

**AINSWORTH FOUNDATION
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors**

**September 10, 2007, 11:45 a.m.
Offices of New & Neville,
900 SW 13th Avenue, Suite 210, Portland**

Attending:

Board Members: Kimberly Bakken, Christine Carr, Kanth Gopalpur, Nancy Hinnen, David Kenney, Amy Kohnstamm, Tim Leahy, Edie Milar, Jennifer O'Brien, Lucy Reynolds, Anne Rohosy, Dara Wilk.

Other Parents: Heidi Greenwald.

Principal: Liz Casson-Taylor.

Welcome/Introductions

Tim Leahy welcomed returning Board members and the other attendees to the meeting, and introduced Heidi Greenwald, a proposed new Board member and Treasurer. Kanth Gopalpur will stay on the Board and provide assistance to Ms. Greenwald. Upon motion and second, Heidi Greenwald was approved as a director and Treasurer.

Financial Report

Mr. Gopalpur reported that we raised \$331,000 in the 2006-07 school year: funds from Red Ball were lower than the prior year, but direct donations increased from \$48,000 to \$91,000. The CD earned \$6,122 last year. The Foundation spent \$272,000 for staffing in the 2006-07 school year, out of which \$89,000 was the PSF portion. After factoring the \$33,000 in credit we have with PPS the Foundation's 2007-08 obligation is \$263,000 for 3.32 FTE; we have \$283,000 currently in our account. The excess means we will be able to fund up-front Red Ball costs.

Our funding obligation increased over the summer due to the hiring of a second grade immersion teaching assistant and a community floater teaching assistant.

Campaign Update

Anne Rohosy and Kimberly Bakken will speak at the new family welcome tomorrow night. The Foundation will also have a presence at the school's curriculum nights, on September 26 and 27. Primarily the goal at this stage is to introduce a "kicker campaign" (to induce families to pledge their kicker refunds to the Foundation) and thank the families for their generous contributions last year.

The PTA has introduced a new online community, called Big Tent, as a tool for groups at Ainsworth to communicate with each other. Nancy Hinnen volunteered to be the coordinator for the Foundation's subgroup.

Lucy Reynolds, the Foundation's Special Events chair, has agreed to host a kindergarten coffee at her house on October 4 after drop-off. It is essentially a "meet and greet" hosted by the Foundation.

Mr. Leahy posed the question of what the Foundation's goals should be for the 2007-08 school year. Discussion ensued about setting a per-family financial goal and explaining to families what the Foundation dollars could possibly pay for. The discussion was tabled pending a report on staffing and the school year so far from the Principal, Liz Casson-Taylor.

Principal Feedback/Comments

Ms. Casson-Taylor introduced herself by stating that this is her fourth year at Ainsworth and she is very gratified for the work and support that the Foundation provides for the school. She announced that there are 500 students this year (including kindergarten, which for PPS purposes are only counted as 1/2 student): 196 in community and 304 in immersion. The school has 21 classes this year, up from 19 last year. In addition to the Principal and those 21 classroom teachers, we have full time Music and PE specialists, a 1/2 time Art specialist and a 0.8 time Media Specialist (library), two 4-day-a-week secretaries, and the following teaching assistants: full-time Kindergarten and first-grade immersion (1 each), a half-time 2nd grade immersion, and a half-time community floater. We have 3 new teachers, Kurkinnen and Watkins in kindergarten and Myers in 3rd grade, and a new nurse, Lou Ann, on Wednesdays. Class sizes range from 24-26 in immersion and 19-26 in community.

Ms. Casson-Taylor pointed out that there are new rules in funding with the Portland Schools Foundation, and the staffing letter has to be in dollar amounts rather than full-time equivalents. In response to a query from the Board, Ms. Casson-Taylor indicated that she thought that if the Foundation raised sufficient funds, the staff would be interested in adding some additional staff. She also emphasized the fact that the class sizes are significantly smaller this year, due in part to the Foundation's fundraising, and that this was a continuing priority as well.

In connection with the Board's discussion of goals for the current year, Ms. Milar suggested that at some point we poll the parents about what they believe is important in staffing; she indicated, for example, that many community parents feel very strongly that having a Spanish teacher in the community classroom at least once a week would be very important. David Kenney suggested a "bottoms up" assessment of Ainsworth's needs and the community's expectations. In the end the Board consensus was that \$1,000/child was a good initial goal to use in communications with the Ainsworth community.

Red Ball Update

Currently we have the Portland Art Museum reserved for March 15, 2008; no deposit is required yet. Efforts have been made to explore other options but there are not many venues available with two rooms (silent & live) for the numbers we have. Amy Kohnstamm pointed out that some organizations are now doing online auctions in lieu of silent, in-place auctions.

Major Donors

Jenni O'Brien and Christine Carr have agreed to chair the major donors campaign again this year. They will begin their efforts by focusing on a "kicker campaign."

Other Business

The following business was also discussed:

- David Kenney has been updating the Foundation website and will endeavor to keep it current.
- Ms. Bakken has agreed to focus on whether there is money available in the form of grants and will act as grant-writer if the opportunity arises.
- Ms. Rohosy distributed a "DEX Community Challenge" with grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for reviews of businesses locally.
- We need a PTA liaison to attend PTA meetings: Ms. Rohosy and Ms. Kohnstamm agreed to "tag-team" their meetings.

Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Hinnen
Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, October 8, 2007, 11:45 am
Offices of New & Neville, 900 SW 13th Avenue, Suite 210, Portland