

Avivara U.S. Board Meeting

June 5, 2017

Date: Monday, June 5th. **Called to Order:** 7:17pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Friedman, David Austin, David Craig, and Ruth Harbaugh. Staff members in attendance: Ann Austin and Gary Teale (via Skype).

Financial Documents – All looks good. We have enough \$ to meet our financial obligations for the rest of the year, approx. 81K in checking, Vanguard 71K+. Revenues are coming in healthily. We have cut back on what we're sending to Guatemala to cut down our excess equity there. Looks good at this point in the year and that we are in good shape heading to the second half to the year.

Question on other expenses – Tom asked why donation processing fees were significantly higher than last year. Gary explained that Libros para ninos is processing their donations through First Giving and they charge an additional processing fee. We charge Libros para Ninos for this extra fee, but the transaction also shows up as an offsetting expense in the donation processing fees line item in our profit and loss statement.

New Process for Donations- The number of our current schools supported in Guatemala are in good shape. Therefore, we want to open up process to new schools that would benefit from our funds for school improvement projects. See full application here (in Spanish):

<http://www.avivara.org/programs/subvencionesescolares.html>. Staff will review the applications in August for projects beginning in the January 2018 school year. It puts the onus on the schools for identifying the school demographic mission/vision/budget/evaluation criteria and Avivara will determine the best candidates. We will create a forum of Avivara, current teachers, et al to evaluate the proposals including a school visit and presentation by the applying schools. The Avivara staff will keep the Board posted on the number of applications and evaluation process.

Annual Report – is forthcoming and expected to be sent by the end of June

Program Updates –

- **Pachut** - 60 families, no electricity and don't own land so no electricity available. Many places don't have water. The school doesn't have water. The kindergarten teacher is currently having students bring a small bottle of water to drink/wash face. The town leaders dug the well, and Avivara contracted with bicycle powered pump company to install pump, tubing to sink, reinforce sides of well, and tank structure to get the water to the top of the school. We are also building eco toilets that will turn into fertilizer after sanitization. Partnering with other funders. Also brought in tables, school supplies. All of the leaders in town come when Avivara visits. Partnering with Eco Filtro, a non-profit organization to get each household access to filters for personal water use, set up payment plan with families on sliding scale to put \$(Q) into fund to purchase filters after 2 years which helps families be invested. Gustavo is also giving mini-charlas (chats) to parents about sanitation and healthcare and how to get help if needed.

- **Special Ed School in Valle de Duranzo** – Well organized, clean facilities school of ~38 registered students run by 4-5 women trained in Special Ed/ MA level training. School is basic but have deaf, vision impaired, blind, downs syndrome, learning difficulties, etc. Lot of work with even 4-5 kids in the class. They asked for tables and chairs for their kitchen area. Teaching kids socialization, cleaning up after themselves, etc. Got tables, hands on manipulative tops. Teachers were overjoyed to receive support.

Fall Fundraiser –

It's time to do another event. Our first dinner was labor intensive but earned 20k. Looking at Javier is a Latin jazz musician and can set it up like a concert.

Venue – Villa Academy to likely donate venue. They have a couple of nice spaces – parlor with carpet, lights that dim. Lower level of the school has a theatre room that would be good for salsa.

Events – Javier is a Latin guitar musician and can offer a concert. The Spanish teacher has offered salsa lessons. We could also provide food and possibly pictures. Salsa lesson for kids.

Suggested Donation- perhaps \$10 – Gets a beer and plate of tapas. If you want to give more you can.

Multimedia- PA system, a few talking points, show movies

Date- Likely after mid-October / early November on a Sat or Fri night or Sunday night. First choice is Oct 21st, second is November 11th (don't conflict with UW football schedule, Oct 28th/ Nov 4th are home games).

Board Assignments – Food, beverages, crafts, sequencing for the evening – give Javier a 30-45 minute focus, he may do 2 sets of 35 minutes each with a break for people can get food, show video, salsa class. Evening focuses on Javier and then during breaks, photos and craft items. Once we get the venue/entertainment we will try to meet again before July 4th.

Respectfully submitted 6/5/17

Ruth Harbaugh, Board Secretary

Minutes approved by Board 6/5/17