

# **LAPTOPS TO LESOTHO**

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 21, 2014

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Laptops to Lesotho was held on April 21, 2014 at 6:30 PM Eastern Standard Time via conference call.

### **Board Members Present:**

Janissa Balcomb  
Sherrie Howey  
Sarah Gardner

### **Call to Order**

Janissa Balcomb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM EST and Sarah Gardner recorded the minutes. All board members were present.

### **Old Business**

Janissa gave an update on the Rotary Club Grant. We have only received about \$2000 so far. Janissa will be forwarding receipts from the trip to Donald Tuttle of Unadilla Rotary Club to get reimbursed. Janissa and Sherrie also spoke to Donald in October 2013 and confirmed that while the Rotary Club has plans to start a project at a school in Pela 'Tseu, Laptops to Lesotho will not be involved in that project.

### **Trip Report**

Janissa and Sarah gave a quick overview of the most recent trip to Kokobe Primary School. Overall it was a successful trip – we had a lot of training time with the students using the laptops and they made significant progress in math while we were there (which was the focus of our computer lessons). Teachers still seem hesitant to use the laptops on their own, but they were enthusiastic and supportive while we led computer lessons in the classroom. By the end of the trip students were able to manage charging of the laptops independently, which will make it easier for teachers to manage the use of laptops in a lesson. Mice and headsets were well received and very useful!

### **Approval of New Board Member**

The board voted unanimously to add Vicki Panhuse as a board member. Vicki is Janissa's cousin and Sarah's cousin once removed. Vicki will likely take over as treasurer. The board also agreed to continue pursuing others who may be interested in joining the board of directors, particularly to help with fundraising. Mark Adams is interested in joining and helping with publicity and technology tasks. Janissa has two other friends who are interested and have asked for more information.

### **New Business**

Florence now has an official contract with Laptops to Lesotho and her job title is Project Coordinator. She has been immensely helpful already!

**Future Planning**

The board agreed to spend the remainder of this year solely focused on bringing new people into the project and designing lessons for the XO laptops that align with the math curriculum at Nohana and Kokobe. As we design lessons we can send them to Florence and she can make regular trips to Kokobe and Nohana to demo lessons with students and troubleshoot problems with teachers. Once we have more people on the board to help secure new funding sources we can look at replacing the XO laptops with more efficient, kid friendly hardware and purchasing quality educational software in 2015 or 2016. Sherrie also agreed to send Matlabe an ultimatum regarding the Dell laptops that were donated for use at Nohana Primary, otherwise they will be given to someone else. We have no plans to use them as part of our project because of power concerns.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Gardner, Recording Secretary