

# Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

## Representative Council and General Meeting

September 11, 2007

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 10/9/07)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:29

### Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for June, 2007 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston, Secretary. Penny D. Smith moved to accept, Beth Fehrs seconded, and the Minutes were approved with no corrections.
- President's Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report and 2007 – 2008 proposed budget was submitted by Linda Smith. Joyce moved to accept the proposed budget, Tanya Benitez seconded and the budget was approved with no changes.
- Negotiation's Team Report was submitted by Penny D. Smith.
- Chamber of Commerce Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.

### Site Reports

- Village and Puesta del Sol were not represented; therefore these sites gave no reports. All other sites gave reports
- Concerns discussed within Site Reports:
  - **Insurance** – Recent changes in deductibles that effect members who have PPO insurance.
  - **Start Times** – Many schools are adjusting to new start and release times.
  - **Bus Schedules** – New challenges as neighboring schools release at the same time.

### Old Business

- **NEA / RA Report** – Elsbeth attended the NEA Convention this summer in Philadelphia. She gave a report about the events.
- **Standing Committees** – Nancée announced that we have a need to fill standing committees and encouraged Reps to spread the word. A need exists with the following committees: Human Rights, and Women's Rights.
- **TAC** – Nancée reminded Reps that often their duty includes being on the Teacher Advisory Committee and attending meetings the first Tuesday of the month. Each site has 2 representatives, so often the duties between VETA and TAC are shared and/or split.
- **Elections** – An election will need to be held for the position of Vice President. Beth Fehrs agreed to remain on the Election Committee; Ann Smith, Darlene Vohn and Elsbeth Roach volunteered to assist. They will report at the next Rep. Council meeting in October the timeline and criteria for elections.
- **Fall Leadership** - Nancée asked Reps to calendarize November 16 – 18, 2007 for Fall Leadership training at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. VETA will pay the cost of a private room for each Representative. Penny D. Smith moved to allow each Representative, alternate,

member of the Executive Board as well as Negotiating Team to attend. Ann Smith seconded and the motion approved unanimously. Rep's were given registration forms that must be completed and returned to Linda Smith by September 18. Additionally, a \$100 check must be included as a deposit for the registration and hotel fees. If a Rep. attends the meetings, the original check will be returned.

### New Business

- **Training** – The VETA Executive Board will be working to provide training for Rep's and teachers. Dates will be announced. Various topics include: elections, collaboration –vs- consensus, site issues that require voting action, PAC, site based management, and the role/responsibility of the Representative. Rep's are asked to contribute additional ideas as a need arises for training.
- **High Desert Trust Newsletter** – The newsletter will be sent electronically to each member. Additionally, each site will receive several hard copies for teachers who may not have Internet access.
- **Friday e-mail** – Nancée would like to increase communication with Rep's and has suggested a Friday e-mail format. Rep's agreed to read the e-mail and respond as soon as possible to the weekly communication.
- **VETA President's Assignment** – Nancée discussed her current work assignment. As ratified with our last agreement, she will split her time among VETA and district duties, including being available to substitute in classrooms. It is her hope to substitute at each site and be available for members while there. Her office is in the Nisqualli building and she welcomes visitors.
- **High Desert Service Center Council Charity** – The HDSCC would like to collect donations of toiletries for the women's shelters in the high desert. Members are encouraged to contribute small hotel toiletries to this campaign. Additionally, save the pink tops from Yoplait yogurt to contribute to fundraising.
- **Scholarships** – CTA is seeking donations (through payroll deductions) to fund the following scholarships: Martin Luther King, Jr., Caesar Chavez and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender. Information can be found on the CTA website, as well as the CTA bulletin board at Nisqualli.
- **Attendance** – Rep's discussed the attendance duties at each site: how is student attendance data collected and reported, etc.
- **Insurance** – As of July, 2007, PPO insurance plans have changed the amount of required deductibles. Formerly a family paid \$400 and singles paid \$200 for the year. As of July the rates have increased to \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. Although members are experiencing an increase, it was pointed out that members still pay no premium costs, despite the increase cost of coverage. CTA is lobbying Universal Health Care for all people in California through Assembly Bill 840. Currently our district has agreed to provide health care coverage for members after they retire for a maximum of 10 years. Members will not receive any coverage by the District at age 65, when they then qualify for Medicare.
- **Education Committee on No Child Left Behind** – Nancée attended this hearing in Washington D.C. on behalf of CTA. The committee is considering offering merit pay for teachers and

revising the parameters of collective bargaining. Nancée encouraged everybody to become informed and active regarding these issues.

- **Retirement Incentives** – Retirement incentives are given at various times. This is decided by the Superintendent and the Board. Additionally, the state may choose to offer “Golden Handshakes” as additional incentives.
- **10 Minute Staff Meeting Items:**
  1. Nancée’s attendance at Education Committee Hearing.
  2. Friday E-mail communication.
  3. Training will be forthcoming from VETA and CTA.
  4. Scholarship information.
- **Raffle** – Gift certificates were won by Debbie Gerberich, Debbie Nelsen and Johnette Ellis.
- **Adjournment** – Jonni Vindiola moved to end the meeting, Beth Fehrs seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25.