

VAPO Governing Council October 14, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 8:19 a.m. by President Audra Nuttall. Those present included President and Valley Communication Chair Audra Nuttall, Vice President and Athletics Chair Heidi Chapin, Office Fundraising Chair Luella Gourgue, Treasurer and Library Chair JodyKay Combs, Curriculum Chair Debra Mclemore, Event Fundraising Chair Evan Newman, Coyote Pride Chair Lisa Olsen, Eight Grade Promotion Chair Angie Brey, Volunteer Communication Chair Prasad Dabberu, Secretary and Special Events Chair Christen Saldana.

Administrators attending: Mrs. Wilber

Guest: Luella Gourgue

Administrator's Report:

Mrs. Wilber addressed concerns of enrichment classes being too expensive for children attending Academic Arcade, which was discussed during the last VAPO meeting September 9, 2014, at this time it has been decided that Academic Arcade will not change or adjust its tuition. Arizona Instruction will be available after Academic Arcade but will not be incorporated with its services.

Last year the eighth grade graduating class did not purchase a school gift, which was to include the remaining outfit for our school mascot, this matter will be put to rest. Mrs. Nuttall did entertain the idea of it being taken out of the VAPO funds for this year but no final decision have been made.

Staff Development on October 13, 2014 addressed safety and procedures in case of an emergency, mostly training for staff and the school will be adding an additional drill "Active Danger drill" in the coming months. First responders (Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Phoenix Police Department) approved safety Plans and were given a copy of updated school specs. Mrs. Wilber assured VAPO that the school is "preparing for everything" and that safety on our campus is our highest priority.

Movie Night went well Student Council did an excellent job and therefore there will be another movie night in spring of this year.

Requested that as parent volunteers we avoid the copy machine in the work room from 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. during this time the staff needs access to it.

We officially are a National Blue Ribbon School and will receive recognition in Washington D.C. as it is quite an accomplishment for Valley Academy. It was awarded to the school for Academic Excellence. Who will represent the school in Washington D.C on November 9, 2014 will be Mrs. Wilber and Mrs. Mettes. We are also actively looking for a Blue Ribbon for our sign out front and will hopefully find one soon.

New Business:

Luella Gourgue submitted an application and is requesting to be on the VAPO council for Office Fund raising. To which Mrs. Combs motioned, Mrs. Chapin seconded, all were in favor and Mrs. Gourgue is now Office Fundraising Council Chair.

Book lists were emailed out and were submitted for review, three parents read and approved books which were motioned by Mrs. Chapin, seconded by Ms. Saldana and all were in favor. These books will be up for approval with administration for next years approved reading list.

President' s Report: Mrs. Nuttall

Mrs. Nuttall informed the council that the newsletter will be going out October 15 2014 and to get all information in for events as well as any volunteer help needed. She thanked all who helped out with cookie dough and "stepped up" to help with work load. Also, reminded everyone that phone calls are the most effective volunteer communication. It was requested that volunteers try to limit classroom distractions by placing drop off prizes outside doors or in the teachers boxes so they may address them when their time allows. Event planning reports were submitted from the previous events to Mrs. Nuttall with how much was spent and how much was earned at each event.

The Council was informed that Reid Traditional School Board of Directors will meet at the District Office on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 6: 00 p.m. all parents were also invited to attend. All council members was also invited.

Secretary's Report: Ms. Saldana

August meeting minutes were approved as amended Mrs. Olsen made motion; Mrs. Chapin second, motion passed. September meeting minutes were approved as amended Mrs. Combs motioned and Mrs. Nuttall second, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Combs

Mrs. Combs inquired about the audio visual equipment expense for the school. Kona Ice still needs to issue VAPO a check from Gear Up for School Night. Please see budget attached to meeting minutes for additional budget analysis.

Taxes have been filed with the IRS by our accountant; Valley Academy has a copy for their records.

Upcoming Events

VAPO newsletter to go out October 15, 2014

Caught Being Good October 16, 2014

Fall Dance 7th and 8th grade October 17, 2014

VAPO Governing Council Meeting October 14, 2014

Parent Teacher Conference dinner October 23, 2014

Homeroom Parent breakfast October 27, 2014 in Kindergarten Multipurpose Room

Talent Show Auditions- October 28, 2014-October 29th 2014

VAPO Meeting November 4, 2014 at 8:15 a.m.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Mrs. McLemore

She has purchased two classroom sets of books, one for Senora Quijada and one for Miss. Cunningham. The Recommended Reading List was updated. It was requested that it be updated more than just once a year, but due to the work put in, as well, as the communication with staff on approved books this was declined until a more efficient means (online updates etc) was available and approved by administration.

