

V.A.S.E. MEETING
October 1, 2008

Board Members Present: Rania Lavranos, Melissa Morrill and Terry Allan

Others Members Present: Ed Fava, Julie Bangs, Rita Costa, Suzy Taylor, Lisa Horan, Lori Labonte, Maria Keegan, Rebecca Baldwin, Kathy Messina, Kimberly Fisher, Meghan Parks, Connie Dolan, Liz Hiller, Kerry Hayes, Kristin Johnson, Bernadette Kelly, Amy Read

Rania opened the Meeting at 9.05 a.m.

Secretary's Report – Terry reviewed the minutes from our June meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Principal's Report - Ed Fava welcomed everyone. He mentioned as part of his involvement with the Global Awareness Committee he wants to purchase flags representing the cultural heritage of the students' families. The flags will be hung in the front and back foyers and will be part of a cultural awareness and educational program. He asked if VASE would contribute half the cost of the flags. It was approved that we would contribute \$200.

Also mentioned was the animal science lab project which he hopes to open up to Grades 3-6 as an after school activity.

Treasurer's Report – Rania reviewed the budget for this year in Christina's absence. Ed Fava has requested help funding the purchase of a popcorn machine to be used as part of an incentive program for students. Maria Keegan mentioned in the past we have rented this machine. However, we agreed that the popcorn machine could be used at a variety of school events and was a worthwhile investment.

Teacher Liaison – Julie Bangs reported that Kelly Kelleher and Stacey Soucy were coordinating information for the staff about the Fundraising Event this fall. She also said teachers were concerned about lack of usable playground equipment and Rania stated that she and June Schultz were working on it. Julie also asked if we are still collecting receipts for Shaws, which we are.

Some Specialists wanted to know if they could have access to the VASE parent email list to communicate with parents. It was discussed and agreed that all correspondence was to go through VASE, then forwarded to parents on their email list. Bernadette Kelly mentioned a company called Constant Contact who can publish and send newsletters to email participants for a low cost, as an alternative for VASE.

Items up for Vote – Becka Baldwin was voted on to VASE Board as new Member at Large.

VASE Committee Updates – Rania briefly reported on all committees.

Phone book - completed successfully thanks to all the volunteers who helped out. Terry Allan, Rebecca Baldwin, Michelle Chandler, Lisa Gibson, Mary Kate McCain, Kathy Messina and Melissa Traenkle.

School Council - Michelle Ouellette joined Steve Mendes, Jay Pateakos as the new member.

Wine Tasting/Auction - Tiffany Figueiredo and Rania are close to confirming the venue and date (likely November 15) for the event which will be a wine and possibly microbrew tasting, together with a Silent Auction. Tickets will go on sale prior to the event and class parents for each grade will coordinate donations for baskets to be auctioned. Letters have been sent out to merchants requesting donations of gifts or services and/or purchase of advertising space in the program. More information will be sent out once the venue is confirmed.

Bingo night - planned for October 23rd.

Great Source Books – once approved by the Principal, flyers will go out and sample books will be available for parents to look at in VASE office.

Spiritwear – 1st order completed last week with hopefully another in the Spring.

Ropewalk Fundraiser – numbers will be available at next meeting.

Box Tops – Amy Read discussed need to revitalize collection of box tops and has an idea to create an incentive program for students, which she is willing to work on.

Ink Jet Recycling – program not bringing in much revenue and may need to be reconsidered.

Shaws Receipts – Linda Rush has taken over adding and submitting receipts this year. Amy Read spoke to Shaws and they agreed collection boxes for receipts can be placed at both entrances. Amy will also look into placing collection boxes for receipts and box tops at the Elizabeth Taber Library. We agreed these are good ideas.

Other Business – Reminder that volunteers need to complete and submit a CORI form. Rania briefly listed VASE events planned for the school year and stated she has a sign up sheet for anyone willing to chair a committee or volunteer in any way. She is hoping someone would like to jumpstart the A.C.E after-school program this year, to help revitalize it. Also a school-wide Field Day is planned for June. We need a chairperson and volunteers to help coordinate this event.

Also planned: Providence Bruins Night: 2/6, Skip the Screen Week: 4/27 - 5/1; Marion Occupation Program: 6/3; Sixth Grade Breakfast: 6/11 and PawSox Day: June.

Student Council Report – Elections have taken place for student council representatives from 5th and 6th Grades and they are working on some events like a Mock Presidential Election (10/28) and perhaps a 6th Grade Dance and Basketball Fundraiser for the Hiking Trip. Also planned: Holiday Grams (October, November, and December), Easter Egg Hunt for lower grades (March/April) and Field Day with VASE (June 8 or 9 or 10).

6th Grade Activities – In Laura O'Rourke's absence, Rania briefly went over the list of activities and fundraising events planned. The Book Sale: November 17 – 21st; Cookie Dough Fundraiser: October 17th – November 3rd; Fundraising Art Project: February; The Mountain Classroom Trip; Cape Cod Bike Trip: Early June; Yearbook; Tee Shirts and Slide Show. Any questions and/or comments can be referred to Laura.

Meeting adjourned at 10.40 a.m.