

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

Representative Council

June 10, 2008

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 9/9/08)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:35

Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for May, 2008 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Steve Dinese moved to accept the minutes, Joyce Applegarth seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- Treasurer's Report for May 31 was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Negotiations Report for June 10 was submitted by Penny D. Smith.

Site Reports

- 6th Street Prep., West Palms, Liberty and Endeavour were not in attendance, however all other sites were able to give reports and address the questions: How many at your site may be signing up for the Salary Protection plan and are you likely to volunteer as Site Rep. next year?
- **Concerns discussed:**
 - **Tape Recorders** – A concern was expressed that students have been bringing tape recorders to school. If this happens, a member should immediately notify their administrator. Recently when this happened, the administrator sent a “cease and desist” letter to the parents notifying them that tape recorders are prohibited at school.
 - **Junior High Placement Tests** – Reps shared that 6th grade teachers were given tests from the junior high for their students to help facilitate placement in junior high. A concern was shared that the tests were given to the sites at such a late date and needed to be returned so quickly. In fact, 2 of our sites were starting summer break and had too little time to administer. Additionally, some teachers also received language arts tests, but were only given one copy of the test; being expected to make a class set of copies for students. Nancée assured Reps that our district's Educational Services was now working with the junior highs to relay the concerns.
 - **Deferred Net Pay** – Sites had questions about the recent letter that explained the change in accounting for our paychecks. Nancée stated that the letter was clearly written, but if members had questions, they could contact her and she would help explain.

Old Business

- **VETA Scholarships** – Elsbeth shared that 13 graduating high school students, dependents of VETA members, were each recipients of a \$300 scholarship to help further their education. Two of those recipients (Allan Kerns and Manual Aleman) came to thank VETA and allow our members to congratulate them. Cake was shared to honor the occasion.
- **Rep. Training** – Nancée explained the Governance models: Consensus and Collaboration. Additionally, she outlined the steps that Consensus schools use to reach agreement on issues. She encouraged each Rep. to explain both options to their members so they can be informed when they

start school and will need to vote on the Governance model of choice. Nancée announced that she would copy information from our 2008 – 2009 agreement that outlines the Governance model (and flow chart of steps to reach agreement) and would make sure the Reps receive in August, before the first contract day. One of the first decisions the members make at their sites is to determine their Governance model. 2/3 of the members are needed to vote for Consensus, otherwise the Collaboration model is used. A site may change Governance models once during any given school year.

- **Choosing a VETA Rep.** – This should be one of the first agenda items when members return to work on their first contract day of 2008 – 2009.
- **Political Action Committee** – Greg Galvez gave a report about the proposed VETA-PAC. A group of about 14 interested people have started organizing and have proposed a set of by-laws. Anyone interested in learning more, or becoming involved, should attend the next PAC meeting to be held 4:00 at the Nisqualli building on June 19th. Because there was no quorum of Reps, the by-laws could be voted upon. Reps are encouraged to share the proposed by-laws with their members so they can be considered at the September 9th Rep. Council meeting.
- **CTA Proposed Reverse Check Off** – CTA has approved a reverse check off dues increase of \$20.00 per year from each member. Ten dollars will be used to fund scholarship programs and ten dollars will be used for political causes. All CTA members will be charged this \$20.00 increase. Members will have the yearly option of opting out of this increase. If they choose to opt out, they will receive a \$20.00 check to reimburse the \$2.00 monthly charge. Their choice to opt out must be completed yearly and according to CTA guidelines that each member should receive this summer.
- **Executive Board Retreat**– Nancée shared that the VETA Executive Board met over Memorial Day weekend to help plan VETA activities and training for the 2008 – 2009 school year. The Executive Board felt the meetings were productive.

New Business

- **New Circumstances** – Nancée encouraged members to extend courtesy and patience as we transition with new administrators. “Expect mistakes, accept mistakes, assist in correcting, forgive and move on”.
- **Politics**– Nancée announced that she receives much political information and would be glad to share with members, via the internet. It is imperative that interested Reps give her a non-district e-mail address to receive this type of information.
- **Parent Information Boxes** – Nancée was able to procure 10,000 welcoming packets for our parents from the Federal Government, (3,000 are in Spanish). She hopes to have these distributed in time for Back to School Nights at each sites for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
- **Board Meeting** – The June 11 VESD School Board meeting will be an opportunity to honor district employees who are retiring. The gathering, with refreshments, will be held at Lomitas at 6:00 PM, and the board meeting will begin at 7:00. VETA is providing beverages and decorations, as well as a gift to each retiring teacher. The evening will honor 26 teachers, 11 classified employees and 9 administrators.

- **Raffle** – \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Rex Piatt, Sally Kraemer and Cheryl Karlen.

- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Staff training for Consensus and Collaboration Governance models for 2008 – 2009.
 - CTA increase of \$20.00 as a Reverse Dues Check off. All members will be charged this amount. If a member chooses to opt out of this, they must do so yearly with the appropriate forms from CTA and will then receive a \$20.00 reimbursement check.
 - Share the proposed draft of the VETA-PAC by-laws, encourage interested members to meet with the committee on June 19th, at Nisqualli, 4:00.

- **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.