Volunteer Communications: Mr. Dabberu

The Gear Up for School Night volunteer lists made DIBELS testing was extensive and as much as the help was appreciated there as an excess of volunteers for this event. Mr. Dabberu wanted to include as many parents as possible. Ms. Jesse Lee Marrow took over volunteer logs for September and has the number of hours logged. It was brought up that parent should be notified of their volunteer time at least twice a year so parents are aware. Also Mrs. Nuttall requested a spreadsheet be made available for reference. His committee overspent by \$25.00.

Valley Communication: Mrs. Nuttall

Stressed the importance of getting as many parents involved as possible with VAPO and to make phone calls to increase involvement.

Coyote Pride: Mrs. Olsen

We have extra spirit day shirts. We will have a sale in the VAPO room. It was brought up to change to logo on the shirt either put it in the back, or smaller one. That will need to be discussed at another meeting.

November 5th picture retake. VAPO picture at 7:45 a.m. in the P.E. room. It was very difficult to have picture day the same day as an assembly day. Some of the students were not there and need to be tracked down.

Ice cream sales were well. 639 student have bought tickets this year.

Staff Appreciation: Mrs. Johnson

Teacher Conference Dinner for October 23, 2014, invitations were printed and given to teachers October 13, 2014. Also, she requested that birthday cards be signed and sent to teachers.

Eight Grade Promotion: Mrs. Brev

Great Skate went well and brought in \$444.00 for promotion. The Car Wash also went well and made \$1284.67. Lots of parents helped, as well as 8th graders.

High School Night ended earlier than expected, but had a great turnout. Five high schools came including Barry Goldwater, Sandra Day O'Connor, Greenway, North Canyon, and AAEC. Next year, parent surveys about which high schools to invite should go out early in the school year. The student speakers did a good job and showed initiative.

Office Fundraising: Mrs. Gourgue

Cookie Dough profit was down slightly and the order was a little short but we were able to supply the product to parents who ordered. Stressed double checking orders for next year and to make sure columns are clear so the right orders are placed.

Parents helped sort prizes but needed more volunteers for next time. The event went well and sales were good.

Box tops Ms. Vig's fourth grade won a party for collecting 758 boxtops!

Special Events: Ms. Saldana

Family Fun Night went well we ran out of **crafts** and would consider getting a larger quantity for the next Family Fun Night. We had a great turnout for the art contest and the costume parade, all of the art has been returned to students. Due to lack of dinner sales the family fun night budget to go over by \$200.00. Will complete presales before the next family fun night to avoid this in the future.

Lock down kits have been completed for the common rooms if anything was overlooked please contact me as the last of the water has been sent out, I will purchase more as needed. Thanked the parent volunteers who shared in this expense for the classrooms. Homeroom parents need to check comfort kits. They will be attending the Homeroom Parents breakfast.

Library: Mrs. Combs

Book Fair went well, library choose to take \$2025.00 in Scholastic dollars and \$1300.00 in cash, and increased its orders. Online book fair has not been included yet but will have an update the total by next council meeting. Additional VAPO council members are needed to handle the cash box for next book fair, any past VAPO members are allowed to handle the cash box as well. Theme for the spring book fair is " Under the Sea".

The library is requesting a set of encyclopedias.

Athletics: Mrs. Chapin

Basketball is underway. Sign up genius was sent out for Volunteers at home games. Turkey Trot is on the way. I have met with Coach Mims and Senora Quijada. Sign up genius will go out in early November.

Event Fundraising: Mr. Neuman

Spring Festival- we are waiting for a different company information. Evan is working on a grant for Lowe's. Need a project for the money to go to idea was kindergarten garden area.

Student Recognition: Mrs. Lund

Caught Being Good has got new banner with the theme "rise above the ordinary" There will be balloons on the banner and student's name will be written in balloons once they turn in a Caught Being Good ticket. Also each student will receive a caught being good sticker to wear. We have got all new items for the students to choose from. Still trying to find items that 7th and 8th graders would like. Some ideas were gift cards for ice cream, Sonic, QT, etc.. Discussed passing out more tickets to aides, teachers, and also for VAPO members to pass out.

Honor Roll - We cannot use the high school from last year due to their graduation. Looking into using the church we use for winter concert. Need to make sure we have the big room to accommodate everyone.

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 a.m. Respectfully

submitted,

Christen Saldana

VAPO - The Parent Organization of Valley Academy
Secretary and Special Events Chair