

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association
Representative Council
October 13, 2009
Nisqualli Building
(Pending Approval 11/10/09)**

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:20PM.

Minutes and Reports

- October Agenda was submitted by Nancée Fine. Paul Valerio moved to accept, Dale Brendon seconded and the agenda was approved.
- Minutes for September 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. A correction was made to reflect that the 2009 - 2010 VETA survey had a ranking of items from 1 - 4, (not 1 - 5). Chuck Hepner moved to accept the minutes and Sarah McGowan seconded; the minutes were approved as corrected.
- President's Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Linda Smith.
- San Bernardino County Coalition Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Victorville Chamber of Commerce Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- High Desert Service Center Council Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- High Desert Inland Employee/Employer Trust Report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- VETA 2009 - 2010 Calendar of Events was submitted by Nancée Fine.

Site Reports

- All sites were present, (except Pupil Services, Green Tree East, Parkview, Galileo and Endeavour), and gave reports. Reps were asked to comment upon how the hub teachers were dealt with at the beginning of the year at their specific site.
- **Additional Concerns Discussed:**
 - **Hub Teachers** - Some sites felt that their site based management was not effective as the class size of hub teachers was changed by the district without teacher input, or discussion at grade level councils. Additionally, others commented that these changes were made with little notice to adequately prepare for such an increase of students. Teachers felt that this was a drastic change in their position and were not given consideration when this decision was made. Other sites commented that there were no changes to their hub positions, or they did not utilize hub teachers for Class Size Reduction, option 2.
 - **October TAC** - Members wondered where the power point would be available that Dr. Marsden referred to at the October TAC meeting. Nancée stated that it would be posted on the VESD website, under Dr. Marsden's blog.
 - **Security Breach** - Many members are concerned that personal information may have been compromised with the recent district posting of information on

the internet. Reps commented upon how other businesses/industries have dealt with similar situations, such as providing employees with access to credit services for a certain amount of time, as well as financial liability if the information leak resulted in financial fraud for employees. Nancée stated that she would investigate.

- **District Writing Tests** - Members are concerned how the district establishes the criteria for grading district-mandated writing tests as well as providing the necessary time to grade. The time needed for scoring these papers, as well as the manner in which they need to be scored (1 reader versus 2 or 3 readers) are not being applied consistently across the district and grade levels. Teachers would like to have more input in the decision to test, the criteria for testing, as well the amount of time allotted for the grading of these tests.
- **VETA Membership Dues** - A member would like to change the status of dues fee payer. Beth Fehrs said that all they need to do is contact her and she will help.
- **Credential Renewal** - Nancée recommended that Reps advise all members to keep documentation that will support evidence of professional development for teacher credential renewal. Although most teachers will not be audited, it is good to have this information if an audit occurs. Nancée distributed a memo from Janet Young, dated 2006, that still had important information about credential renewal.

Old Business

- **State Budget** - The Governor is in the process of signing several legislative bills, many would effect school funding. CTA is forming a fact sheet to explain how one-time money is given to districts. Currently there is a proposal that districts must allow an unlimited amount of charter schools and base teacher evaluation upon student performance.
- **Monday Memos** - Nancée shared that many of her e-mails are getting returned because she does not have accurate e-mail addresses. She has asked Reps to please make sure that they have supplied her with the accurate information
- **TAC Response** - Reps commented that the October TAC meeting was difficult to attend because it was held during the week of Parent Conferences. Nancée mentioned that the district would take that into consideration for future TAC meetings.
- **Credential Renewal** - Nancée shared a handout from Janet Young, dated 2006 that still had important information about credential renewal.
- **5-Minute Meeting** - Nancée stated that she is able to share a lot of information with members when she has the opportunity to substitute at the various schools. In addition, she would like to have the opportunity to meet with members at the 5-minute VETA portion of the principal's weekly staff meeting. She would like to

extend to members the availability of including her, or other Executive Board Officers, at these meetings, when possible.

New Business

- **Substitutes for $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ day** - Nancée clarified the district's policy about substitutes. When a member needs to use a half-day substitute the district will try to accommodate and find a $\frac{1}{2}$ day substitute. However, if they can not find a $\frac{1}{2}$ day substitute, the district will provide a full day substitute. The member is deducted only $\frac{1}{2}$ day from their leave, not the full day. If a member has had a full day deducted in this circumstance, please contact her so she may help to correct this. She reminded Reps that $\frac{1}{2}$ day is the actual middle of their work day calculated from instructional minutes, not necessarily at lunchtime. If a member needs to take a $\frac{1}{4}$ day, then substitutes are even less likely to be had. In that case, often teachers may ask to distribute their students among their colleagues. There was not a definitive answer if the unit member is deducted a " $\frac{1}{4}$ day" in this situation as the receiving teachers are not receiving compensation.
- **Respect and Cooperation - VESD Basics** - Nancée discussed concerns about rumors between classified and certificated employees. To help maintain professional relationships, Nancée and our Vice President, Beth Fehrs, will be meeting on a monthly basis with the classified President and Vice President. Nancée cautioned members to be careful not to comment to classified personnel about negotiations or contract information which might cause hard feelings. She emphasized that it is important to maintain our good relationships with our classified colleagues.
- **State Council** - Nancée has received 2 items to discuss at state council: Kindergarten students should not start school until age 5 and what is CTA doing to maintain Class Size Reduction? An additional comment was given that CTA should ensure that teacher evaluations are not tied to student performance. If members have additional ideas, please e-mail her.
- **Security Breach** - Nancy and Tonya Almeida discussed how the security breach occurred. It was an unfortunate accident and the district has implemented steps to ensure that this will not happen again. Reps commented upon how other businesses/industries have dealt with similar situations, such as providing employees with access to credit services for a certain amount of time, as well as financial liability if the information leak resulted in financial fraud for employees. Nancée said she would investigate if the district would be able to assist in this area.
- **Collections** - VETA is collecting pink YoPlait lids to receive \$0.10 for cancer causes as well as toiletries to donate to the women's shelter and local hospice. Nancée has

asked Reps to make boxes at each site to facilitate collection of these items, and then they can be turned into the boxes located outside Nancée's office.

- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Debbie Nelsen, Paul Valerio and Sally Kraemer.

- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Collections of Yoplait pink lids and toiletries at each site.
 - Substitute availability

- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.