

# Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

## Representative Council

May 13, 2008

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 6/10/08)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:32

### Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for April, 2008 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Elsbeth Roach moved to accept the minutes, Heather Overturf seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- Treasurer's Report for March 31 was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Negotiations Report for May 13 was submitted by Penny D. Smith.
- President's Reports for April and May were submitted by Nancée Fine.

### Site Reports

- 6<sup>th</sup> Street Prep. and Puesta del Sol were not in attendance, however all other sites were able to give reports and address the questions: How is your site using RTI models? Was your site given at least one week's notice about principal and site survey? Were all members invited to complete the survey?
- **Concerns discussed:**
  - **Site and Principal Survey** – Several sites had not yet heard that a survey would soon be completed. Most sites were given a week's notice that the survey would be forthcoming. One site did not receive notice, as well as had 3 staff members who were asked not to attend the meeting where the survey was completed. All other sites did not know of anyone being excluded from completing the survey. Nancée shared that at the last cabinet meeting it was discussed that teachers would be given at least one week's notice of the survey so that thoughtful responses could be included.
  - **Response to Intervention** – Reps gave reports about how their sites utilize RTI strategies to help students. A variety of programs are used including: LIPS, Reading A-Z, scaffolding, ability grouping, pull-out intervention, Study Island, SST Process, AIMS testing, Dibles, instruction via the computer lab, EXCEL, and smaller student to teacher ratio. Sites vary concerning the grades addressed with various RTI strategies.
  - **Additional Concerns**– Sites with large student populations feel they need to have a Vice Principal. How many students can be assigned to Special Ed Teachers, their caseload seems heavy and the paperwork is demanding. Extra clerical help is needed for Special Ed. Are the VETA Scholarships renewable? (Answer: no)

### Old Business

- **Dues** – Tanya Benitez moved to increase VETA dues by \$5.00 yearly to ensure the ability of VETA to receive CTA crisis funds should they be needed; with the understanding that there never is less than a 7% reserve maintained. Penny D. Smith seconded and the motion passed with one

objection and no abstentions. Members will see an overall decrease in the 2008 – 2009 school year from \$91.90 per month to \$87.80. The yearly amount charged next year will include \$150 for VETA, \$570 for CTA and \$158 for NEA.

- **Resignation** – Effective April 30, Elsbeth Roach resigned her post as Director at Large.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – Tanya Benitez distributed \$10.00 In-N-Out gift certificates to reps to share with the teachers and long term substitutes at their sites. This is to honor “Day of the Teacher”, May 14, 2008.
- **Political Action Committee** – Greg Galvez gave a report about the proposed VETA-PAC. A group of about 14 interested people have started organizing the PAC and a draft of the proposed by-laws were shared. Anyone interested in learning more, or becoming involved, should attend the next PAC meeting to be held 4:00 at the Nisqualli building on May 27<sup>th</sup>. A corrected version of the draft by-laws will be delivered to reps by May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **CTA Proposed Reverse Check Off** – CTA is proposing 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. When Nancée attends the next meeting in June, she will speak out against this proposal and vote “no”. If the proposal passes, an additional \$2.00 per month will be assessed per member to the Association dues. 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.
- **WHO Awards** – We Honor Ours Awards will be held 11:30AM, May 17, 2008 at the Green Tree Inn. Our recipients are: Teresa Saavedra, Susan Broom and Melissa Timko-Miller.

### New Business

- **Dr. Gary Elder, VESD Board Member**– Dr. Elder introduced himself and gave a bit of history why he chose to run for the position of VESD board member. He wanted to assure members that he has no plans to advocate unification of the high school and elementary districts.
- **Michael Coats, The Standard Insurance** – If VESD has at least 22 teachers who want to sign up for salary protection, they can do so during this open enrollment period without a doctor’s examination. Mr. Coats informed reps, on an individual basis, of information to share with their members. Additionally, he will hold another meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5:00 at the district office for interested members.
- **Installation of Officers** – Nancée Fine as President, Penny Edmiston as Secretary, Jeff Bragg as At Large Director and Greg Galvez as At Large Director were installed. Jeff will serve a 1 year term; the other officers have a term of 2 years.
- **5-Minute Staff Meeting Time for VETA** – Reps should ensure that they are using the 5 minute allocation of weekly staff meeting time to inform members of Association business. Principals are likely to be in attendance while issues are announced, as it is their meeting. If a rep has an issue upon which to vote, or discussion of a private nature, they should invite members to meet them at a designated time and place which may include directly after the principal’s meeting.

- **Raffle** – \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Allison Stewart, Ann Smith and Heather Overturf.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
  - Dues increase has passed. Announce to members that overall their dues will decrease next year from \$91.90 per month to \$87.80.
  - Open enrollment for The Standard’s salary protection can be held if we have at least 22 members who want to join. Mr. Coats will hold an additional information meeting on May 27 from 3:30 to 5:00 at the District Office.
  - Share the proposed draft of the VETA-PAC by-laws (not the rough draft shared at this meeting, rather the revised draft that reps will receive by May 27).
  - Distribute the \$10.00 gift certificates to honor “Day of the Teacher” to all teachers and long-term substitutes.
- **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:22.