

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

Representative Council and General Meeting

May 8, 2007

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 6/12/07)

The Rep. Council meeting was called to order by President Nancée Fine at 4:20

Installation of Officers Nancée introduced the following people and gave a description of their duties:

Shelley Wong – Vice President, Linda Smith – Treasurer and Elsbeth Roach – Director at Large

Reports

- Penny Edmiston submitted Minutes for April, 2007 meeting. Bill Meador moved to accept, Barbara Dew seconded, and the Minutes were approved.
- Nancée Fine submitted President's Report.
- Elsbeth Roach submitted Treasurer's Report.
- Shelley Wong submitted Vice President's Report
- Penny D. Smith submitted Negotiation's Team Report.
- Carmen Dávila submitted the Chamber Report

Site Reports

- Academy, Irwin, Endeavour, Mojave Vista, and 6th Street Prep. were not represented; therefore these sites gave no reports. All other sites were represented and gave reports. Reps were asked to give specific information concerning teachers earning extra pay when given extra students (when no substitutes are available) and whether or not they access the district e-mail or if an alternate e-mail address is better to use. Most Reps reported that their sites do ensure that extra pay is given for extra students and that they do access the district e-mail on a daily basis.
- Concerns discussed within Site Reports:
 - **Field trips** - Site and district policies are in place if a student is not eligible to attend a field trip. A caution was shared to ensure administration's support if a student is denied the opportunity (or does not earn the opportunity) to attend a field trip. If a student poses a safety concern, their parent can be required to attend as a chaperone. The district is investigating the possibility of requiring fingerprinting, training and clearance of all chaperones. Additionally, the price quoted for field trip buses have often been modified, even after the quote, to accommodate the drivers that may have sonority (higher pay) or may be eligible for over-time (also requiring a higher amount charged).
 - **Salary Protection** – A teacher did not receive the full benefit of Salary Protection, but Nancée encouraged the Rep. to have the teacher call with the specifics and she would investigate further. Additionally, if a teacher is re-hired through the district, they will need to re-join the Association and re-enroll in salary protection, it will not continue from their original hire date. If members need to access more forms for Salary Protection, they should check the CTA web site or contact "The Standard".
 - **Resignation Letters** – Shelley clarified that resignation letters should be submitted by June 30.

- **Health Insurance** – Concerns were shared about the increase in member cost to utilize our insurance. This is currently being investigated as well as being discussed during Negotiations.
- **Membership Cards** – Some are still being sent to the wrong addresses. Shelley continues to work with CTA on this issue.
- **Class Size** – Teachers should report if their class size is over the limit. Although this may occur, in accordance to our contract, after May 15, it has been occurring in some instances for the past month.

Committee Reports

- **Scholarship Report** – Elsbeth announced a unique situation: an application was received by a student whose parent was formerly a member of VETA, but within the past 3 months has accepted a position in administration and is no longer a member of VETA. Keith Dale moved to award the scholarship, Kim Adams seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Rep. Council discussed revising criteria to allow dependents of other teacher / administrators for eligibility if this case arises in the future. Elsbeth announced that 9 students were each given \$500 scholarships and will be invited to attend the June VETA meeting for introductions to the Rep. Council
- **Negotiation Report** – Steve Dinise shared that the goal of the Negotiation Committee is to finalize by May 18. However, if more time is needed, meetings will continue next school year. Concerns were expressed that members may not have adequate communication about the issues, nor enough time to respond and vote. Suggestions included holding votes at each sites, mailing ballots, and electronic voting. Nancée shared that the Executive Board will continue to improve communication efforts and will consider ways of increasing voter turnout.

Old Business

- **Standing Committees** – Nancée announced that we have a need to fill standing committees and encouraged Reps to spread the word.
- **TAC** – The Teacher Advisory Council was held Tuesday, May 1. We did not have a report on this meeting.
- **CTA Grants** – Nancée reported that CTA has funds that can be accessed for innovative projects. The ideas can range from site based projects, community outreach, public relations, homework boxes, ELL parent training. Donna will be willing to help write the grants if members have ideas.
- **WHO Awards** – “We Honor Ours” ceremony will be held Friday, May 19 in Lancaster. The recipients have been notified and should RSVP to Elsbeth by May 9, 2007. Nancée agreed to call the recipients as only Jonni has responded.
- **AB 1133** – Although VESD did not get this grant, Lucerne Elementary and San Bernardino City School District did receive it.
- **Ratification** – 32 members voted on April 30 to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding that would effect schools in Program Improvement, year 5 (possibly Del Rey for the 2007/2008

school year) and modify the district-sponsored Buy Back Days. Concerns were expressed that members did not receive information about this ratification in a timely manner, as well as such a small turnout of voters. When it was discovered that sites might not have received the information, Nancée hand delivered information to each site to ensure that communication was made to all members. The Executive Board will continue to explore ways of establishing more timely communication with Reps.

