

FRIENDS OF ALCOTT SCHOOL, MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2024
Time: 8:00 AM
Location: 2625 N Orchard Street, Chicago, IL 60614, Alcott lunchroom
Invitees: FOA Board Member attendance required

MINUTES

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board Members Present:

In Attendance: Elaine Eun, Co-President; Marisa Ryan, Vice President; Norm Kabir, Treasurer; Heidi Tischer, Board Member; Sarah Nun-Moeri, Board Member; Ron Chan, Board Member; Jason Smith, Board Member; Myra Mormile-Wolper, Board Member; Amran Gowani, Board Member

Quorum Present: Yes

Alcott Leadership and Teacher Rep Present: Principal Karrel present, Mrs. Craig on leave

II. Approval of Minutes from prior meeting(s): Yes

III. Acknowledgements and Recaps*

- Valentine's Day kiss sales raised \$4,105.71 - first of 3 fundraisers for next year's 8th grade trip (Valentine's Day, School supply kits, Sweetest Day)
- Middle School Glow Party
Great event. Good attendance! 111 kids RSVP'd - almost evenly split between grades
Action list, budget and takeaway notes saved in Google folder

*Please send write-ups to suzannelerario436@gmail.com by end of month.

IV. Treasurer Report - Total assets: \$796,383

Grant disbursements:

- Nothing notable last month

FY23-24 YTD grant disbursements: \$365,974

Notable since last meeting:

- \$93,512 revenue from Spring Gala (excluding corporate sponsorships); \$62,777 net profit
- \$1,750 for 8th grade graduation party deposit
- \$1,750 for additional Glow Party expenses
- \$1,460 for winter referee fees

V. Leadership Report

- Reconsider the Sweetest Day & Valentine's Day fundraisers – brainstorm new fundraising ideas
- Budget update – different approach from CPS; previously student-based budgeting (e.g., X dollars per student); now calculating number of teacher positions and discretionary

programming, then multiplying by an “opportunity index” and allocating funding; our opportunity is high so our funding will be compressed in the formula

- Art & Music programs will be covered by new budget formula, but other funding gaps will emerge – need to reevaluate FOA fundraising approach and messaging
- Covid-19 relief funding has expired

VI. Upcoming events

- Elementary School Dances 4/19 - DJ and Photobooth booked, will plan on sending info/flyer through room parents next week - have people heard of it or do I need to do more marketing??

Shannon & Katie leading it; spread the word to improve attendance;
parent prom – parents must attend with child

- International Day 5/17 – Jason
16 countries so far, running smoothly; parent requested possible FOA funding for a specific country performance – need to make it equitable and systematized, so something to evaluate for next year
- Date change: Talent Show and Fine Arts Wed May 5/29 - we need flyer/info from Loisel regarding auditions
- Sports Banquet May 30 5-7pm - requesting \$3K for pizza and medals
Approved \$3K funding for event
- School supplies - deadline to order 6/1

VII. Items for Discussion

- Additional track meets
Request funding up to \$1K for additional track meets. CPS only has (1) meet before qualifiers. These additional meets allow extra practice / exposure for the kids. As independently led, the fee goes to staffing, equipment, facility, etc.
Approved \$1K of total funding
- 2024-2025 - FOA Elections Timeline
Nomination forms submitted to alcottvolunteers@gmail.com OR to FOA mailbox by Monday, April 29th
Ballots distributed Friday, May 3 and due back by Friday, May 10
FOA to ensure elections communicated via a newsletter
Opportunity to communicate FOA election and opportunity via Elementary School event
Push everything back by one week – ballot due May 17
New FOA Board announced week of May 13th
NOTE: if this seems too soon we can push it all back 1 week

Agree to push everything back 1 week

Teacher & principal appreciation: need \$3,500 of funding to run both events
Brainstorm catering options (e.g., restaurants vs. food trucks)
Work on messaging – teacher vs. staff vs. administrator vs. etc.
Agree to bump budget request up to \$4,000 – need to vote via email

VIII. New Business

- Updating sports banners to reflect most recent victories
 - 2023 7th/8th girls soccer - CPS City Champions
 - 2023 girls volleyball
 - 3rd place CPS league
 - 2nd place We Got Game league
 - 2024 7th/8th girls basketball Champions in the Northside Basketball League (NBL)
 - What else?
- WNA meeting- would like Alcott rep to join their school committee for increased engagement/advertising (see below). Reach out to them for potential booth at Fall Fest, movie on the turf, etc.
- Start recruiting members for next year - we would like to create two FOA positions/roles: Communications (newsletter, website, flyers- very user friendly but this person needs to be pretty available/responsive) and Community Connection (WNA and LSC subcommittee liaison, as well as neighborhood business promos- Myra has generously agreed to take this position on!)
- Also need a Secretary
 - Myra confirmed to become WNA & LSC liaison!
 - Need a volunteer for comms person – spread the word!
 - Might need a new secretary – spread the word!
- Maybe we should use OneCause for the Pledge Drive – can run as many events as we want throughout the year