

## **FUMCN Board Meeting – February 9, 2009**

Minutes submitted by Vicki Haviland, 2-28-09

**Board members attending:** Ellen Lewis, Lea Monahan, Mary Page, Lisa Hirsch, Anna Morgan, Lisa Ziegler, Susan Atkins, Liz Vandermark, Sarah Boren-Rao, Karen Fry, Susan Sowder, Katie Foster, Michele DeYoung, Juli Miettinen, Jenni Wilkening, Vicki Haviland

**Thanks** to Karen for hosting and to everyone for changing at the last minute.

**January minutes approved.**

### **Thanks and Kudos**

- Karen for hosting the Silpada fundraiser yesterday.
- Susan for doing the program last week for parent education.
- Thank you note circulated for Pam Stout for last week parent education.

**Member comments** – one person called about a couple issues .

**Issue 1:** Open House is too late. She also wants to move from PM to AM for next year, but needs to know if she can do this so that she can decide if she needs to go to another school. Could we have an earlier deadline for returning members so that we could slot people in the AM class earlier. For next year, have an earlier deadline for returning members

**Issue 2:** She is also concerned because there is not sibling care for 3PM classes because she is the only one who needs it. We all agreed that this is not fair since our sibling care is a major reason that some people choose FUMCN. We will add a budget line with guaranteed sibling care in PM. For the rest of this year, Michele DeYoung is available, and the mom can pay the established rate and we will cover the extra \$11 a time for the rest of the year .

### **Curriculum – Lisa Ziegler and Mary Page**

- **Mystery Reader** – thanks to Michele D for coming up with this 3 years ago. Dr. Suess theme and 5 senses themes are coming up.
- 3-26 and 3-27 are Story land days to dress up as story character.
- **Books for Bunnies** – We will raise money for bunny supplies for bunny rescue locally by having kids get pledges for numbers of books read at FUMCN. As they read books, they will write names of books on cut out bunnies in hall. We will also have a bunny person coming in March, and in the 4 pm Mitchell will bring his bunny. –
- Michelle D will bring in a body balance thing for some gross motor balance activities.
- Toledo Zoo trip: Karen will publicize that as a social event this year on the A2 Schools Day off in March.

- For the end of the year celebration, we will figure out how to combine it with social, use the social hall.
- Open House – We will have a field trip for kids that morning possibly taking a bus to a library for a story hour.

### **Teacher Report – Juli Miettinen**

- **Late assists** – new procedure is helping Juli, but habitual parents are not thinking it's a big deal. Juli, Lea, and Vicki will come up with a plan to make contacting these parents part of someone's job so that this role doesn't have to fall on Juli.
- **Asst teacher** – Mary has been so helpful in 3s – am and pm with difficult children, and without her, we would have lost one child in each class. Having Mary they were able to see as a constant and respect her authority and then Juli can also step out or visa versa. She has helped deal with a crying issue, one was being aggressive. Other kids learned how to deal with something like this and was good for the kid himself – the kids have now stopped looking for something bad in this kid. Studies show that expulsion in preschool is double the rate of expulsion from HS, so she's glad that we didn't have to go that route.
- **Field trip issue:** 4s went to health exploration station – notes went out late and field trip (FT) people will put these out earlier – no younger siblings, so this was tricky for people – pick up time for PM class was 30 mins earlier than what was in the note -- FT people need to watch this carefully.
- **Thanks** to the board for the gift certificate to Nicola's.
- **Conferences** for 4s in February . We may just do one in January next year, but new 4s need and could have the fall conference.

### **Susan – FUM 5s**

Doing well in 5s class – had zoo trip last week and it was soo cold that the penguins weren't out! Boys loved it – we will have a few more – take the blue bus to the hospital this week and get a hospital tour.

### **Parent Ed night – Michele DeYoung**

We had a small crowd, but had a back and forth discussion – Pam Stout is a great parent educator and can tweak things in any way.

### **Membership – Sarah Boren-Rao**

#### **Open House:**

- Doing fine getting ready for Open House on March 6.
- We need a new brochure – try Christy Howden to get the old file.

- We are missing the Open House banner, so please keep an eye out for it.
- Publicity and special projects will contact the Arbor Parents site – Lisa will post this, and we will put in daily notes, too
- Social will have healthy snacks.
- Board members should be there – and have people stay in a room.
- We will plan to have childcare and put them in the social hall or upstairs – sign up ahead of time if you need care.
- We will email Gwen about a sub for Juli that day.
- Nicole Hultgren will make the playdough to give out.
- **Publicity** – could we make this a board job and not just have it at the auction and open house but throughout the year, looking for ways to promote the program? We tabled this discussion for next time –
- Sarah gave out fliers to post for Open House -- there will be more in the B room. Colleen is also working on brochures with new prices.

