

Meeting Minutes:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/message/9095>

Chapter Meeting Minutes-2/22/12

ASHA MEETING-2/22/12

madhu, ruksana*, Protima, anshu, minal, manisha, Vijay Jigish, Minali, Saurabh, Yoga, Venki, Amit*, Neehar*, Bhanu

*On the Phone

Open Polls: Satsang Vidyalaya-please cast your vote

SANKALP DAY CARE, KANPUR, SAURABH TIWARI

- ☞ 45 children and 7 teachers
- ☞ school for mentally disabled children
- ☞ runs from 9 till 2 but the parents have asked for more hours
- ☞ speech assistant and speech therapist, psychologist all take care of the children repeatedly
- ☞ the children are transported by van and auto to the school
- ☞ the school is trying to collaborate with other schools nearby, Asha supported, to be able to figure out how to improve their work, identify special needs children in the area
- ☞ school was started by Dipti Mishra, the project co-ords sister, and needed a place for comprehensive services in one place for special needs children and the founder herself has a child who is special needs.
- ☞ The children are charged on a sliding scale.
- ☞ The school is supported partly by our funds and partly by funds from locals.
- ☞ The salary amount in the budget is around Rs. 4,22,700 and the conveyance charges are Rs. 3,51,500
- ☞ About half of the total budget of the school is supported by Asha SV
- ☞ Its an Asha Starts project-which is basically that the chapter finds donors specifically to donate to this project. The project is approved at the chapter level but funds are not sent through the Asha SV funds but rather a process that the steward looks for donors to donate to the project directly.
- ☞ Last year all the amount requested by the project was raised by the steward. Typically we never bridge the funding amount, and send only what we can raise.
- ☞ No funds were approved for 2011-2012-so this is renewal for 2011-2012.
- ☞ We send funds to Asha Kanpur and then the funds are sent to Sankalp. The renewal was not presented timely but Asha Kanpur has been writing checks to Sankalp.
- ☞ This year's request is from April 2011 till March 2012 is Rs. 3,71,400- from children they raise about Rs. 38,750; from Fixed private donations it is Rs. 4,500-.
- ☞ Did the budget take the 20% cut? We had decided that SAC and Stars were not to be cut.
- ☞ Currently the total amount requested has already been raised by the Stars fundraising.
- ☞ Significant change in the budget from last year? Any additional surprise big item? Not that we know of.
- ☞ Currently it appears that all we need to raise for this project are less than half their budget.
- ☞ Saurabh will check on the issues relating to whether there were any significant changes in the budget from last year.
- ☞ The kids are divided in terms of their different levels of difficulty.
- ☞ The children work with blocks, beads, paints, etc. to be able to get their skills improved.
- ☞ The teachers, one or two of them have special ed training and the rest are all being trained to work with special needs children.
- ☞ Some teachers are enrolled in classes for working with special needs children
- ☞ Some kids are able to make significant progress with their work while some others are just continuing to stay in the same place.
- ☞ What is the goal for the children? The goal is more of being able to provide the children skills in being

able to live in the society, be self-sufficient in some sense. Perhaps give them some vocational training. Perhaps help them in having a future of some sort so that they are not burdensome on their families.

☞ Did we consider connecting Sankalp with Shristi? The steward has sent his sister details of other schools.

☞ The parents should also be engaged in giving them skills in working with the kids-are the parents being helped as well?

☞ Parents education sessions are being held and parents training is on the evaluation-there was a one week workshop and two lecture sessions for the parents so they will understand what is going on in terms of helping their children at home.

☞ The school has formed an advisory board this year-comprising people who run regular schools and their input has been that parents have to be involved in a more informal setting so that they feel engaged in the progress of their children.

☞ The children compete in games and sports activities. They also celebrate special days and festivals.

☞ Children from area schools have also been visiting the school to interact with the children to understand the ways of life of the special needs children.

☞ The children also participated in a crafts meal where their things were sold, less for fundraising but more for boosting the children's confidence.

☞ The advisory board has been helpful in allowing the school to move forward but the lack of space for the school has been a severe problem. The kids have been turned away because of lack of space. Creative solutions have to be found for solving the space problem.

☞

VARUN-VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL UPLIFTMENT-IN UP AND BIHAR

☞ They start schools and hand it over to the locals to run

☞ They have started a new school recently where there were 48 kids.

☞ The renewal was already presented last year to approve the 2011-2012 funding that was approved. First half of the money has been sent and the second half needs to be sent. However we cannot wait till March 14th which is the earliest available update presentation date.

☞ So the steward is presenting a quick report so that we can send the second installment money.

☞ Perhaps Neehar can post the slides on the website so that we send the money

☞ However it appears that if we allow the money to be sent without the update, are we setting a precedent for us to allow other projects to do so? The issue really is that we have already approved the money to be sent and we have to comply with our rules of presenting the update in a timely manner.

FR/PR UPDATE

☞ Concert, Sevathon, TA Program Publicity, Flyer list to be sent out to the volunteers and as part of the TA program and the newsletter

☞ We have been contacted by the PR person for IO and they are offering a concert by Raghu Dixit

☞ Teesta got in touch with Amit Keelam, an IO band member. She is still waiting to hear back from him.

☞ Why don't we talk to Anand Arvindan and loop him in, so that some channels of communication are being maintained.

