V.A.S.E. MEETING
October 4, 2007

Board Members Present: Rania Lavranos, Melissa Morrill, Suzy Taylor, and Christine Winters

Other Members Present: Julie Bangs, Rebecca Baldwin, Michelle Chandler, Jeannine Donohue, Jessica Figueiredo, Pam Friedman, Maria Keegan, Jane McCarthy, Marissa Ortiz, Geri Owens, Robbi Dunn-Tracy, Diane Hartley, Donna Walther, Trina Waniga, Peter Winters, Laura Zell

The meeting was opened at 9:03 by Rania Lavranos.

Secretary’s Report – Suzy Taylor reviewed the highlights of the June 4th meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report – Christine Winters handed out the proposed 2007-08 VASE budget. She reviewed our philosophy on keeping cash on hand so that we can quickly respond to requests. She reviewed the proposed 07-08 budget and fielded any questions presented. The budget was approved as submitted.

Teacher Liaison – Julie Bangs said the K-3 teachers are very interested in having Author-in-Residence Lynne Hoops come in and work with the teachers this year. Lynne will also work directly with the 3rd grade students. The teachers again want her to focus on poetry. Christine Winters requested the Julie speak with the teachers to see if they had any specific aspects of poetry they would like her to address so that she can really narrow in on exactly what the teachers want.

Julie also noted that one teacher requested more say in who their room parent was since they rely so heavily on them for assistance. Pam Friedman suggested that Julie have the teacher contact Pam directly and she will make sure that next year we handle that classroom differently.

Principal’s Report – Dona highlighted the following:

First Day – went well – there was a great turnout.

MCAS – The scores will be made public today – Sippican went up in ALL categories – “we are very proud”. Dona is still working to figure out what the contributing factors were to the increase in scores so that they can continue doing what they need to do to keep the scores up. Suzy suggested we reward the students for their hard work. Dona said they were looking into doing that.

Lyn Rivet – had a before school training for parents that was very well attended. They plan to do other before school trainings in the future.

VASE Updates

Phone Book – Rania thanked Melissa Morrill and her committee, Terry Allen, Michelle Chandler, Beth Marsden, Kathy Messina and Tiffany Figueiredo for getting the book out so efficiently.

Recess Buckets – Rania thanked Susan Donaldon and June Schultz for equipping the playground supplies

Zeiterion – all classes are scheduled to attend the theater this year.

School Committee – Steven Mendez, Jay Patekos, and Peter Winters are on the committee this year. We are still in need of a community member – they can not have a student at Sippican School this year.
PTO Manager – our online volunteer service. We currently have 88 people signed up which is a good start. We have 45 hours logged so far. Rania encouraged everyone to log in their hours.

Upcoming Events

Poinsettia Sales – forms will go home with children in November and the plants will be delivered the beginning of December.

Family Fun Night
- Bingo Night November 15th 6:30-8:00. June Schultz has agreed to co-chair this event. We are looking for someone else to work with her.

- Providence Bruins – Friday, January 25th. An event coordinator is needed.

- IMAX – March 7th – we are waiting to see what movie is playing before we lock in with this date.

- PAWSOX Night – May

Marion Occupation Program (MOP) will be held in February. Marissa Ortiz suggested we check with the 6th grade teachers before moving the date. In the past they requested that it was held at the end of the year so their classroom time was not interrupted during vital studying time.

ACE – Marissa Ortiz will chair this. The four dates are March 18, 25, April 1 and 8.

Skip the Screen Week – will be held April 7-11. Vase will have a game night during the week. Arts in Action will then end the week on April 12th.

Staff Appreciation Week – A parent expressed concern over having a whole week of appreciation versus just one day like the other schools in our district do. After some discussion it was decided to table the conversation and have the board revisit it prior to our next meeting.

Drama Club – Suzy presented our initial plans for having a drama club that performs the Friday of Skip the Screen week. She is thinking of doing a few folktales from different countries. She is looking for people to help.

School Store – Christine Winters has been working with Stacy Soucy to put together a school store. Stacy could tie it in with the Math Team – the students would learn inventory, profit, etc. Any profit generated would be given to a charity determined by the children. VASE would give the seed money necessary to purchase the initial stock of items – pencils, erasers, inexpensive school supplies – no candy! Concern was expressed that there is not enough time to purchase items during the lunch period. Also a few other concerns were expressed. Christine said it is still in the beginning stages and all of the concerns expressed would be discussed.

Sixth Grade Activities – Donna Walther noted that they are still trying to finalize the Scholastic Book Fair dates for December.

Garden Club – the club was given a $1,400 grant from Lowe’s Home Improvement store. The money will be used to purchase a tool shed. The store will provide the manpower to deliver and place the shed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.