

# **LAPTOPS TO LESOTHO**

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

November 18, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Laptops to Lesotho was held on November 18, 2012 at 7:35 PM Eastern Standard Time via conference call.

### **Board Members Present:**

Janissa Balcomb, President and Acting Treasurer  
Sarah Gardner, Secretary  
Sherrie Howey, Member

### **Call to Order**

Janissa Balcomb called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM Eastern Standard Time and Sarah Gardner recorded the minutes. All board members were present.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Janissa reported that we have \$9750 in cash and the USBank account as well as approximately \$270 (M2430) in the Nohana Primary School Nedbank account in Lesotho. 6600 is dedicated to solar panels and Pueblo West. Friends of Lesotho said go ahead and buy portable solar panels. We will need to buy a solar kit for the network server, this will be covered by Friends of Lesotho funds. We can also add two new panels to Nohana Primary using Solon funds.

We have received over \$14,000 in donations and grants this year. In October and November we received \$1393 in public donations in honor of Mary Dewar. There have also been a few hundred dollars in other donations since February. We received a grant from FOL in May for \$3389 for the Kokobe solar power. We also received a grant from Solon Foundation in February for \$9200 for Kokobe XO laptops and solar power.

This year we have spent of \$10,000. Major expenses were 49 laptops for Kokobe (\$7012), 2 XO-175's (\$500), plane ticket to Lesotho for Janissa (\$2026). Of the remaining funds, \$5577 is dedicated to Kokobe solar power and \$1000 is dedicated to Pueblo West computer shipping (on hold indefinitely). We have \$3150 in discretionary funds. About \$2000 will go towards travel expenses and \$562 will go towards network servers. We will have very little money left after the trip.

### **End of Year Reports**

Sarah will file the Idaho Secretary of State annual report in December. Janissa will file with the IRS between February and March. Janissa will also file the public annual report between March and April.

### **Report from Sherrie**

While in Lesotho, Sherrie will be looking into getting insurance. She has been trying to make contacts, but it's hard to do from here. She is also working on the project evaluation. Fortunate has contacted Hank about the proposal. We need to decide who we will work with very soon (Sarah Howard or Hank) and get them involved before the trip. Fortunate and Sherrie will continue working on it.

### **Publicity Report**

Janissa and Sarah will talk in December about updating the brochure. Sarah is very slowly working on website updates, they are not complete. Delia needs to be removed from the website,

Sherrie and Jennifer can write bios to be added to website. Also considering the best way to utilize our Facebook page.

### **Trip Planning**

Volunteer meeting will be December 1 or 8 via skype. 8 volunteers will be going at different times. The trip will be from Dec 29 – Feb 9. We will be taking 49 laptops, 8 teacher keyboards, flash drives for Kokobe teachers, 50 portable solar panels, 2 permanent panels for Nohana, 2 network servers and routers. We will start the project evaluation and do teacher training at Kokobe and Nohana. There will be a student reading program, student computer training, and family computer training. We will be installing servers and solar power. Hank may be installing an antenna for internet. We will build shelves at Kokobe, take lots of photos and videos, collect computer logs from Nohana, write rules and contracts for Kokobe, and give out scholarships. We assigned to tasks to board members and various volunteers to prepare for the trip.

### **Plan for Pueblo West Computers and Funds**

We cannot ship computers yet because we don't have money for solar power and the computers are more sensitive and require more technology. It would really help us if we could donate them to a different school. It will cost way too much to install them at Nohana. Otherwise it will take us several years or more to raise money for solar power. We are working on it, but it can't derail our projects with Nohana and Kokobe.

Discussing this with Matlabe will be difficult. He's been anticipating this for a year and a half and has very high hopes for these computers and training his students to use them. We can talk to him about putting Windows like software on XO (Tony Anderson can do this). Kids can still learn word, excel, and other programs using XO laptops. Matlabe may see them more as real laptops, not kid laptops. We can bring one PW laptop to replace school computer that has a virus. Don't bring one to Kokobe because we don't have a way to power one there. We could suggest Matlabe and teachers can raise grants for that power on their own even though we can't afford it.

### **Annual Planning**

General goals for next year are evaluating the success of our project, developing lessons and curriculum support, fundraising, outreach, updating social media, producing a video, and teacher training. There will be no new expansion or deployment.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Gardner, Recording Secretary