

AINSWORTH FOUNDATION
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 10, 2008, 11:30 a.m.
Offices of New & Neville,
900 SW 13th Avenue, Suite 210, Portland

Attending:

Board Members: Christine Carr, Heidi Greenwald, Nancy Hinnen, David Kenney, Amy Kohnstamm, Tim Leahy, Edie Millar, Jenni O'Brien, Anne Rohosy, Dara Wilk.

Other Ainsworth Parents: Stuart Allen, Melody Rose.

Absent: Kanth Gopalpur, Lucy Reynolds.

Principal: Liz Casson-Taylor.

Welcome

Anne Rohosy and Tim Leahy welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Following corrections to certain figures in the February 2008 draft minutes, upon motion by Mr. Leahy and seconded by Amy Kohnstamm, the Board approved the January and February 2008 minutes which had previously been distributed to the Board.

The co-chairs also announced that Christine Carr has agreed to step up as co-chair, with Anne Rohosy, for the Foundation for next year. Christine's experience on the board and as Major Donor chair will set a strong base for leadership in the next couple of years.

Red Ball 2008

Mr. Leahy and Jenni O'Brien reported that while complete numbers are still outstanding, they estimated that Red Ball 2008 will net in the high \$190,000's. Heidi Greenwald and Red Ball treasurer Lisa Elsener are in contact to prepare a transfer of funds to the Foundation's interest-bearing account. The Foundation's current balance for the year is approximately \$215-220,000.

Red Ball 2009

The Board then discussed the best course of action in planning for next year's main fundraising event. Ms. Kohnstamm investigated returning to the Portland Art Museum, which has available dates on February 21, March 14 and April 4, 2009. The room rental is \$8200 which includes an A/V manager (but not A/V services themselves), coat check and security. Catering for 400 people would come out to around \$30,000 (\$75/plate) through Salvador Molly's, the museum's "preferred" caterer. In order to use another caterer Ainsworth needs to have an angel investor that has given above a certain dollar amount and then the museum will waive its requirement that Salvador Molly's be used. Ms. O'Brien and Dara Wilk pointed out that using Salvador Molly's is a big advantage in terms of their familiarity with the facility.

The Treasure Building is not big enough, holding a maximum of 250-300 people. Ms. Wilk will look into the Tiger Woods Center at Nike. Ms. Kohnstamm will investigate the Oregon Zoo's facilities.

Site Council Visitor

Melody Rose, a member of Ainsworth's Site Council and Ainsworth parent for the past 10 years, arrived at the meeting to share her personal views on some priorities for staffing at the school. She spoke in favor of restoring a counselor position to staff, not only for kids with special emotional needs but for the entire student population. She commended Ms. Casson-Taylor for her efforts to help fill in this gap. The Board thanked her for her time and insights.

Principal's Report

Liz Casson-Taylor circulated a tentative staffing plan to the Board. Regarding a counselor position, she said that she understands that a number of Ainsworth families feel that this is a crucial piece in the puzzle. However, at this point with current funding levels it would require sacrificing other positions regarded by yet other families as crucial. Ms. Casson-Taylor also reminded the Board that she was very reluctant to add positions back in unless it will likely be sustainable from year to year. A counselor needs to be in place for more than a year, and preferably for as close to FT as possible, in order to really make a difference. For the 2008-09 year, she had been hopeful that Ainsworth would reach the 500-student mark that would result in a district-provided counselor; however the district has changed its focus to making sure that all K-8 schools have counselors, so Ainsworth will not be provided with a counselor. She did express hope that possibly in the following (09-10) year Ainsworth might have a district-provided counselor.

Ms. Casson-Taylor also announced that Special Friends Day will be April 23, 2008. After a brief discussion it was agreed to show the Foundation's slide show.

Major Donor Campaign

Ms. Carr gave the presentation for Major Donors. She reported that only 13 families have made direct donations above \$750 (the major donor threshold) so far this year. 74 families gave at that level or above at Red Ball.

The Board discussed a three-prong approach to the spring's major donor campaign:

- *First, a universal mailing to all Ainsworth families.* In this letter there will be a pitch to try to achieve 100% family participation, at any level, as well as possibly a matching campaign. Certain board members agreed to approach

families who might be willing to fund the matching donor pool. This letter would go out the week the first week of April.

- *Second, a special mailing to potential major donors, in other words, families who have given at the major donor level in the past but have not done so this year. The Board discussed including hand-written notes in this mailing. This would be done around April 21.*
- *Third, follow-up phone calls to the persons sent the special mailing. This would be done in the first week of May.*

Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Hinnen
Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 14, 2006, 11:30 am
Offices of New & Neville, 900 SW 13th Avenue, Suite 210, Portland**