

Meeting called to order at 8:20 a.m. by Vicki Lowery.

Council members present included President Vicki Lowery, Vice President Audra Nuttall, Treasurer Nikki Schultz, Secretary Sherri McCulloch, Library Committee Chair Lisa Schulte, Event Fundraising Chair Libby Hammond, Student Recognition Chair Patricia Ogden, Volunteer Communication Chair Shannon Day, and Curriculum Chair Donna Padilla. Three visitors were in attendance, including Valley Academy Principal, Mrs. Wilber.

**Administrator's Report:**

For next year, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have asked that comfort kits be done in bulk, the same as kindergarten.

Maintenance has concerns over gates being left open. Please be sure to lock gates, and to make sure parents sign in at the front desk if they ask to come in when you enter.

**President's Report:**

Vicki attended the most recent Board of Directors meeting.

Anti-bullying policy was renamed Safe School Environment Policy.

New Board officers were elected.

New location is still progressing. Potential location is near Greenway and the Interstate 17.

Discussion was held regarding Valley Academy's nomination for Arizona Charter School of the Year.

The school is currently at full capacity.

Questions were raised to Mrs. Wilber regarding ID badges and whether any security measures are taken to verify parent/family identities. Mrs. Wilber clarified that each person receiving an ID badge was cross-referenced to verify that they correlate with a currently enrolled student.

A new band teacher was hired.

Next Board of Directors meeting is October 27, 2011. Vicki will attend.

Valley Academy is one of three schools being considered for Arizona Charter School of the Year. Both Audra and Vicki were interviewed. The winner will be announced November 11, 2011.

Peter Hodgson from the Arizona Charter Schools Association would like to speak to VAPO about having parents more involved with ACSA. An invitation was extended, proposed for the next VAPO meeting. Approval for the invitation was given.

Mr. Hayo thanked VAPO for the back to school breakfast. Mrs. Leach thanked VAPO for her going away party.

President Vicki Lowery thanked the Council for their hard work on events so far.

A suggestion was made to add a link on the website showing VAPO's by-laws as a resource for parents. There was agreement that this was a good idea.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

A breakdown of what has been entered for each committee so far was provided. Various questions were raised regarding minimal budget line items. Clarification was made by Nikki.

A suggestion was made to create a line item for donations in the budget under Valley Communication. Sherri McCulloch moved that a line item be added. The motion was seconded by Nikki Schultz, and carried unanimously by those present.

Audra also moved that two line items be added for cheer bow sales and expenses in the Booster Club. The motion was seconded by Nikki Schultz, and carried unanimously by those present.

Accounts are reconciled through August.

Concerns were raised over upcoming budget items that might be payable in the next month. Research will be done for further information on this.

Clarification was made that our Corporation Annual Report for the Arizona Corporation Commission needs to be updated to include a current statutory agent and director. This update needs to be done in person. The statutory agent and director listed at present is not a current VAPO member, and requests from the Corporation Commission have not been received in a timely manner or at all. Historically, the statutory agent and director is the VAPO president, and the forms are mailed to his/her home. At the end of the school year, an update will need to be made each year to reflect the following year's VAPO president. A suggestion was made to use the school as the mailing address the president's personal address as the home address. Procedures will be written for inclusion in the VAPO binder to clarify how changes need to be made. Donna moved that the statutory agent be changed from Denise Burton to Vicki Lowery. The motion was seconded by Audra Nuttall, and carried unanimously by those present. Sherri McCulloch moved that Vicki Lowery be added as the director. The motion was seconded by Nikki Schultz and was carried unanimously by those present. It was also clarified that when voting for new officers for the following year, the governing council needs to state that the president is also being voted in as the statutory agent and director for VAPO.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

A question was raised about an orchestra at the school. Mrs. Wilber stated that interest in band has been low to date. Band meets at 7 a.m. This may be a factor.

**Committee Reports:****Special Events: Darline McGraw (not present)**

Darline was not in attendance, but passed along questions to be asked. Book Bucks were purchased from the Library Committee to be used as incentives/prizes during the Book Fair. Clarification was made regarding the transfer of funds between committees by the Library Chair. A question was raised why Book Bucks came out of the Special Events budget rather than the Library budget. Clarification was made that the prizes offered by Special Events as part of Family Fun Night were paid for from this budget, and purchased from the Library Committee.

A question was raised regarding scheduling of the Spring Book Fair. It is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>. Spring Family Fun Night is May 4, 2012.

**Library: Lisa Schulte**

Lisa thanked all who helped with cashiering and other Book Fair duties. The Book Fair took in \$9704 in sales. Our portion of the sales would be 25% of this amount if taken in cash, or approximately 60% if it is taken in Scholastic Dollars. A decision has not yet been made about how the Library will redeem this amount.

