

Ventana Vista FFO Special Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2010

VV FFO Co-President Lalita Hadley called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

VV Science Fair Committee. Bryn Allen and Peter Gruenstein provided a brief update on the upcoming Science Fair and the proposed budget. The Kickoff Night for parents will be **Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m.** The website for the VV Science Fair, www.vvsciencefair.org, is active and linked to the school's website. Posters are up around the school and flyers have gone home in the students' folders. A student assembly was held **Tuesday, Sept. 7** to generate interest. There is also a slogan contest with the top three entries to be awarded. Bryn and Peter said there are some unknowns, since this is the first year, but the committee really wants to get the event off the ground and improve it from there.

Lalita opened the meeting to comments and questions about the proposed Science Fair budget of \$1800.00:

-The committee was asked about the type of prizes that would be awarded, since that budget item is \$1,000. Bryn said the committee was considering both large prizes, like those offered in the Mathathon, but also smaller items such as ribbons and science magazine subscriptions.

-The committee was asked why they had not sought out donations for the event or considered a registration fee. Bryn answered that they do not want to limit access to the event for anyone this first year. There was also concern that the event offers little accountability for the projects, puts a lot of pressure on parents and might be a waste of resources. Bryn said the committee wants to provide mentoring to help students who encounter any problems with their projects. Another concern is that the proposed budget is too expensive. Peter commented that the science fair would be a valuable event for the school.

-The committee was asked to perhaps consider reducing some of the line items, such as providing certificates for the students instead of a magazine subscription. The committee was also told that the budget weighed too heavy on the awards portion.

-Another parent expressed concern that schools such as Canyon View run a science fair for only \$400 and by providing so much money this first year, it may not be possible to be consistent the following year and the quality of the event would be compromised. Peter answered that the committee is very ambitious about this first Science Fair event and want it to be the best it can be. He said the more resources they have, the more participation there will be.

-The committee was asked if they would seek out sponsors in the future for the event or hold student-run fundraisers to help pay for it, even this year. VV Principal Kim Boling said that all such fundraisers would have to be approved by the CFSD School Board.

Lalita announced that a motion must be made to vote on the \$1800 proposed budget. Peter made the motion and Bryn seconded it. The vote:

**12 voted yes to approve the \$1800.00 proposed budget
8 voted no on the \$1800.00 budget**

The proposed budget passed.

Adjournment. Lalita adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.