noble in December 2007.

Other ideas:

- Buffalo Wild Wings – Fundraising opportunities are available any day of the week, including weekends, and could be applied to an entire day rather than a specific time frame. A voucher would be needed, and we could earn 15% of profits from that day. The advantages of either a Friday (more teachers) or Saturday (more families) were discussed. A “Back-to-School” weekend was discussed.
- Brunswick Zone – This would include pizza, soda, and bowling. It's possible that this would be too expensive for us.
- Crown Theaters – This theater chain has only just recently been sold to Kerasote Theaters. Their only option is to rent one room for a movie on Saturday at 10 am. Tickets would cost \$6.25, and all concession sales would be the theater's profit. This doesn't seem like a viable option for us (or a particularly good deal), but Annie will check with them to see if they require a minimum guarantee of tickets to be sold.
- Chicago Wolves game – FUND69 can purchase a package to a game and earn either \$4 or \$8 per ticket.

This discussion will be continued next month.

New Business

1. Board Positions Available

The following positions will be available in July: Chair, Sergeant-at-Arms, Treasurer, and Secretary (1 year). Annie will talk to Renee Miller about completing the Secretary's term. We will need nominations for the other three positions.

2. Booster Club

A Fine Arts Booster (FAB) Club is being formed at Lincoln, although it is not being limited to parents whose children are at Lincoln. Carla Sands is the parent who has taken the lead in getting this group organized. She and Annie had a lengthy discussion last night about this group and their plans. At this time, they are not interested in becoming a 501(c)3 organization, and are wondering if they might be able to connect themselves to FUND69 in some way.

The initial plan for FAB was to raise money to fund a new sound system at Lincoln as well as assist in instrument repairs. However, after a discussion with Dr. Nelson, it became known that the district should be able to fund both of these endeavors. So, the focus has now shifted to this group raising money for extras, such as t-shirts and cast parties. The possibility of having funding available for scholarships was considered but is not feasible.

For right now, FAB will be able to operate as an activity fund for the district and will be able to raise money by selling concessions at performances and/or selling ad space in programs. This will limit the amount of money they will be able to make. Thus, they are interested in learning whether or not an affiliation with FUND69 would somehow be beneficial and allow them to raise even more money.

A lengthy discussion ensued about absorbing a group like FAB into FUND69 as a specialized committee who could focus on targeted fundraising efforts. For example, a specific arts-related need is identified, and money is raised. A teacher would still need to apply for funding by completing a FUND69 grant application. If the application met the appropriate FUND69 criteria, the grant could be funded but the money would actually be drawn from a separate arts account under FUND69. Such a plan would likely require an amendment of our current by-laws as well as establishment of a separate savings account.

Several concerns were raised. For one, could this potentially be too large an undertaking for us? Would this in any way short-shrift other grant applications and the consideration they would receive? Would this overlap at all with PTA Cultural Arts programming? Could a decision such as this open us up to other parent groups, for example, sports-related? Also, could this result somehow in FUND69 assuming financial responsibility for items that should be funded by the School Board?

Given the complexity and newness of this request, it was decided that input of the entire FUND69 Board is needed before a final decision is reached. Also, it will be very important that Carla Sands, or other FAB representatives, be a part of this discussion. Consequently, this matter was tabled for discussion until next month.

Open Forum

We need to purchase a FUND69 stamp for use in the donated materials. A self-inking stamp would be best. It is possible that one can be donated by an office supply store, such as Office Depot. Annie will look into this.

School Board elections will be held on April 17th. There will be a candidates forum on Thursday, 4/12 at Madison School. It is jointly sponsored by PASS and League of Women Voters. Jim Sands and Maggie Nessim have a website as well, smartschools69.org.

Next meeting dates:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.