Spring Book Fair theme will be luau.

It was also suggested to schedule book fairs one month later in the fall, and one month earlier in the spring, due to heat/weather concerns. Explanation was given as to how to make calendar requests. Information is provided in the VAPO Council binder in section 6, under request forms.

**Curriculum: Donna Padilla**

A Separate Peace by John Knowles was sent out for parent review. All three parents who reviewed requested this book be included as a classroom set. Mr. Bauer said this would be an appropriate book for seventh grade. There has been some difficulty in obtaining reasonably priced copies of this particular book, and the Curriculum Committee does not have sufficient funds in the budget for this item. A request was made that the Library Committee consider donating this set for seventh grade. A new classroom set (75) of The Outsiders was purchased for eighth grade. A search for a vendor for Tuck Everlasting for fifth grade is in progress.

Concerns were raised that the Curriculum Committee did not have enough money to purchase classroom sets as needed. A suggestion was made to consider increasing this amount at a later meeting.

A rotation schedule for classroom set replacement will be created.

The Curriculum Chair is also researching the possibility of selling or returning sample and extra textbooks present in the VAPO room that are not part of our curriculum to obtain funds for the Curriculum Committee. Concern was raised over potentially selling an item that was donated to us, possibly in violation of VAPO's 501(c)3 status. It was clarified that these items cannot be sold, but can be donated. If the recipient of the donated item would like to make a donation to VAPO, that would need to be reported as appropriate.

The Curriculum Chair is meeting with a representative from Saxon Math in November. She plans to eventually provide parent information regarding effectiveness of Saxon Math. Saxon Math is mandated into the Valley Academy Charter.

Eighth Grade: Audra Nuttall

Great Skate went over well, and made a profit of \$524. High School Night was attended by four high schools, and went well. The Fall Dance also went well. Decorations were a hit.

Eighth grade car wash is coming up October 29, 2011. Prizes for ticket sales have been donated by the Chokshi family, and are much appreciated.

Concern was raised over dress code at school dances, and clarification was requested regarding tank tops. Mrs. Wilber clarified dress standard for tank tops at dances, and will consider wording for future announcements.

Office Fundraising: Sherri McCulloch

Over 6000 Box Tops and labels were turned in for the Back to School label contest. Response of volunteers has been astounding. There are already enough Box Tops and labels to mail.

September Box Tops are still being counted.

Cookie dough sales this year raised over \$12000.

Thanks to cookie dough volunteers.

A small amount of cookie dough is left in the freezer for purchase at regular price.

Student Recognition: Patricia Ogden

Honor Roll ice cream (Snow Storm) will be handed out on Friday, October 28, 2011. The list and cards are prepared by Karen Sommerfield, with much appreciation from VAPO.

A request was made for clips to hold up signs in the MPR. These will be purchased.

A request for clarification of the budget for Student Recognition was made. This was provided by the Treasurer.

Staff Appreciation: Nikki Schultz

Italian Dinner for teachers and administration is coming up for Thursday, October 20, 2011. Plans are beginning for this event. Vicki will help with invitations.

Event Fundraising: Libby Hammond

The first Spring Festival planning meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2011.

Talent Show tryouts have been rescheduled to October 25 and 26, 2011. Dress Rehearsal will be November 4 and 5, 2011.

A question was raised regarding allocation of class basket money. The Event Fundraising Chair was advised this was a committee decision, at her discretion. She is working on sub-committee assignments for various parts of Spring Festival. A food booth coordinator is needed.

Coyote Pride: Valeen Polomo

Spirit Day T-shirt sales have gone fine so far. Picture retakes are coming up November 2, 2011. A small number of students were absent. One or two volunteers are needed.

The new Coyote Pride Chair will be assuming Spirit Day ice cream duties. She requested training regarding ordering and distribution. The next Spirit Day ice cream will be Friday, November 4, 2011. A question was raised whether kindergarten students are able to get Spirit Day ice cream. Clarification was made that kindergarteners are able to get ice cream if a parent wants to bring them to the line.

Athletics: Rachael Smith (not present)

Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 21 and 22, 2011.

Volunteer Communication: Shannon Day

Dibels testing went well, except for Friday, due to shortage of volunteers. A newsletter item to solicit additional volunteers for Spring Dibels testing will be added.

Valley Communication: Vicki Lowery

Homeroom Parent Breakfast went well. A recommendation was made to decrease the refreshment budget to \$50.

Newsletter items are due Thursday, October 13, 2011.

Next VAPO Governing Council meeting is Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

December/January newsletter items are due November 4, 2011

Meeting adjourned 10:32 a.m. by President Vicki Lowery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri McCulloch  
VAPO Governing Council Secretary