

Ventana Vista FFO General Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2011

VV FFO Co-President Lalita Hadley called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Principal/Staff Chat. Principal Kim Boling introduced the specialist teachers: Rebecca Kellermeyer, Music; Janet Holland, PE; and Piper Lapinsky, Art. Each described the projects they are working on with students this semester. Joan McKee explained that 2nd grade students are working on scientific investigation with meal worms, as well as, better reading strategies.

Presentation: Plant and Science Night at Ventana Vista.

March 4, 2011, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Carol Jones introduced what will be the school's first night devoted to plant sciences, led by the UA's Dr. Rod Wing. Students will learn about the world food supply and how to sustain it. They will study plant DNA and make their own plants to bring home. Other events include chili tasting, learning about alien plants and crafts, etc. It will be an amazing night and all the CFSD elementary schools are invited.

Secretary. Minutes from the Nov. 17 VV FFO general meeting were approved and filed as written.

Treasurer's Report. Co-treasurers Tatyana Nemenman and Nadine Stoner were absent. The checking account balance is \$48,404.94. The CD balance is \$5,108.54.

- A motion was made to move \$2,000 from "Other" to "Grants." The motion was seconded and approved.

Grants.

Ventana Vista was asked to participate in the **Bookman's Challenge**, a three-month reading competition between 80 schools. The winning school receives \$15,000. Students are urged to document the books they read on the forms that were sent home. Even kindergartners, when their parents read them a book, can tally them.

A motion was made to approve \$420 from the Grants budget to send teachers to a two-hour technology/computer literacy seminar. It was seconded and approved.

Ventana Vista has received a \$2,500 grant from Lowe's to create a garden around the school's new bobcat statue. The project will need some additional volunteers. The garden is slated to be complete by Family Evening of the Arts on April 15. A big thanks to Clara Curiel for helping to bring in this grant.

Presidents Report. Co-President Lalita Hadley announced that the Jan. 7 Bingo Night raised \$400 for the FFO and was a big success with the students. The Fifth Grade Legacy project will continue this year with each student making a kaleidoscope tile to help decorate more areas of the school. Art teacher Piper Lapinsky will help with the project. Lalita also announced some great accomplishments made by CFSD students:

1. Four state championships
2. Project Lead the Way received national certification
3. CFHS student Rex Woodbury was named the National Heisman Winner for best all-around high school athlete.
4. Fourteen students were named National Merit semi-finalists.

Committee Reports:

Teacher of the Year. VV representative Tara Kirkpatrick introduced 2nd grade teacher Joan McKee, who was nominated to be 2011 Teacher of the Year. The TOY committee will meet to evaluate the teachers. The teachers will be interviewed and two winners will be announced **Feb. 1** in their classrooms.

Mathathon. Chair Gina Chen announced a Feb. 16 kickoff date for the Mathathon, to be completed by Spring Break. She has worked hard to make the tests level-appropriate. Fourth and fifth grade students will be able to take their tests online. The fundraiser brought in about \$10,000 last year.

VV Science Fair. Chair Bryn Allen said the committee is wrapping up after an all-school assembly in which the awards were given out to the students. The medals were a big hit. In the end, more than 200 kids and seven classes were involved in the 43 various projects. Allen said the committee did not spend all their money so will be returning money to the budget. SARSEF judges were impressed by the quality of the projects.

CFSD Foundation. The Love Our Schools Gala will be held **Feb. 18** at the Westward Look Resort. Lalita Hadley is working on putting together two baskets for the school to donate to the silent auction.

FEOTA. Family Evening of the Arts will be held **April 15**.

New Business.

The second-annual **Love of Reading Night** takes place **Feb. 11**. Parents need to RSVP for their children to attend the breakout seminars. Contact Jill Wadsworth for more information.

Za Boom Ba. CFSD is hosting this event on **Sunday, March 20** at Catalina Foothills High School. Each FFO donates \$75 to pay for the instructor. More information can be found on the website, www.zaboomba.com.

Shooting Tragedy. Ventana Vista sent 100 student-made cards to the school of Christina Taylor-Green – Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Adjournment. Lalita adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

***The next FFO general meeting will be held March 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Kaleidoscope Room.*