

Ventana Vista FFO General Meeting Notes for October 18, 2012

VV FFO Co-President Tara Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The Board introduced themselves to those in attendance.

Principal

Principal Kim Boling welcomed those present and introduced the new school-wide focus in mathematics, which is called "Common Core Standards." A video was shown to demonstrate this focus. Unlike the older method of teaching Math, which relied heavily on memorization, this new focus relies on problem solving through communication to develop a broader understanding of critical thinking. Ultimately, this type of critical thinking prepares students for job readiness. Also, elections are coming up and Prop. 204 will make a sales tax permanent, which directly benefits the schools.

Tara Kirkpatrick

VV FFO Co-President made a motion to approve the August 2012 minutes. Motion approved.

Grant Submission

Barbara Stansbury applied for a grant from the FFO in the amount of \$582.33 to purchase Ipod shuffles for her class to enhance her students' reading comprehension skills. Children will be able to listen to books and discuss afterwards. Motion to approve the grant was made by Tara Kirkpatrick. Motion Approved.

District Level FFO

Co-President, Tara Kirkpatrick, reported that 2 parents want to start a district wide parenting class, and they need money from each school for materials. We will be contributing \$125. The classes will be held at Esperero Middle School, and there will be more information to come.

Treasurer

Co-Treasurer Kelly Medvec presented the budget. Currently, there is \$26,538.34 in the checking account. Most of the funding goes to the classrooms, and each teacher has \$500 to spend for the year. Budget approved.

Committee Reports

- **Bobcat Run:** This is November 3rd at Sabino Canyon. They asked for 2-3 volunteers to help with set up. This is an excellent community-building event for the school.

- **Halloween Bingo:** There will be no trick or treating this year. They still need donations for candy, and there is a bin in the office for collection. 2 Dads are needed for parking.
- **5th Grade Camp:** They are \$1500 short, and they are looking for donations. The date is November 1-2nd at the Triangle Y Ranch. This is an excellent team building event for the 5th graders.
- **Plant Science Night:** Carol Jones reported on the success of this event. She encouraged all parents to be a role model and participate with your children.

Promotions

Thank you to all who participated in the Dine Out for VV at Chucky Cheese. It was a great success. The next dine out night will be at Panda Express on November 13th.

Silver Graphics

Gina Chen spoke about this art based fundraiser in which the proceeds benefit the Art department and the Student Council. In the past, VV has made \$2400 with less students. We are hoping for broad participation! Ms. Lapinski will select the best art from all her classes, and it can be reproduced for purchase on many different items such as iphone covers, potholders, cutting boards, etc. Families can purchase from the students or online. This will start on February 15th and run for 2 weeks.

Foundation Report

The Foundation Representative, Jackie Nichols, spoke about the Love Our Schools event on January 25th. Tickets are \$125. They need donations for the silent auctions. The Foundation website has information on how to donate. There was also a Phone-a-thon for donations, which took place and raised \$1200. The funds raised go directly to teachers. In addition, the teacher of the year award will be presented at the Gala, so if you would like to nominate a teacher, you can do so online. The spending per student in Arizona has decreased by 20%, which is the most drastic decrease in the country. We are 35th in the nation for compensation of our teachers.

Announcement

Mark Kelly will be coming Thursday, October 25th.

Adjournment

VV FFO Co-President Tara Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 9:30.

The next meeting will be November 15th, at 8:15 am.