

AINSWORTH FOUNDATION
Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 12, 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, Anne Rohosy, Dara Wilk.

Absent: Kanth Gopalpur, Jenni O'Brien, Lucy Reynolds.

Principal: Liz Casson-Taylor.

Welcome

Anne Rohosy and Tim Leahy welcomed the Board and Principal to the meeting. Upon motion by Tim Leahy and seconded by Christine Carr, the Board approved (with one spelling correction) the April 2008 minutes which had previously been distributed to the Board.

Fundraising Update

To date the Foundation has raised \$311,000 plus employer matching funds. In addition there are pledges of \$7,500 outstanding which have not yet been paid. Accordingly, reported Ms. Greenwald, the Foundation's income will be approximately \$322-325,000 for the 2007-08 year, based on our current knowledge. Traditionally, an additional \$10-15,000 comes in over the summer from matching funds. Thus, the Foundation is where it needs to be to fund the positions it has committed to funding.

Principal's Report

Liz Casson-Taylor reviewed the status of staffing for next year. In February, the district issued a staffing allowance based on the number of students as of October 1 of last year. The amount needed to fund 1 FTE has recently increased to around \$87-90,000, up from around \$60,000 just a few years ago. In addition, when allocating the Foundation's money, Ms. Casson-Taylor has tried to utilize the funds in a sustainable way and not purchase the "cheapest" FTEs. Many other factors that go into staffing include state funding and the number of kindergarteners coming in the fall.

Ms. Casson-Taylor reported that Lynn Malzahn, the art teacher, as well as two assistant teachers went into unassignment going into Round 2. Mr. Leahy, Ms. Rohosy and Ms. Casson-Taylor are going to meet with Anne Madsen at PPS to determine exactly how much money is required to re-hire these unassigned staff members, as it seems to be a hard number to pin down. We believe we have raised sufficient funds.

The Board then discussed how to notify the Ainsworth community at large. It was decided that Ms. Casson-Taylor will send a letter explaining that we met our fundraising goals and that the art teacher and assistant teacher positions will be funded for next year. Later the Foundation co-chairs will craft and disseminate a letter thanking the Ainsworth community for their generosity.

Major Donor

Ms. Carr reported that her major donor list (of donors that have not given this year) has dwindled to 14 families, once 5th grade families are culled. She asked the Board's opinion on whether these families should be pursued; it was concluded that there have been enough solicitations for the year.

Red Ball

Based on some discussions around next year's Red Ball, Mr. Leahy proposed that the Red Ball chairs be broken down into 3 positions – silent, oral and logistics, with possibly one more “floater” chair with overall oversight. (Lake Oswego has done it this way.) The chair for the silent auction will be returning, as well as Marla McLeod in will-call. Our wonderful computer system chairs are moving on.

Given the problems with finding willing volunteers to take on this substantial undertaking, some have suggested hiring someone to run the whole process, but we're not yet ready to do that. Ms. Rohosy suggested an open forum for the Ainsworth Community to discuss Red Ball in the fall. First, however, we need a date and location, which will not be the Tiffany Center. Anne will try to find an appropriate site and will communicate with the Board about her progress. Ms. Casson-Taylor mentioned that the calendaring process starts next week so the sooner we have a date, the better.

Brief discussion ensued regarding staffing of the Foundation informational table at the Art Fair. It was decided that it would be primarily a “thank-you” style table with information for community members who might not know about the Foundation, but since we have reached our goals we would not be making a major fundraising push at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Hinnen
Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2008, 11:45 am
Offices of New & Neville, 900 SW 13th Avenue, Suite 210, Portland