

Council meeting called to order at 8:22 a.m. by President Vicki Lowery.

Members present included President and Valley Communications Chair Vicki Lowery, Vice President and Eighth Grade Promotion Chair Audra Nuttall, Treasurer and Recognition Chair Nikki Schultz, Secretary and Office Fundraising Chair Sherri McCulloch, Curriculum Chair Donna Padilla, Student Recognition Chair Patricia Ogden, Athletics Chair Rachael Smith, Library Chair Lisa Schulte, Coyote Pride Chair Valeen Palomo, and Special Events Chair Libby Hammond.

Three visitors were present, as well as Principal Mrs. Victoria Wilber.

The floor was opened to questions from visitors. No questions were asked.

**Secretary's Report:**

Minutes from the November 8, 2011 meeting were presented for approval. Donna Padilla motioned they be approved as submitted. Audra Nuttall seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously by those present.

**Administrator's Report:**

Mrs. Wilber provided information about Valley Academy's new campus, Painted Rock Academy, a Reid Traditional School. The location is planned for 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Greenway. An informational meeting will be held December 19, 2011 in the Valley Academy MPR. Two meeting sessions are planned. Times were not yet available.

Winter/holiday classroom parties are being planned.

Mrs. Wilber expressed thanks to the VAPO Governing Council for their hard work and commitment.

**President's Report:**

The School Board meeting has been rescheduled, and is currently scheduled for December 14, 2011.

A question was raised about content of the Board meetings and when agendas were posted. Information was provided by Mrs. Wilber.

The Parent Track Conference at the ACSA was cancelled.

VAPO would like to present Valley Academy staff with a gift to recognize Valley Academy's achievement of Arizona Charter School of the Year. A suggestion was made to purchase navy blue polo type shirts with the school name and logo and "Charter School of the Year 2011" embroidered around the bell. Past awards of personalized shirts have been well received. Concerns were raised regarding funding for a special gift, as the Teacher Appreciation budget is not sufficient for a purchase of this nature. Sherri McCulloch moved to proceed with a gift of personalized shirts and allocate \$1000 for this

project with a line item under Staff Appreciation. Patricia Ogden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously by those present.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer is still waiting for the accountant to get back to her with reports. She provided a detailed listing of expenses for each committee. Some questions were raised regarding the Library Committee and how that committee's money is reported, i.e. reporting profits in Book Bucks versus actual cash earned. Discussion was held regarding explanation of budget line items, and how this information will be used for future budget planning. Clarification was also made as to where to find invoices and check requests for each committee. Council members expressed appreciation to the Treasurer for attention to detail and accuracy in reporting budget items.

Procedures were reviewed at the November meeting regarding reporting to the Arizona Corporation Commission. VAPO's Corporation Annual Report has been completed and filed. VAPO's tax return was extended, and is currently awaiting completion by the accountant.

The Treasurer emphasized that credit card transactions for cookie dough sales and the book fair need to be documented for accounting purposes. Documentation will be provided by the Office Fundraising Committee and Library Committee.

**Unfinished Business:**

Meeting Minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting and the October 27, 2011 special meeting were presented for review. Patricia Ogden moved to approve the October 11, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. Libby Hammond seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Sherri McCulloch moved that the October 27, 2011 meeting minutes be approved as submitted, Donna Padilla seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Questions were raised regarding concerns about the limitation of one Alert Now e-mail per week. VAPO raised concerns regarding information to parents being deleted, ignored or lost because parents may not read an entire e-mail if it contains too much information. Mrs. Wilber will relay VAPO concerns to Heidi Mitchell, and find out in more detail her concerns with this issue.

Mrs. Wilber reported that administration concerns regarding approval of documents involved multiple items being sent to Karen prior to the president's approval.

**Curriculum Committee:**

Curriculum Committee member Terri Hunt presented a list of books to be approved for the recommended reading lists, including Eyes of the Emperor, grades 6-8, Shooting the Moon, grades 5-7, The Jewel Kingdom: Sapphire Princess Hunts, grades 2-3, Little House Chapter Book: School Days, grades K-3, Nancy Drew Notebooks: The Puppy Problem (#12), grades 2-4. Sherri McCulloch moved that the list be approved as submitted, Patricia Ogden seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

A revised policy for curriculum book review was presented. Audra Nuttall moved that the revised procedures be approved as submitted. Sherri McCulloch seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Athletics:

Turkey Trot went really well, and was especially well received by kindergarteners, who were included for the first time this year. A suggestion was made to continue including the kindergarten classes in the future.

Coach Ray has requested a trophy case to display school trophies. Audra reported that Booster Club has been trying to raise money for this project in the past, but has not had sufficient funds. Discussion was held regarding whether Booster Club can roll over money from one school year to the next, and have an ongoing fundraising effort. Proposals for a trophy case in the past have been denied by the CEO as Valley Academy does not have a gym in which to display a trophy case, and there were safety concerns over a glass case. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions. Suggestion was made that a Booster Club parent investigate further.

Eighth Grade:

VAPO has sold over 300 Harkins cups, and has made just under \$600 so far. Sample gowns will be here for review on January 10, 2012.

Valley Academy car decal sales are due Friday, December 9, 2011.

Eighth Grade Parent meeting is January 10, 2012. Polar Ice is January 20, 2012.

Special Events:

A committee chair is still needed. Spelling Bee is coming up Thursday, December 8, 2011. Senora Quijada is coordinating this event, and has requested help, specifically from parents with children in the bee.

Staff Appreciation:

The chair is working on invitations for the upcoming staff lunch, Tuesday, December 13, 2011. The Staff Appreciation chair is currently organizing volunteers for the lunch.

Event Fundraising:

Meetings are underway on Thursdays: December 15, 2011, January 12, 2012, January 26, 2012, February 9, 2012, and February 23, 2012. The Spring Festival is scheduled for March 3, 2012. Plans are underway to collect coins in each classroom to be donated to charity, possibly Ronald McDonald House, after Spring Festival.

Student Recognition:

Committee Chair reported things are going well, with no concerns at this time.

Office Fundraising:

The Committee Chair advised that we are currently receiving approximately 6000 labels per month. Mrs. Keely's class is currently in the lead in the yearly contest. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of dropping Tyson Project A+ and taking on Prang Points instead. Mrs. Wilber approved collecting Prang Points, and a decision was made to drop Tyson Project A+. Additional discussion was held regarding working with TerraCycle, but administration has not approved this program. Numbers are not yet in for October and November.

Volunteer Communication:

The committee chair was not present. Dibels testing is coming up on January 9, 2012.

Coyote Pride:

Spirit Day ice cream will be close together for January and February, 2012. The committee chair raised concerns over scheduling and possibly needing some help. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of bracelets for ice cream rather than ice cream cards. A general consensus was reached that bracelets probably present more problems than cards.

Spirit Day T-shirt orders are due January 13, 2012. Concerns were raised that this due date might be too soon after students return to school.

Library:

The committee chair was not present. No new concerns are known at this time.

Valley Communication:

The committee chair gave information about Voter Voice e-mails from the Arizona Charter Schools Association and the Association's desire to increase parent involvement. A suggestion was made to invite Peter Hodgson to Gear Up for School Night.

Questions were raised about including French Toast uniforms in fundraising efforts. Mrs. Wilber gave approval for this, and will handle any details necessary with the company.

Newsletter items are due January 23, 2012.

The February meeting is rescheduled to February 7, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m. by President Vicki Lowery.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri McCulloch  
Valley Academy Parent Organization  
Governing Council Secretary