

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association
Representative Council
January 12, 2009
Nisqualli Building
(Pending Approval 2/10/09)**

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:20

Minutes and Reports

- Liz McDonnell moved to approve the agenda, Brenda Sanchez seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes for December, 2008 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Paul Valerio moved to accept the minutes, Steve Dinise seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections.
- President's Report for November was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Membership Report was submitted by Beth Fehrs.
- Negotiation's Report was submitted by Penny D. Smith.

Training

- **Legal Access** - Nancée shared that each member is provided, by CTA, 30 minutes of free time with a lawyer for any item (personal or professional). If a member is arrested on an unlawful charge, CTA will give recommendations for a lawyer. The member must pay all legal fees. If they are acquitted, CTA reimburses fees (the type of issue determines the amount of reimbursement). If a member needs a lawyer, they can call the CTA office in Hesperia, 244-2239.

Site Reports

- **Concerns Discussed:**
 - **Budget Concerns** - Considering the newest information about the state's budget, there was a suggestion for VETA to send out a new survey to the members. The Governor has suggested 5 fewer days in the school year, and cuts to education budgets. Many of the suggestions proposed are negotiated items. Questions about whether our district would end "Option 2 Class Size Reduction". The district has maintained there would be no lay-offs in any position (certificated, classified or administrative) for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Will step and column be frozen? Concerns were shared about the recent "Daily Press" article that stated that free/reduced lunch funding would be cut. The reply from VESD, as quoted in the paper, was that the reserve would be used to cover the shortfall. Nancée clarified that Food Services has their own budget and reserve.
 - **VETA Surveys** - Given to reps. with too little time to distribute considering that not all staffs met for staff meeting. Less than a week turn-around was difficult to get to all members. It was reported that some members do not trust that negotiations are occurring on the behalf of teachers, rather on behalf of the administration.

- **Snow Days** - Nancée announced that the district was applying for a waiver from the state so we would not have to make up the snow day from 12/18/08. The $\frac{1}{2}$ day, 12/17/08, that students were dismissed early due to the snow, would have to be made up. The district has assigned the first Friday of state testing to be changed from a student minimum day, to a full day to accommodate this.
- **Testing** - Some reps reported that the amount of time required to administer monthly testing, as well as classroom and district assessments, seemed excessive.

Old Business

- **Standing Committees** - Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers, especially with By-laws and Elections.
- **Good Teaching Conference** - VETA will host a small reception for attendees to this conference, March 13 - 15. If there are any questions, contact Linda Smith.
- **Collection for Robert Gynn and Family** - donations can be sent to Green Tree East.
- **"California Educator"** - This magazine, published by CTA is now available on-line at www.cta.org Greg Galvez shared a recent article dealing with NCLB and testing.
- **Political Information** - Nancée asked members to submit an alternate (non-district) e-mail address if they would like to receive CTA and NEA information that is of a political nature. Reps should ask their staff members to give this information, as well, if they would like to receive political information.
- **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** - Tanya Benitez is of immense help to VETA by recognizing members in need and sending cards. If reps know of a member at their site, they are encouraged to contact Tanya at Green Tree East. Nancée added a special thank you for the Christmas cards she sent to the School Board, as well as cabinet members, on behalf of VETA.

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). Applications were shared, and can be downloaded from the CTA web site, as well. VETA will also hold an election for this Assembly (costs funded by VETA), and information will be shared at the February Rep. Council meeting when nominations open. The NEA/RA is also seeking volunteers to help with the organization of this event. Members are encouraged to consider helping.

- **David Sanchez, CTA President** - David is scheduled to visit Victorville February 18. Reps are asked to survey their members if they would like to attend a reception or possibly an informal "meet and greet".
- **Dairy Council** - Nancée shared that there are some great resource materials and the Council could be contacted to bring a traveling farm to school sites, free of charge.
- **Retirement Workshop** - Nancée shared information 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 or call 1-800-228-5453.
- **CTA Initiative** - Nancée shared that the Education Coalition is supporting the State Council to finalize qualifications for the next ballot (possibly June or November) to establish a 1 cent sales tax increase. The funds generated would be designated to ONLY go to schools and could NOT be touched by the legislature or Governor.
- **Read Across America** - This NEA activity will be held March 2. Nancée shared "Snow People" posters for each site and gave additional items to help publicize.
- **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 Starlett Hale, Melissa Timko-Miller and Bob Thweatt.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - CTA President, David Sanchez, to visit schools February 18.
 - Retirement workshop April 18 in Apple Valley.
 - Read Across America, March 2.
 - NEA/RA held in San Diego, June 30 - July 6. Members encouraged to nominate for election as a representative, and/or volunteer at this event.
 - 12/17/08 minimum day (due to snow) will be made up the first Friday of state testing. The district is applying for a state waiver to not make up the full day, 12/18/08.
 - Survey members to see if they would like a VETA sponsored event for the end of the year.
 - PAC meeting scheduled for 2/17/09, 4:15 at the Nisqualli building.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:22.