

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association
Representative Council
December 13, 2011
Nisqualli Building
(Pending Approval 1/17/12)

Vice President Beth Fehrs called meeting to order at 4:21 PM.

Minutes and Reports

- The Agenda was submitted by Vice President Beth Fehrs for approval. Motion to accept was made by Penny D. Smith, seconded by Joanie Herdlein, and unanimously approved.
- The Minutes for November Rep. Council meeting were submitted by Secretary Penny Edmiston for approval. Motion to accept was made by Chuck Hepner, seconded by Penny D. Smith, and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer's Report as of 11/30/11 was submitted by Treasurer Linda Smith.
- Victorville Chamber of Commerce Morning Insight Breakfast Report for 12/7/11 was submitted by Tina Hubbard.

Tip of the Month - Tabled

Benefit of the Month - Beth distributed a handout CTA membership benefits.

Site Reports

All Sites except Endeavour, Sixth Street Prep. and Ed. Services were present and gave reports.

- Additional discussion items included:
 - **Survey** - Some Reps reported that they received the survey late and/or had little turnaround time to distribute, collect and return.
 - **After School Program** - A Rep. reported that there seems to be some glitches to work out: more coordination with homework, students have shown less positive behavior in the after school program than in the regular classroom, buses are still establishing schedules - 1 didn't show up, empty classrooms are being utilized and custodians may be impacted.
 - **Rotary** - VESD is listed as a "Platinum Sponsor" for the Rotary Mini Grants. A question was posed if the district paid for this sponsorship, and if so, how much?
 - **District Assessment** - A Rep. shared that members at their site felt that the district assessment is not reasonable - who decides what skills to test, the amount of time given, etc. Classroom teachers need to be involved in the decision making process about what test to administer and how it should be done.
 - **Disability Insurance (Salary Protection)** - A question was posed if members may enroll outside of the open enrollment period. Beth said she would investigate with The Standard and report back to see if we can get an Open Enrollment Period.

- **"No Food in Classroom" Policy** - One Rep. reported that their site has this policy. Other Reps shared that this was not the case at their sites.
- **Teachers' Children** - One site shared that they were told by Principal that teachers may not bring their own off-track children to school. Other Reps shared that this was not the case at their sites.
- **Site Review** - A Rep. shared that smaller issues seem to be emphasized in this year's Site Review (the new mandate that microwaves on counters at or above 3 feet must be attached) versus larger student safety issues that have been requested, yet still not addressed (railing for ramp is not securely attached).
- **Student Teachers** - A Rep. asked if the district receives money from universities that send student teachers and suggested that if so, it should be given to the supervising teachers. Beth said she would investigate and report back.
- **Student Enrollment** - Some sites and/or grade levels are over enrolled. A question was posed if a family with several children tries to enroll, but specific grade levels are over enrolled, is it appropriate to enroll more? What options can the site offer? Other Reps reported that their classes were so close to capacity that there is no room for additional students and shifting has still been occurring.
- **Substitutes** - A Rep. reported that their secretary informed them that the district will not allow teachers to take $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ day time off. Because of the difficulty of obtaining substitute teachers, a full day must be used. Penny D. Smith clarified that this is NOT the case. She would be speaking to Christi tomorrow at a previously scheduled meeting and would address. Additionally she will give a report, in writing, at the next Rep. Council, that can be shared with office staff.
- **Transportation** - Del Rey is still having issues with late buses.

Negotiations

- Penny D. Smith shared that an alternate trainer might be needed to provide this training as Dawn Murray may be unavailable.
- Penny D. Smith stated that the recent survey was given to members who attended the December 6th TAC meeting. Surveys were due to Penny on December 9th. She apologized for the small turn around time.
- Penny D. Smith will send the Sunshine list to Jeff Bragg so it is posted on the VETA website.
- Penny D. Smith reported that currently the Negotiation team is working on non-monetary items only and a "Joint Communiqué" will be distributed soon.
- A suggestion was made to include language in the contract that will ensure that time is given during Wednesday staff meetings to work on report cards.

Old Business

- **Fall Leadership Training** - Members who attended had positive things to report.
- **Negotiation Trainings** - Members who wish training in the Negotiations process should contact an Executive Board Member.

New Business

- **CGI Training** - A copy of Maureen's "District Program Improvement Professional Development Plan CGI Training" that had been sent to Grade Level Council, fall 2011, was shared.
- **Good Teaching Conference** - Linda Smith shared that this conference will be held March 16 - 18. As of now, 2 members per site may attend. She will calculate savings from fewer members attending the Fall Leadership Conference to see if we have funds to send additional members. More details will follow.
- **VETA Task Protocol** - Joanie Herdlein made a motion about establishing protocol for Reps so that at least 10 school days are given to complete tasks (example: receive, distribute, collect and return surveys) and will begin or end adjacent to a Rep. Council. The motion was tabled until next meeting, per Beth Fehrs, Vice President.

Raffle - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Debbie Nelsen, Rebecca Myers and Kelly Pfannenstein.

5/10 Minute Meeting Items:

- 1, Happy Holidays
- 2, Good Teaching Conference, March 16 - 18
- 3, Ask members who may be interested in an open enrollment period for Salary Protection.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.