

Grant School Foundation
Meeting, Minutes, August 30, 2009

Present:

Eric Page, Chairman, President
Dr. Monique Robertson, Principal
Rajan Agarwal, Foundation Treasurer
Cheryl Barker
Bruce Bourdon, Vice President
Ron Zollman, Foundation Secretary

And Guests:

Mike Cook
Scott Crowder
Shirley Demer
Steve Gillespie (Teacher)
Melanie Novak (as Vice President of the PTA)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm. at Grant Elementary School.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft of the minutes of the Foundation's June 24, 2009, meeting, which had been routed previously. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Agarwal presented a financial and tax update. He noted that he plans to call the IRS about next steps for filing the overdue tax returns. A goal of filing by Sept. 20, 2009, was discussed, subject to any new issues or reasons not to proceed, raised by the conversation with the IRS. Various questions were asked and answered. Mr. Agarwal also discussed available funds and commitments.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$1,500 for Spanish instruction for kindergarteners – provided that Cheryl Barker, using her judgment on behalf of foundation, may hold off and decline to spend these funds if any concerns arise about the need or usage of the funds. The motion was approved.

Ms. Demer presented a proposal for improvement of the Gecko Garden, which she said would cost about \$75,000 to \$100,000 to implement. She said that some of the money could be raised through grants, others from fundraising and from money from the Grant Community Foundation if the foundation decides to support this project. A discussion followed.

Dr. Robertson reported on additional financial needs at Grant, including language instruction and hiring of additional teachers (if the foundation is permitted to fund positions, which requires study and input from the school board).

There followed an extended discussion about the timing of any foundation decisions on

priorities. Various foundation directors advocated making a decision by approximately October in order to be able to communicate early in the year the goals of the foundation, and the planned usage of gala funds.

Mr. Page reported that PTA is going to circulate a fundraising letter of its own. Mr. Page also observed that foundation could merge with the PTA, or could form a third group, a parent teacher organization, to avoid competing for fundraising and to encourage shared focus. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foundation directors unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Page, on behalf of the foundation, to preliminarily explore the possibility of joining forces with the PTA, either within the PTA or within a PTO.

Mr. Page moved to accept and support the transfer of Grant Elementary domain names, including grantk8.com, and authority to send e-mail blasts, to the foundation's name as owner. He reported that funding for maintaining such efforts (including maintenance of URLs) shall be shared 50/50 with the PTA. The motion was duly seconded and passed.

Mr. Barker reported that she will discuss the Grant Gala Web site at the next meeting of the foundation. The date for the next meeting was set for Sept. 22, 2009. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron S. Zollman, Foundation Secretary