

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

Representative Council

April 8, 2008

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 5/13/08)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:18

Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for February, 2008 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Penny D. Smith moved to accept the minutes, Bev Thomas seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- Treasurer's Report for February was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Human Rights Reports were submitted by Joe Hodges and Melissa Timko-Miller.

Site Reports

- 6th Street Prep. was not in attendance, however all other sites were able to give reports and address the question: How are Principals collecting and sharing data during their walk throughs?
- **Concerns discussed:**
 - **Principal Walk Through Data** – Principals use a variety of methods to gather information such as monitoring students' awareness of objective, students' reading level, objective clearly stated on the board, students on task, etc. Often, principals leave an informal note to share with teachers. Additionally, some principals share the complete data (without teachers' names) with the staff. Some sites have even worked with the principal to develop the criteria for observation during the walk throughs. Some teachers have received conflicting recommendations during walk throughs when the principal observes, and then when Conny Ridgeway observes. Teachers would like to be notified of areas of improvement during these walk throughs so there are no surprises on the formal evaluation.
 - **Financial Compensation for Unused Sick Days** – Currently the state allows teachers to apply sick days in a year's increment, towards retirement. For example, if a teacher had accumulated 183 of sick days, at the time of retirement, those days could count as an additional year of service. No other compensation is in place for unused sick days at this time.
 - **Money used for President Release Time** – Some members have expressed concern for the amount of money needed to contribute to the VETA President's release time.
 - **Hiring Panel for Principals** – Members would like to know if they will have the opportunity to be involved with the interviews of potential principals.

Old Business

- **Dues** – Discussion ensued about the need to raise dues to be compliant with CTA guidelines for possible reimbursement if in "crisis mode". For 2008 - 2009, CTA will be charging \$42.00 less than this year. NEA has yet to give notification of any increase in dues. The Executive Board has recommended using the approximate \$42.00 savings towards the amount CTA requires locals to charge. Discussion included the concern that, despite the additional approximate \$42.00 addition, VETA would still be short of CTA guidelines by a small amount. Rebecca Myers moved to table the issue of voting on dues increase until next month, after Reps could get some clear language on

the proposal to share with their members. Virginia Hallrobinson seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Nancee assured reps that she would e-mail, in her Friday memo, an information sheet with the proposal in common language so reps could poll their members and be prepared to vote in May. She requested that the reps first look over Friday's draft, send any suggestions, then she will send the final copy which can be shared with members.

- **Resignation** – Effective April 30, Elsbeth Roach will resign her post as Director at Large. Because of this early resignation, the office of Director at Large is being selected in today's election.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – Tanya Benitez announced that "Teacher Appreciation Day" will be celebrated on May 14. She would like reps to let her know the names of any long-term subs assigned to their sites. At the May Rep. Council meeting, she will have gift certificates for the reps to distribute to their members and long-term subs. She advised reps not to give gift cards to speech therapists and counselors, as the rep for Pupil Services, Karen Bossi, will do that.
- **Political Action Committee** – Greg Galvez gave a report about PAC training that he received. He emphasized the role of a PAC is threefold: 1) elect and re-elect qualified candidates to the school board, 2) maintain relations with current school board members, and 3) recruit qualified candidates with similar vision to our Association to run for School Board positions. Greg would be interested in forming a PAC, but would need the assistance of others to serve on this project. A committee must have a treasurer, president and secretary and he anticipates that this would require a 2-4 hour commitment per month. He can be reached at Discovery School.

New Business

- **Deputy Superintendent** – Dr. Dale Marsden addressed the Rep. Council. He would like to send a letter to all employees and asked the reps to read and give suggestions. Additionally, he shared his experience within the VESD.
- **WHO Awards** – We Honor Ours Awards will be held May 17, 2008 at the Green Tree Inn. Steve Dinese nominated Teresa Saavedra, Susan Broom and Melissa Timko-Miller. Karen Bossi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. VETA will pay for each nominee and a guest to attend, as well as the award, \$47.00. Additional guests may attend at the cost of \$23.00. If interested in attending, let Nancée know by May 1, 2008.
- **CTA President's Lobby Day** – Tanya Benitez moved to send Nancée to this training in Sacramento, May 20, at the approximate cost of \$400. Ann Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Running for Office Seminar** – Nancée announced this CTA training, held May 16 and 17. If interested in attending, please contact her.
- **Human Rights Conference** – Joe Hodges and Melissa Timko-Miller gave oral and written reports about their attendance at this conference.
- **Ethnic Minorities Early ID and Development** - Nancée shared information from CTA to encourage Minorities to join and become active in their Associations. Reps should target staff members who may have an interest in our activities.

- **CTA President's Council** – Steve Dinese moved to send Nancée and Beth to this conference, July 21 – 25 at an approximate cost of \$800 each. Virginia Hallrobinson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Nancée mentioned that a grant may be available for Beth's registration fees as Vice President, and she would research that.
- **Summer Institute** – Nancée shared this CTA conference will be held in Los Angeles August 3 – 8. There are several training opportunities. If interested, contact Nancée.
- **Relay for Life** – This event is being conducted to raise funds and awareness for cancer prevention. It will be held at Victor Valley College on May 31. If interested, contact Sarah McGowan at Challenger.
- **Linda Jones** – Linda Jones introduced herself and gave information for her candidacy for the 36th Assembly.
- **Raffle** – \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Melissa Timko-Miller, Ann Smith and Angela Woodruff.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Scholarships are available, check the www.vetaonline.org to see VETA, CTA and NEA sponsored scholarships.
 - Gather information for how your site addresses RTI (response to intervention); be prepared to share next month.
- **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:05.