

Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

Representative Council and General Meeting

October 9, 2007

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 11/13/07)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:37

Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for September, 2007 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston, Secretary. Brenda Sanchez moved to accept, Rex Piatt seconded, and the Minutes were approved with no corrections.
- President's Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Negotiation's Team Report was submitted by Penny D. Smith.
- Chamber of Commerce Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- County Coalition Report for October was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- High Desert & Inland Employee/Employer Trust Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- High Desert Service Center Council Report for October was submitted by Nancée Fine.

Site Reports

- Academy/Irwin and 6th Street Prep. were not represented; therefore these sites gave no reports. All other sites gave reports
- **Concerns discussed within Site Reports:**
 - **NCLB** – Necessary accommodations for schools meeting NCLB requirements.
 - **Alternative Evaluations** – Teachers concerned over receiving late notifications about their options for observations or alternative evaluation projects.
 - **Electronic Grade Book** – More training is needed to implement the grade book. Some teachers feel the grade book is not meeting their needs. Is the district requiring teachers to use this, or is it optional?
 - **ADA** – A drop in ADA was noticed on October 8 as many districts had the day off for Columbus Day.
 - **5th Grade Writing Test** – Nancée will check on the concerns that this test is graded by teachers, but unlike the district writing tests administered in other grade levels, the 5th grade teachers do not have the option of grading the tests during their contract day (no substitutes are provided).
 - **Declining Student Enrollment** – This has necessitated a few teachers being moved to different sites to accommodate enrollment needs.
 - **Speech Teacher** – 1 Speech teacher was hired this year.

Old Business

- **Elections** – An election will need to be held for the position of Vice President. Beth Fehrs resigned her post on the Election Committee; Jeff Bragg, Ann Smith, Darlene Vohn and Elsbeth Roach have previously volunteered to assist. Elsbeth reported the timeline for nominations and election. Many sites and Rep's had not received this information which Elsbeth sent via e-mail. Penny D. Smith moved "to extend the nomination deadline since several schools did not receive

notification.” Rex Piatt seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions. Elsbeth said that she would work with the committee again to establish a new timeline, and would notify, via e-mail, the information to the Rep’s.

- **TAC** – Rep’s reported that the meetings have been productive. Nancée suggested that Rep’s use the VETA time (at the end of Staff Meetings) to report the activities of TAC.
- **Friday E-mail** – All Representatives (except 1) indicated that they have been receiving Naneé’s communication. Nancée asked all Rep’s to please sign a list that gives an alternative e-mail address (other than the district e-mail address).
- **NCLB** – Nancée shared many handouts and urged Rep’s to ask members to join the campaign to defeat renewal of NCLB. If members want to investigate more, please visit the CTA website. Also, George Miller is the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Education and has a website with information. Nancée urged members to join the campaign by writing/faxing/e-mailing their congress person. A fax campaign is also being urged and members can write their concerns and send to Nancée so she can fax to the appropriate Representative.
- **High Desert Service Center Council Charity** – The HDSCC would like to collect donations of toiletries for the women’s shelters in the high desert. Members are encouraged to contribute small hotel toiletries to this campaign. Additionally, save the pink tops from Yoplait yogurt to contribute to breast cancer fundraising. Nancée will have boxes outside her office for drop off.

New Business

- **The Standard** – Michael Coats from Standard Insurance Company discussed the changes in our policy from our recent change from Unum Provident to The Standard. This insurance covers salary protection/disability and life insurance and is available to Association members for a fee. October 31 is the deadline to sign-up and/or increase coverage of insurance without the need of a health certificate from a doctor. Additional benefits to the new insurance plan were discussed. Michael encouraged Rep’s to elicit questions from members and contact him if additional information is needed. He can be reached at: mcoats@standard.com or 800-522-0406, or 310-740-4382.
- **Chamber Clean Up Day** – Many high desert communities participate in this clean-up on October 27, 8:30 – 11:30 AM. Please announce to members at your sites and notify Nancée if members want to participate so she can arrange the supplies with the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Training:**
 - Nancée requests that members try to reserve Tuesdays for VETA activities, when possible. It was noted that the District has tried to respect this policy and not schedule meetings on Tuesdays to enable members to participate in Association activities.
 - Political information should never be put in teachers’ boxes. Instead, it is appropriate to notify members that literature is available on the VETA bulletin board, or on a centrally located table, for all members.
 - Additional training is needed to clarify “First call for consensus” at school sites. The VETA officers will work to provide this, and other training.
- **Transportation for Field Trips** – A flyer of information was shared about the requirements and costs of scheduling buses for field trips. Costs are increased if the buses are not left clean.

Additionally, for local trips, it is not necessary to keep the bus during the entire time, (for example while students are participating in their activity) and by dismissing the bus, this could save on the hourly charge.

- **5 / 10 Minute Staff Meeting Alternatives** – Rep’s brainstormed ways to communicate VETA information on weeks when staffs do not meet at a general staff meeting. Suggestions include:
 - 5-minute meetings in the classroom of the Rep.
 - E-mail information
 - Memos
 - Share information with grade level representatives to disseminate
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 - Investigate the district’s position of purchasing an automated telephone call system
 - Utilize school intercom, after hours
 - Representatives visit grade level meetings
- **CTA lawsuit with Carl’s Junior** – CTA has filed a cease and desist order with Carl’s Junior for advertisement that is offensive.
- **WHO Awards** – Karen Bossi received her WHO award as she was not able to attend the ceremony held last spring.
- **403-b** – Nancée shared there are changes to the savings plan for tax sheltered annuities. Informational meetings will be held to discuss these changes.
- **Raffle** – Gift certificates were won by Jeff Bragg, John Young and Steve Dinise.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Timeline for The Standard Insurance – October 31
 - Transportation costs for reserving buses for field trips
 - Toiletries & Yoplait label drive
 - NCLB fax campaign
 - Nominations for Vice President
 - October 27 Clean up Day
- **Adjournment** –Penny D. Smith moved to end the meeting, Rex Piat seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.