

**Victor Elementary Teachers' Association
Representative Council
September 15, 2009
Nisqualli Building
(Pending Approval 10/13/09)**

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

Minutes and Reports

- Minutes for June 2009 meeting were submitted by Penny Edmiston. Joan Herdlein moved to accept the minutes and Trish Covarrubias seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- President's Report 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.
- San Bernardino County Coalition report was submitted by Nancée Fine.
- Victorville Chamber of Commerce report was submitted by Nancée Fine.

Site Reports

- All sites were present and gave reports. Reps were asked to comment upon the amount of students in classes, the ability to attend Fall Leadership Conference November 20 - 22 in Las Vegas, and to make any revisions regarding names of Reps for 2009 - 2010 and governance model at each site.
- **Additional Concerns Discussed:**
 - **Class Size-** Some sites reported numbers were low, other sites reported that class size number were high.
 - **Class Size Reduction** - A concern was expressed that the district modified the parameters of Class Size Reduction the day before Labor Day holiday, not allowing teachers enough time to prepare well for the changes. Teachers felt that these district changes were not being made in good faith as the district is willing to take the penalty/fine of 30% while loading more students into a CSR classroom. Members have asked how they can gain support from CTA regarding this situation. Nancée gave information that the district discussed this summer the possibility of using the hub teachers in a different manner. If changes were made, the hub teachers were supposed to be asked first, and if approved, hub changes would then be up for staff approval. Nancée said that she would solicit more information from reps in her Monday Memo to see if this process was followed.
 - **VETA Survey** - Reps reported that members felt the survey was worded in a confusing manner, many members felt that ranking 1 - 5 was confusing and fear that the information gathered may not be accurate. Nancée announced

that the Ex. Board would take this into consideration as additional surveys may be needed to clarify items. Members would like to see the results of the survey. Nancée announced that the survey results would be available for viewing in her office after negotiations have been finalized and an agreement ratified.

- **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.
- **Classified Furlough days** - Reps were concerned that mandatory furlough days for classified employees would result in classrooms not getting cleaned; this is an additional concern with the spread of flu and other diseases.
- **Negotiations** - Members would like to know how negotiations are proceeding. Reps were asked to make sure to share the Negotiation Report, provided tonight by Penny D. Smith, with their members, as well as keep an eye on Joint Communiqués that are sent via e-mail to all members from the VETA/District Negotiation Team. Members would like to have some meetings to share information and Nancée assured reps that *General Meetings* will be held before ratification is considered. Members were concerned that if cuts were to occur would they be retroactive? Nancée clarified that EVERY item is negotiable including the amount of cuts (if any) and when those cuts would commence. A question was asked about the federal stimulus money that was received, Nancée clarified that this \$3.5 million was put into the budget and was allocated for jobs. Concerns shared that all principals were attending a conference in Florida; during this time of budget cuts this seemed expensive. Nancée clarified that a grant from SELPA was paying the expenses and this grant could only be used for the purpose of this conference. Additional concerns about principal's cell phones and other expenses that could be cut. Members would like to know how the BAD ideas have been implemented across the district and the amount that has been cut/saved.
- **Flu Shots** - Members would like to know when flu shots will be given. Nancée shared that she is working with the Trust to provide clinics, as they have done in the past. In the meantime members should check with their health care provider and/or the county to see when clinics will be held.

Old Business

- **State Budget** - The state has again decreased the amount of money given to the 2008-09 and 2009-10 budgets. Currently our district receives \$4,500 per student. As information is shared about budget cuts, Nancée will include them in e-mails ASAP.
- **Column Advancement** - Nancée shared with Reps to make sure to notify members that our district has an appeal process for members who want to take classes for

column advancement if those classes have been denied by the district. The appeal committee consists of Nancée, Cheri Sanders and an additional member who has yet to be designated.

- **Summer Meetings** - Joan Herdlein, Penny Edmiston, Barbara Dew and Nancée shared information about the NEA/RA meeting held this summer in San Diego. Nancée also shared information about the Presidents' meeting held in Asilomar.
- **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

- **Fall Leadership Conference** - Linda Smith shared that this year's conference will be held at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. She distributed registration material and explained that she needed to receive the registration packet and a \$200 good faith check by September 18. After conference registration was processed, members would be given instruction for room registration.
- **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.
- **Written Reports** - Nancée asked Reps to make sure that all reports shared at VETA meetings are displayed on the VETA board at each site. New reports can be stapled over the old reports so members can be informed about what has been discussed.
- **CPI Days - Survey Clarification** - Nancée wanted to clear up a misconception that was mentioned several times on the Negotiation survey. Members are allowed 2 CPI days per year. If they are not used during the year, they would carry over to the next year as sick days. The district has designated CPI days to not be used adjacent to a holiday, however they have not challenged anybody using CPI days as such.
- **E-Mail Addresses** - Nancée asked Reps to make revisions on the e-mail list to ensure that she can keep in touch.
- **Sacred Tuesdays** - Nancée reminded Reps that as their staff schedules meetings, back to school nights and parent conferences they should try to keep Tuesdays clear for Association business.

- **Monday e-mail** - To facilitate Reps on information to share at the 5-minute staff meeting, as well as other late breaking news, Nancée will send a weekly e-mail to Reps. This information should be shared with all members.
- **Membership Cards and Rosters** - Beth Fehrs shared packets with Reps to distribute among members. She has asked Reps to make sure that members notify her of any changes ASAP. Also, she reminded that CTA cards are often good for discounts at many merchants.
- **Introduction of Negotiation Team Members Present** - Nancée introduced Steve Dinise, Penny D. Smith, Karen Bossi and Mickey Higgins.
- **Raffle** - \$10.00 gift certificates to Coldstone Creamery were won by Starlett Hale, Mickey Higgins and Melissa Timko-Miller.
- **5 / 10 Minute Meeting Items:**
 - Please send pictures of student activities to Bill Klopping for the district web-site. Students' faces should be unrecognizable.
 - Collections of Yoplait pink lids and toiletries at each site.
 - CPI days, how they are used and how they roll over.
 - Appeal process for disputes on course work for column advancement.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.