

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association
Representative Council
May 12, 2009
Nisqualli Building
(Pending Approval 6/2/09)**

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:19PM.

Minutes and Reports

- Chuck Hepner moved to approve the agenda, Brenda Sanchez seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously.
- Minutes for April, 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Allison Stewart moved to accept the minutes and Starlett Hale seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- President's Report for May 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

Site Reports

- All sites (except Puesta del Sol) were present and gave reports.
- **Additional Concerns Discussed:**
 - **VETA Elections** - Most schools did not have votes submitted by members. A total of 28 ballots were cast. Reps shared ideas to increase voter turn-out at the next election and discussed obstacles encountered during this election.
 - **Nisqualli Building to Close due to Construction** - Nancée announced that the building will be open until further notice.
 - **Writing Tests** - Concerns shared that district assessments have to be graded on teachers' off time or Friday grade level planning time. Nancée clarified that the principals are allowed to set the agenda for 2 of the Friday minimum planning days. If principals so choose, they can delegate some of this time towards grading the district assessments. Melissa Timko-Miller shared that the grade level councils in grades K-2 agreed by majority to score their assessments on their own time. Grades 3, 5 and 6 will send 10 papers to score at the district level, and score the rest of the papers at their own site.
 - **Dress Code** - Questions about staff dress code as designated by the principal. Nancée referred members to check the agreement and maintain a "professional attire" while at school. She stated that the dress code can be an issue that is bargained, or agreed upon at a site level.
 - **Interview Process for Transfer** - Nancée said the transfer process is outlined in our contract.

- **Duties of Hub Teacher** - Questions about specific duties assigned to the Hub teachers. Nancée clarified that these duties are assigned by consensus by the specific grade level. If there is any disagreement, then grade levels should be sure to spell out specific duties, and vote by consensus at the start of each school year.
- **Change from HMO to PPO** - Nancée advised member to contact personnel.
- **Teacher Improvement Plans** - A concern was shared about the amount of teachers on improvement plans. Nancée said she would investigate and try to gather data.
- **Barnes and Nobel** - Information was shared about the book fair June 11 - 18 which will include Young Author recipients. A portion of the proceeds will benefit VESD.
- **Budget Concerns** - Concerns were shared that so many employees have attended the Effective Schools conference this past spring in Phoenix, and will be repeating the same conference in June in Ontario. This is a major expense in light of a tight budget.
- **TAC Meeting** - Members shared concerns that the recent TAC meeting did not allow teacher input, rather a report from each administrative department. Questions shared about whether the process is actually effective.
- **VETA 5-Minute Meetings** - Reps were reminded that in addition to the 5-minute meeting adjacent to the principal's staff meeting, they may schedule additional meetings with their members, as needed.

Old Business

- **Standing Committees** - Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers.
- **Politics** - CTA is encouraging teachers to participate in local phone banks to support propositions in the May 19 election. A phone bank will be held May 14 from 5:30 - 6:30 at Kids' Planet in Hesperia.
- **Political Action Committee** - Greg Galvez shared that there was not enough interest, at this time, to proceed with a PAC. In the future, if interest increases, he would be glad to continue his efforts to establish a PAC.
- **VETA Scholarships** - 13 scholarships were awarded to graduating students who are dependents of VETA members. They each will receive \$400 to be used for educational expenses and will be presented with their checks at their school's award ceremonies. In addition, they are invited to the next Rep. Council meeting, June 2, to enjoy refreshments. Nancée, Linda Smith and Elsbeth Roach will be attending the various award assemblies on behalf of VETA to present the checks.

- **VETA Elections** - Elections were held April 21 and the following people were installed:

Vice President - Beth Fehrs
 Treasurer - Linda Smith
 At Large Director - Jeff Bragg

NEA/RA Delegate - Joan Herdlein
 NEA/RA Delegate - Penny Edmiston
 NEA/RA Delegate - Nancée Fine

- **Day of the Teacher** - Celebrated May 13, 2009. Tanya Benitez has distributed \$10 gift cards to Reps. to distribute among their teachers as well as a commemorative poster for their site.
- **Relay for Life** - Rebecca Myers previously announced that this fundraiser for cancer awareness will be held May 30 - May 31 at Victor Valley College. Currently VESD has 9 teachers fighting cancer. Rebecca can be reached at Challenger and will answer questions if you are interested in forming a team, or joining an existing team. Additional information can be found at www.relayforlife.org/victorvilleca.

New Business

- **CTA Summer Institute** - Nancée shared information about this CTA conference held August 2 - 7 at UCLA. Trainings available include: Benefits, Negotiations, Community Outreach, etc. If members are interested in attending, contact Nancée.
- **Court Case** - Details were shared about the recent court case involving VESD and John Desilett. The district was deemed to be 0% responsible for any of the allegations.
- **Scandia** - Greg Galvez shared plans for the VETA Scandia event, to be held June 20. If tickets are purchased early they will cost \$11.95 instead of \$19.95. Reps are encouraged to share this information with their members and inform them that if they want to pre-purchase discount tickets, they must send \$11.95 to Greg Galvez at Discovery by June 10th. Checks should be made to Victor Elementary Teachers Association. Greg moved to allocate funds to purchase 1 ticket for each VETA Rep., Penny D. Smith seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.
- **Compliments** - Nancée gave praise to an anonymous Rep. who has effectively used e-mail communication with her to help give timely and accurate information to the site.
- **Donation** - Starlett Hale moved to donate \$200 each to the Victor Elementary Education Foundation, in honor of Marie Miller, and West Palms Library, in honor of Mary McAtee. Chuck Hepner seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

- **High School Assessments** - Nancée shared that the high school district has sent Math and Language Arts tests for our 6th grade teachers to administer to students, and return to the high school district. They should arrive shortly at each site.
- **Fire Code** - Reps. shared concerns about the enforcement of fire safety codes that will limit the amount of decoration in classrooms. The code allows for approximately 10% of the classroom to be decorated in flammable material. All other materials displayed must be fire retardant. Greg Galvez offered to investigate further details.
- **Snow Day Waiver** - Nancée shared that although Apple Valley has received the waiver for the December snow day, VESD has yet to hear a response. She assured Reps. that Debbie Betts was pursuing this matter.
- **Speed of Trust** - 13 members have received this training based on Steven Covey's research. The district goal is to train an employee who can then offer additional trainings to our district as well as others.
- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Brenda Sanchez, Allison Stewart and Dale Brendon. Additional prizes were given to Karen Bossi, Melissa Timko-Miller, Debbie Nelsen and Mickey Higgins. Left over items were available for all Reps. to share.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Relay for Life, VVC, May 30 and 31.
 - Pictures to Bill for Web Site, make sure that kids are not recognizable.
 - Scandia Event, June 20. Money to Greg Galvez at Discovery by June 10th for discount ticket, \$11.95.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.