**New students:** 3am single child starting this week, 3 pm twins may start soon. FUMKids is about \$7/session – if you sign up for whole semester, and it is on the website. (**Lisa Ziegler** whipped out this info to report it to the board, who didn't have the answers. "She's got the numbers right here!" said Jenni.)

#### **Shannon Morrin – Treasurer**

- So far deficit is \$5247. Did not include \$815 fundraising funds and \$16K that was tuition. 5 people who haven't paid yet. We expected to have \$13K for year – no money yet from CPK or Silpata, which are about CPK \$311, Silpata -- \$500, and Learning Express -- \$300 or so, but still being tracked down.
- These numbers are hard to read and interpret b/c we don't know when things will get deposited or what predicted expenses are for the rest of the year.
- For next time, we will try to have Brad come, we will all send estimates of how much more we might spend, so that he can report to us best case/worst case scenarios. We set the budget in April, so please send to Lisa ahead of time if you are head of committee who spends money. We also need to correct Brad's records of how things are accounted so that we have accurate records for next year.

#### **Special Topics – Susan Atkins**

- Since we have teachers on the board, we need a procedure to raise and discuss issues without walking into sensitivity issues. Ideas:
- Standard part of agenda where any items that are sensitive are discussed as teachers leave.
- Let Lisa know to give her a heads up on issue, and let her know if things are sensitive – either at beginning or end.

- In the moment – do we need a code word or phrase that is standard for when we heard into sensitive areas?
- Always have time slotted and then need to discuss with Lisa ahead of time.
- Juli would like to know the general idea if possible so that she isn't worrying and can give her input when appropriate.
- We will try at the end of the time to talk about teacher gifting.

### **Secretary– Vicki Haviland**

- We will need to significantly revise the handbook this year. Vicki will go through old minutes and find things that are needing a policy that we've flagged.
- Susan and Vicki will meet and send you a document that will tell you what to do in the next 2 weeks.

### **President – Lisa Hirsch**

We need a nominating committee for next year's board.

Mary, Staci, Lisa, Juli, and Susan volunteered.

Solicit nominations from people now.

### **Bonnie Kerber (reported by Lisa) – Communications**

- She is leaving for 2 weeks after newsletter is due. She will put it together, but needs someone to print and copy it.
- Jenni will print and Anna will copy.
- Newsletter deadline is 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Karen Fry – Social**

We made \$485 from the Silpata party. But we need to have more discernment about it – most of it was from 3 neighbors, and there was very low FUMCN attendance.

When we say "that sounds great," we need to think, "that sounds great for me and I want to go to that." We hear great ideas, but we can spread ourselves too thin – some things don't make sense to do if we don't show up. Social has been supporting fundraising and curriculum so far, and that has lowered our spending – we've only spent \$100 really so far. We want it to be more effective, when we gear up, let's do it!

Change social focus to be a support role for curriculum and fundraising so that there are fewer events with better attendance.

### **Fundraising: Anna Morgan**

- Babysitting night this Friday – we have 14 families 35 kids about \$500 planned – people can come w/o registering – people can just show up. Need 2 more adults – can swap a maintenance night or 3 pm take down by helping out!

- Make-it plates will be done by Mary.
- Quarter Bistro – wine tasting on Thursday March 12, 6-8 pm go and will give us a back room and is \$15/person and you wine and apps --- \$5/person .
- Idea that the Quarter will do poker tournaments and will host it at Quarter – entry fee type thing and we could open it to the public. Concerns that this may not be appropriate for a church preschool.

### **Website – Katie Foster**

Website – will get a random Fumcn page not the home page – sometimes it redirects rather than to the home page to a church page, and could we raise this?

### **Maintenance – Staci Almeida and Jenni Wilkening**

- No idea about playdough table and why it is again not working. Could we pass it off to custodian? If we can't make it work, we need to replace.
- Food in A room now– we did that at lat time – away from the vermin –
- Food used for project can go in maintenance closet. It all needs to go in tubs and be removed from the chemical supplies. Jenni will do the measuring – and look into how we can make use of the low shelves in the A room to store it in tubs.
- 5s person did not get a reminder about maintenance night, so we will check that they are on the email reminders.

*Teachers leave.*

### **Suggestion box comment:**

One comment that someone is feeling overburdened – number of times we are asked to donate gifts to teacher – present for birthday, Christmas, end of year – seems a lot for 4 classes –

1 could be a gift to the school – felt that they had been come at a lot in a year.

We came up with a secret plan for how to mark these occasions and will report in on how that goes in the next months so that we can record it for the future.