☞ We have TA registrations are opening on March 1st 2012. Spring Run sign ups have not yet started.

☞ Some immediate tasks need to be done before registrations open-email templates have to be created.

We also need to have a company presentation template ready for people to be able to present the TA program at their company so they can present at their work.

☞ Need volunteers for

○ UPDATE THE POWER POINT

○ FACEBOOK UPDATES

○ THERE ARE FLYERS AND POSTERS THAT HAVE TO BE PUT IN PUBLIC PLACES TO PUBLICISE OUR TA FLYERS

○ THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET THAT WILL BE SENT OUT WITH THE MINUTES

☞ Last thing is the newsletter-last date for committing to write on the newsletter is next week. WE NEED ARTICLES.

☞ Help with the Facebook page-there are specific items that you can pick to help with the Facebook page.

Please contact Jigish/Manisha

☞ Newsletter- A coach for TA may be willing to write an article. Last year Smita tried to collect some articles for the first quarter. Connect with Smita. For SAC we can get a write up. For Ek Kadam, and a generic one that will be written.

☞ Next week's India Currents there might be a marathon spotlight.

☞ By next week hopefully we will have stuff ready.

SATSANG SCHOOL

Presentation is at:

http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/868/Satsang_AshaSV_ProjectSummary_Renewal2011_12.pdf

☞ Renewal presentation

☞ Rural communities around Madanpalli area where the community is mainly tribal who are nomads from Rajasthan and settled in AP

☞ The tribal are mostly day laborers and very poor, they are prejudiced and are downtrodden.

☞ They have been discriminated and this discrimination carries over to the schools. The children have been asked to do menial tasks only because of their caste status. They were clearly singled out because of their caste.

☞ Satsang Vidyalayas were created in these communities to serve the needs of children from these communities so that the children are nurtured, given respect and given support so that they can learn and preserve their traditional art forms.

☞ The stated goals for this project range from education, to provide meals, provide support for their arts and crafts, and preference for girls who have been discriminated.

☞ The school is very well maintained.

☞ We started with the project in 2007- approved funding for capital expense, science lab, kitchen equipment and sand put for play area.

☞ 2009-2010 we approved the operation budget for salaries. Funds delayed due to lack of site visit.

☞ The 2009 money was sent in 2010. Now we are presenting for 2011-2012

☞ The school functions as a bridge between regular school and the tribes. So classes are from 1st to 8th grade.

☞ Structured and activity based learning are both taught is that schools teach the learning and arts together. They also provide after school programs for students transitioned to local government schools.

☞ They also provide mid-day meals, and vocational training for women in the tribal area.

☞ The school has 3 buildings. The kids are from 3-4 nearby villages. There are also after school classes besides regular school for 1-8 grade.

☞ 74 students in 2007 and 150 in 2011 with 50% in lower grades.

☞ 9 teachers and cooks.

☞ Because the building is so small the classes worked together, older kids helped little kids. School fosters an environment for children to foster collaboration and helping, kids also have chores that they do routinely.

☞ The kids are involved in running the school and participate in the school work.

☞ How do they fit into the conventional school system after 8th grade? The teaching method is still based on traditional syllabus so that they are getting the same level of education as other schools,

☞ Last year there were volunteers who came to teach English to the teachers; there was a sweater collection drive in the school; they started after school coaching because they realized that the kids were having difficulty integrating.

☞ They organized a medical camp for the kids; sponsored a one-week training for the teachers.

☞ Currently there are 9 teachers. There were 6 kids who transitioned from this school and went to the

Govt. school and scored above 80% in the Tenth Standard exams.

☞ The evening program to help the children who have transitioned into regular schools is a successful way in which Asha can add value because the school was contemplating starting more classes and we worked with them to create evening model.

☞ The goal going forward is to allow the regular classes, continue transitioning to the Govt school with the evening classes, to find more sponsors for the kids so that all kids have funding and to continue the mentorship programs.

☞ Monthly expenses are about 1,10,600 so about Rs. 12,16,600 for 11 months.

☞ Their funding model is that their operational expenses are covered by their Support a child program-72 kids collectively are sponsored at Rs.7500 a year. And charitable donations combined with the bank loans.

☞ So there are 78 kids who do not have sponsors. A lot of them are in lower classes. Rs. 5,85,000 is the total amount we need.

☞ Can we make this a SAC model? We will need about \$150 per child.

☞ The total proposal for now is to sponsor children starting from UKG till 7th grade-56 children at Rs. 7500 per child totaling Rs. 4,20,000.

☞ This accounts for the 20% cut in budget.

☞ Can they get Govt. money? Maybe the medical and food costs can be explored.

Poll

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/surveys?id=3090155>

Question

Do you approve INR 3,71,400/- towards 2011-2012 [April 2011-March 2012] annual budget for 'Sankalp Day Care', Kanpur? The renewal proposal was presented at the Chapter on Feb 22,2012 and the minutes can be accessed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/message/9095> The presentation can be accessed at <http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/1042/sankalpRenewal1112.pptx> Regards., Sarath

Responses

Choices	Votes	%	1 reply	Respondents
YES	11	91		aarohi.amit@... ruksanaav@... tomadhu@... sarathcvk@... viv.bhandari@... iyengar73@... vinod.2v@... manisha.mishra984@... garg.ritika04@... tewasa@hotmail.com sachinvbansal@...
NO	1	8		adrusya@...