

# Victor Elementary Teachers' Association

Representative Council

September 9, 2008

Nisqualli Building

(Pending Approval 10/14/08)

President Nancée Fine called the Rep. Council meeting to order at 4:25

## Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for June, 2008 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Joe Hodges moved to accept the minutes, Penny D. Smith seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections.
- President's Report for September was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Treasurer's Report from June 1 to August 31 was submitted by Linda Smith.
- Negotiations Report for September 9 was submitted by Penny D. Smith.
- San Bernardino County Coalition for September was submitted by Nancée.
- High Desert & Inland Employee/Employer Trust for September was submitted by Nancée.
- CTA State Council for September was submitted by Nancée.
- High Desert Service Center Council for September was submitted by Nancée.
- Morning Insight (Victorville Chamber of Commerce) for September was submitted by Nancée.

## Training

Nancée distributed VETA binders to reps for their use and distribution in staff lounges.

## Site Reports

- Galileo was not in attendance, however all other sites were able to give reports.
- **Concerns Discussed:**
  - **Enrollment** - close to capacity at some sites and grade levels. Neighboring communities have enrollment well below projections.
  - **Lesson Plans** – currently, the contract does not state how lesson plans should be recorded, as such, it is best to follow the guidelines of the principal for format and content.
  - **API** – many sites shared their increase in API scores.
  - **District Web site** – check the web site for professional development opportunities.
  - **Compensation for work beyond contract day** – our agreement states that teachers should receive \$35/hour for work beyond the contract day if no students are involved, \$45/hour if students are involved. Does this pertain to before and/or after school meetings by the Leadership Teams?
  - **Salary Negotiations** – this item is under negotiations this year and will be determined after the state has finalized the budget.

## Old Business

- **NEA/RA Report** – Nancée, Penny and Barbara Dew gave reports about the NEA Representative Assembly held in Washington, DC this summer. They felt that it was an excellent example of democracy and a chance to influence NEA on a national level for policies and guidelines.

- **Standing Committees** – Nancée announced we have several vacancies on standing committees and could use volunteers.
- **TAC** – TAC will be held in October.
- **Budget** – Linda Smith distributed the Treasurer’s Report and discussed the budget.
- **CTA Proposed Reverse Check Off** – CTA has approved 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. All CTA members will be charged this \$20.00 increase. Members will have the ability to opt out of this increase, or designate where these funds should be spent. Nancée handed out forms to reps to share with their staffs to designate any changes
- **Political Action Committee** – Greg Galvez was not able to attend the Rep. Council meeting. A report will be given in October for reps. to vote on approval of organizing a PAC. Additionally, Nancée announced that training will be held at the CTA office on September 15 concerning organizing a PAC.

### New Business

- **New Circumstances** – Nancée encouraged members to extend courtesy and patience as we transition with new administrators. “Expect mistakes, accept mistakes, assist in correcting, forgive and move on”.
- **Monday e-mail** – Nancée announced that she will share information with the reps via a Monday e-mail. This will give information to the reps to share with their staffs at their upcoming staff meetings.
- **Boxes for Parents** – Nancée shared that there are enough packets for each family in our district to receive. Reps should notify her how many they need so teachers can distribute at Back to School Night or Parent Conferences.
- **Training** – Nancée announced that training will be held on a monthly basis for reps. Additionally, if there is anything of specific concern, let her know and perhaps it can be scheduled. Ideas may include: Consensus / Collaboration, voting issues at the site, test ethics, role and expectations of the rep, site based management, school site councils, etc.
- **CTA Visit** – Dean Vogel, Vice President of CTA will be visiting our district escorted by Nancée. It is likely that sites will include: Del Rey, 6<sup>th</sup> Street Prep., and Academy/Irwin.
- **Measure E** – This \$150 million bond measure will allow more schools to be built, improve existing schools and provide needed improvements. Teachers are asked to support the bond and help with the phone banks. Steve Dinese moved to give VETA endorsement to the measure, Barbara Dew seconded and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.
- **Spice of Life** – This event will be held October 4 in Old Town Victorville. Nancée asked for volunteers to work in a booth to help distribute information and talk with community members.
- **Fall Leadership Conference** – Held November 21 – 23 at the Palace Station in Las Vegas. Linda announced that registration should be done by September 19. A copy of all registration and a \$200 check should be received by her by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. The check will be returned, un-

cached, when the member has attended the meetings and presented Linda a copy of the room check out bill. She can be reached via district e-mail at: [LMAmith@vesd.net](mailto:LMAmith@vesd.net) Linda gave printed information that will assist in registration.

- **High Desert Service Center Council Meeting** – Training will be held concerning Election Guidelines on September 13, 11AM at the CTA office in Hesperia.
- **Seven Step Lesson Plan** – Conni Ridgeway will give instruction to teachers and principals about the 7-Step Lesson plan on September 25 from 4 – 7 at the Nisqualli building. There will be a link on the Ed. Services department of the district web site for registration. Reps should make sure that all teachers who may be having an observation this year know of this training.
- **International Day of Peace in Education** – Nancée shared that there is information on the bulletin board concerning this celebration on September 21.
- **Negotiation Training** – CTA will be holding a workshop for CAC (negotiations) in September.
- **Toiletry Drive** – The High Desert Service Center Council is continuing their collection of toiletry items to be donated to the women’s shelters. It was very successful last year.
- **CTA Scholarships** – CTA is offering scholarships for attendance at conferences. If you are interested, see Nancée.
- **ABC Committee Minority at Large** – A position has become available on this CTA committee. If you are interested, see Nancée.
- **Site Packets** – On behalf of Beth Fehrs, Nancée handed out the site packets. They include membership cards, life insurance forms and additional information that reps should distribute to members.
- **Morning Insight / Chamber of Commerce** – Nancée announced a need for attendance at the monthly chamber meeting/breakfast held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 – 8:45 at the Hilton Garden Inn.
- **VETA Web site** – The web site has gone through some format changes. Please give any suggestions to Jeff Bragg for announcements to post.
- **Science Fair** – Nancée investigated a concern about the district’s cancellation of the Science Fair. The decision was made because there were no volunteers for coordinators and it was hoped that each site would handle their own fair. The district would be willing to pay for trophies and ribbons.
- **Sacred Tuesdays** – Nancée announced that administrators will be reminded of the need for Sacred Tuesdays.
- **November Ballot Initiatives** – Nancée shared a handout from CTA about its recommendations for ballot initiatives.
- **Raffle** – \$10.00 gift certificates were won by Joe Hodges, Liz McDonnell and Kelly Pfannenstein.

- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
  - CTA increase of \$20.00 as a Reverse Dues Check off. All members will be charged this amount. If a member chooses to opt out of this, they must do so with the appropriate forms from CTA and will then receive a \$20.00 reimbursement check.
  - Science Fair – If there is a coordinator the district could determine if this could be reinstated.
  - 7-Step Lesson Plan training with Conni Ridgeway September 25
  - CTA Scholarships to attend conferences are available.
  
- **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:10.