

Avivara Board Meeting Minutes June 18, 2011

Attendees: David Austin, Thomas Friedman, Dave Craig, Ann Austin, Sue Clauson, Gaile Moe, Catherine Austin

Meeting Called to order at 9:50 by David Austin

Two video presentations by Ann

1. Tunino– daily life. Tunino has received money from Bowman School for a computer lab.

2. A slide show of many Avivara activities

Teacher training workshops - Ann talked about the benefits of the workshops in team building within the school and the learning of a variety of instructional strategies. Gains have been made in building trust between Avivara and the school communities. A book was created of stories written by the children and distributed to all present.

Ann's art classes - Ann shared stories about her art classes, the challenges and successes.

University of Alaska/Engineers without Borders - looking at different engineering projects they might address - water source or building projects, they have yet to decide.

Importance of frequent staff meeting

Ann talked about frequent staff meetings, how they help keep all (Gary, Ann, and Gustavo) focused and motivated. Constantly question – what is the best way to use the money? How do they decide where to spend the money? What programs will be expanded? Where might they be in two to three years?

Discussion of increasing the budget

Areas to expand are scholarships. Five more students want to go to university next year. A few university students have received laptops and Internet access. This has made a big difference in their academic progress. Would love to be able to offer 5 university scholarships next year. Currently there are 3 scholarships. The cost of one scholarship is about \$1500 per year

for university. How to allocate – 1 university student or 8 primary students or x high school students? A large portion of the support is for transportation. Where should the support be focused, that is the challenge? No desire to support more schools but with the current staff are able to add more scholarships. Would also like to expand the teacher workshops. Consider developing the “mentor teacher”. This role would need to come with pay. As workshop offerings are expanded more money will be needed for teacher transportation.

Avivara gaining higher profile with other organizations NGOs and others are reading the website and people are calling, wanting advice on how to help organizations in Guatemala.

Fundraising

How do we increase the amount of funds raised? Long discussion on additional ways to raise funds followed.

Ideas for raising additional connections/funds

- Development Program Interns

- School connections

- Service Trips -Archbishop Murphy High School? Universities?

Avivara will be on the list for King County donations, thanks to Tom.

Expand number of board members. Sue will call Susan Kaluzny about potentially joining the board. Ann will provide contact information.

Fund raising ideas for the fall events end of October/beginning of November. Ann and Gary will be here during this window.

- Book Clubs and More...Ann will attend – Sue

- Wine Tasting - David

- Guatemalan Dinner – Catherine

- “Cocktails/martinis for social justice”

Each board member will consider plan/host/create an event.

Financials look good.

Thanks to Tom for all his work.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.