

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association  
Representative Council  
February 10, 2009  
Nisqualli Building  
(Pending Approval 3/10/09)**

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:16

**Minutes and Reports**

- Allison Stewart moved to approve the agenda, Cheryl Karlen seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes for January, 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Paul Valerio moved to accept the minutes, Starlett Hale seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.
- President's Report for February was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Membership Report was submitted by Beth Fehrs.
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Negotiation's Report was submitted by Penny D. Smith.
- High Desert Service Center Council Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- CPEEHCC Report was submitted by Tanya Benitez and Linda Smith.

**Budget Concerns**

- **Apology** - Nancée apologized for the miscommunication shared at the recent TAC meeting. She explained that she works on the district budget committee, and was unable to proofread some information that was shared, due to her son's hospitalization.
- **Budget Process** - Nancée explained the district budget committee meets 4 times per year. Also, she and the negotiations team attend additional training given by CTA.
- **DVD/Budget Meetings** - The district budget committee has made a DVD so all VESD employees can hear the same information about the budget. Each employee will be asked to share ideas and cost saving solutions. The DVD will be shown at staff meetings, made available on-line, and an additional meeting will be scheduled by Jan Gonzales for anyone who is unable to attend their staff meeting.
- **VETA General Meeting** - A General Meeting, open to all VETA members, will be held 2/17/09 in the Lomas Cafeteria at 4:30 to discuss budget concerns and reactions.
- **B.A.D.** - Steve Dinise shared the idea of contributing a "Buck-A-Day" idea (B.A.D.) that can save the district at least a buck a day. Actually, all ideas are welcome.
- **Concerns/Kudos/Ideas** - Reps worked in table groups to formulate ideas regarding budget concerns. Penny D. Smith was given special Kudos for sharing vital information at the recent TAC meeting by making administration aware that some proposed budget cuts are negotiable items and must therefore go through the Negotiation's Team/process.

**Site Reports**

- All sites, except Endeavour, were present and gave reports.
- **Concerns Discussed:**
  - **PENS days** - Melissa Timko-Miller shared the PENS days can still be used. Please contact Linda Mikels about scheduling a PENS day.

- **Teachers Off Campus** - Nancée clarified that teachers who leave campus for lunch have 30 minutes to do so. Their sites may ask to "check in/out" when leaving campus for safety.
- **Retirement Letter** - Some members have received a district letter asking intentions about retirement. Nancée clarified that this was given to employees who have reached age 55 to help the district gather information regarding re-staffing for next year. Also, she reminded members that health insurance benefits are given to retirees for no more than 10 years of retirement, until the member has reached the age of 65.
- **Curriculum Specialists** - currently some of the funding for curriculum specialists are received from federal sources. Curriculum specialists help teachers across the district with ELL concerns and training; professional training and staff development; and technology.

### Old Business

- **Standing Committees** - Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers, especially with By-laws and Elections.
- **Snow Day** - Nancée will notify members as soon as she knows if the state has approved the district's waiver to make up the snow day from December 18, 2009.
- **Textbook Adoption** - Nancée will notify members as soon as she knows if the state has approved the district's waiver to delay textbook adoption for 2009 - 2010.
- **David Sanchez, CTA President** - David has had to cancel his visit to the high desert, originally scheduled February 18.
- **Political Action Committee** - Greg Galvez shared the next PAC meeting will be held February 17. The goal is to gather suggestions for funding the PAC, and establish a means of endorsing good candidates to our local school board.
- **Good Will Correspondence** - Reps were reminded to please notify Tanya Benitez if any members at their sites are going through a rough time. She will send cards on behalf of VETA.
- **VETA Scholarships** - Applications are posted on the VETA website ([www.vetaonline.org](http://www.vetaonline.org)). Reps should make sure that members know about this opportunity for graduating seniors. Applications are due April 14, 2009.
- **Retirement Workshop** - Nancée reminded members about this workshop to be held April 18, 9:00 - 12:00 at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley. Members can register at [www.calstrs.com/workshops](http://www.calstrs.com/workshops) or call 1-800-228-5453.
- **Read Across America** - This NEA activity will be celebrated March 2.

## New Business

- **NEA / Representative Assembly** - A CTA election will be held to send members to the Representative Assembly June 30 - July 6 in San Diego to represent the High Desert Service Center Council (the cost will be paid by CTA). Steve Dinise moved for VETA to fund 3 additional delegates to the NEA/RA at the rate of \$1,700 per delegate. Gary White seconded. The motion passed with no discussion, no opposition and 1 abstention.
- **Nominations for VETA Offices** - Penny Edmiston shared the timeline and nomination forms needed for the upcoming VETA election. Openings include the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, At-Large Director and 3 NEA/RA delegates (funded by VETA). Nominations must be made by March 10.
- **General Meeting** - Nancée shared that there will be a VETA General Meeting, open to all members, scheduled February 17, 4:15 at the Lomitas cafeteria to discuss budget concerns.
- **CTA Politics** - Nancée shared CTA information regarding politics and scheduled rallies regarding the state's budget.
- **Blue Shield Mental Health** - Nancée announced that our current Blue Shield policy allows treatment for mental health issues. If members have any questions, they can contact Blue Shield at 877-263-9952.
- **End of Year Social** - Greg asked reps to survey their members if they would be interested in an "End of Year" social, similar to what VETA has hosted in the past at Scandia. He would be glad to arrange, if there was interest.
- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Paul Valerio, Melissa Timko-Miller and Debbie Gerberich.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
  - PAC meeting, 2/17/09, 4:15 at the Nisqualli building.
  - VETA General Meeting, 2/17/09, 4:30 at the Lomitas cafeteria to discuss budget concerns.
  - Retirement workshop April 18 in Apple Valley.
  - Read Across America, March 2.
  - NEA/RA held in San Diego, June 30 - July 6. Members are encouraged to nominate for election as a representative, and/or volunteer at this event.
  - Nominations for VETA Offices open until March 10.
  - Survey members to see if they would like a VETA sponsored event for the end of the year.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:59.