- **Scandia End of the Year Celebration/General Meeting**– Shelley and Elsbeth reminded Reps to announce Scandia plans: June 9th 10:00 AM – Sunday, June 10th 1:00 AM. The Ice Cream Social will be held from 2:00 – 4:00. The cost of the bracelet will probably be \$11.95 (or less, depending upon the amount of participants). Members may bring friends and family and purchase the wristbands at our special rate. The wristbands allow for re-entry into the park. Representatives should try to get an approximate count of attendees. A flyer was distributed so Reps. can share with their staff. Another flyer will be forthcoming that will allow members to purchase admission bracelets at the discounted price. Each site Rep. will be given admission to the park and a wristband for free!
- **Day of the Teacher** – Jeff Bragg, Shelley, Penny and Elsbeth organized this project. Each Rep. was given enough \$10.00 Starbucks gift cards to distribute to all teachers at their site. Additional cards were purchased for the 10 School Board and Cabinet members. A poster was also given to Reps to display at the sites and they were instructed to hand out cards, tomorrow if possible, to honor teachers for “Day of the Teacher”.

New Business

- **Condolences** – Linda Smith sent a sympathy card to Mrs. Barr for the passing of her husband, Paul. Blood can still be donated and is needed. Please consider donating in the name of Paul Barr.
- **Lobby Day** – Steve Dinise moved, Ann Smith seconded to approve approximately \$300 to send Nancée to Lobby Day, held May 22. The motion passed.
- **President’s Conference** – Kelly Peterson moved, Bill Meador seconded to approve approximately \$575 for registration cost for Nancée to attend this 5-day conference in Asilomar starting July 16. Greg Galvez made a friendly amendment to increase the amount so that an additional member of the Executive Board may attend. Jeff Bragg may be interested in this training. The motion passed.
- **CTA Summer Institute** – This conference is held July 29 – August 3 at UCLA and covers such topics as: Communications, AB1133, Negotiations, Organizational Development, Health and Member Benefits, etc. Registration is approximately \$230 - \$700, depending upon the amount of days in attendance. This item will be discussed again at the June Rep. Council meeting.
- **Site Based Management and Governance Model** – Training will be held at each site during the fall of 2007.
- **Health Insurance** – Concerns were expressed about the various practices among doctors concerning billing procedures. Nancée asked if Reps would volunteer information about their own experiences dealing with PPO insurance and billing. Reps can choose to let Nancée investigate using information from their EOB’s. Additional discussion ensued about the changes made by the High Desert Trust concerning our health insurance (both HMO and PPO

plans have a change in deductibles). Penny D. Smith announced that this would be clarified in an upcoming “Joint Communiqué” that will soon be distributed from the Negotiations team.

- **Member Training** – Nancée asked Reps if additional training is needed. Kim Adams suggested that we should continue to investigate resources for Negotiations, Retirement and a concern for students with autism (this diagnosis is increasing rapidly).
- **Fall Leadership** - Nancée asked Reps to calendarize November 16 – 18, 2007 for Fall Leadership training in Las Vegas.
- **Constitution and By-laws** – Penny D. Smith moved and Bill Meador seconded to approve the printing costs so that each site has 2 copies of the VETA Constitution and By-laws. Elsbeth announced that the Constitution is actually part of our current By-laws. Penny Edmiston reminded that the By-laws could be accessed by all members through the VETA website. Nancée offered to verify if there is a separate document pertaining to constitution, and if so, would forward to Jeff to post on the website.
- **State Council** – Nancée would like to attend June 9 but has reconsidered due to a very busy schedule.
- **Substitute Shortage / Sick day for ½ Days** – Discussion occurred that there is still a drastic shortage of substitutes and this specifically effects teachers who may need to only take a ½ day to attend doctor appointments. Some sites have been informing teachers that they would need to use a full day, as substitutes were not available for ½ days. It was shared that teachers should be allowed to take only the ½ day and only that will be deducted from their sick time. The sites have chosen, in the past, to either split the students among colleagues and distribute sub pay, or pay for a full-day substitute. Reps are reminded to inform their members that they do not have to take a full sick day if they can accommodate their business within the ½ day parameters.
- **CTA/NEA Cards** – CTA and NEA are asking members to write Congress about revising NCLB and ESEA. A sample postcard and script, as well as Congressional addresses were shared. This is an optional activity in which members may wish to participate.

10-Minute Meeting Items:

1. **Scandia Count** - Please ask members to give you information about how many people will attend the June 9th Scandia event.
2. **Health Insurance Change** – Both PPO and HMO plans have a change in deductibles. The increases are being investigated as are billing policies among different doctors.
3. **CTA/NEA Cards** – Post cards and addresses were shared if members have an interest in writing their State Congressperson about changes to the NCLB and ESEA regulations. This is an optional activity in which members may choose to participate.
4. **½ Day Sick Days** – Remind members that it is OK to take a ½ day and they should only be docked accordingly.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.