

Meeting was called to order by President Vicki Lowery at 8:22 a.m.

Those present included President and Valley Communication Chair Vicki Lowery, Vice President and Eighth Grade Promotion Chair Audra Nuttall, Secretary and Office Fundraising Chair Sherri McCulloch, Special Events Chair Cheryl Stradling, Student Recognition Chair Patricia Ogden, Coyote Pride Chair Valeen Palomo, Volunteer Communication Chair Shannon Day, and Event Fundraising Chair Libby Hammond.

Three visitors were present, including Principal Victoria Wilber.

Guest Comments:

The floor was opened to guest questions/comments. A guest raised concerns about funding and budget for the school library. She reported that in the past, when the library was in the smaller classroom, the library budget was approximately \$50 per school year. The Library Committee had saved money in years past and rolled over funds from year to year in anticipation of expenses and expansion of the library when a larger room/new building was available. Discussion was held regarding how VAPO funds are spent, and procedural concerns about how funds from the library committee are spent. Additional discussion was held regarding accounting for Library Committee, and how School Resource Catalog (SRC) bonuses through Scholastic are recorded and/or spent, as well as how this information is tracked.

Suggestions were made regarding how to allow the librarian freedom to make purchases as necessary with budgeting accountability. Concerns were also raised regarding spending of SRC bonuses, and how such bonuses are recorded when reimbursement from another committee needs to be made.

The Library Committee Chair and treasurer will meet to work on accounting procedures for discretionary spending for the library.

Discussion will be continued when the treasurer and Curriculum Committee Chair can be present.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the January meeting were presented for review. The President will review minutes for her approval. Minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Mrs. Wilber has been working with French Toast uniforms on the school logo for uniforms. This process is nearing completion.

Valley Academy's name has officially changed to Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy. Heidi Mitchell, Mark Mettes, and Cuyler Reid will have a booth at Spring Festival next to the Arizona Charter Schools Association to communicate with parents

regarding the name change and regarding Reid Traditional School' Painted Rock Academy.

Mrs. Wilber has worked with the Curriculum Committee Chair to create a procedure form for teachers to use for communication with the Curriculum Chair regarding classroom needs. The procedure outline will be given to teachers and Mrs. Gan at today's staff meeting.

President's Report;

Three new board members were invited to join to fill vacancies. Academic probation and attendance have both increased. A motion for \$2500 passed for purchase of a new slide for the first and second grade playground. The next board meeting will be February 23, 2012.

Sherry Shumaker is working on website design for both Painted Rock Academy and Valley Academy. The first advertising mailing for Painted Rock Academy has been mailed.

A new part-time nurse, Susan Elowson, was hired.

The president and vice president went to the state capitol to speak with state legislators about A and B rated charter schools receiving a \$1000 tax credit from businesses and residents. The vice president reported that this legislation passed.

Arizona State Senator Yee also gave information regarding new legislation regarding hiring of teachers by charter schools.

Concerns regarding IRS proposals to cut charter school teacher pensions were discussed.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer was not present.

Unfinished Business:

Unfinished business was tabled until the treasurer can be present.

Committee Reports:

Library:

The Library Committee chair attended a Scholastic training for the upcoming book fair, and is looking for a chairperson for next year to begin training.

Curriculum:

The committee chair was not present. Committee member, Teri Hunt, provided information regarding books currently out for approval. The committee is working to streamline the approval process to get reviews back more quickly. Audra Nuttall moved

that the books on the list presented by Terri Hunt (attached) be approved. The motion was seconded by Libby Hammond, and passed unanimously by those present.

Volunteer Communication:

Kindergarten screening is scheduled for February 27 through March 2, 2012. Volunteers are needed to man a table outside Mrs. Ekdahl's room during screening to direct parents.

Discussion was held regarding volunteer hours being down for the last three months. Suggestions were made to include specific volunteer opportunities in the newsletter.

Coyote Pride:

Spirit Day ice cream is going well. Spirit Day T-shirts have been distributed.

Eighth Grade Promotion:

Polar Ice made approximately \$360. The committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month in March.

School logo car decals were fixed, and distributed on Friday February 3, 2012.

Chick-Fil-A fundraiser is scheduled for March 13, 2012.

Staff Appreciation:

The committee chair was absent. Valentine's breakfast is approaching on February 14, 2012. Molly Browne will be organizing this event. Volunteers are needed for the breakfast.

Athletics:

The committee chair was absent. Field Day is February 16 and 17, 2012. Plans are proceeding.

Office Fundraising:

Over 30,000 Box Tops have been submitted so far this year. Over 14,000 Labels for Education have been submitted this year. Bonus Labels for Education are also available for specific school events promoting physical fitness, literacy, etc.

Walk-a-thon packets were distributed last week. Forms are beginning to come in.

Harkins Summer Movie Fun passes will be available for purchase at the end of February.

Special Events:

No new concerns were raised.

Student Recognition:

Caught Being Good day is February 23, 2012.

Honor Roll Ceremony is May 22, 2012. The committee chair requested assistance in planning this event. She will meet with the prior committee chairs for training and information. Planning meetings will begin in April.

Event Fundraising:

Volunteers were requested for VAPO members to be present with the cash box during ticket sales the week prior to Spring Festival, and during Spring Festival.

Spring Festival will be held March 3, 2012.

Various questions regarding what equipment and tools are available for use at Spring Festival were addressed.

Valley Communication:

Concern was raised over some homeroom parents not receiving packets for Spring Festival. The committee chair will follow up on this.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 13, 2012.

Newsletter items for March are due by February 15, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri McCulloch
Valley Academy Parent Organization
Governing Council Secretary