V.A.S.E. MEETING
November 1, 2007

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

Other Members Present: Maria Keegan, Marissa Ortiz, Diane Hartley and Donna Walther

The meeting was opened at 9:00 by Rania Lavranos.

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

Treasurer’s Report – Christine Winters reviewed the VASE accounts. We have $2,296 in our Operating funds, $39,497 in our Savings and $3,352 in CDs. We just received a $3,500 Braitmeyer foundation check. And, Christine informed us that a local family is making a $1,200 donation. Christine reminded everyone that even though our funds are large now, it is still early and we have a lot of expenditures this year. The Treasurer’s Report was approved as submitted.

Principal’s Report – Dona Mahoney was not able to join us this month due to a conflicting meeting.

Teacher Liaison – Julie Bangs was not present at the meeting. Rania did note, however, that Lyn Hoopes is interested in again working with our school at the same rate as last year. She sent suggested dates for the teachers to select. A discussion took place as to why this poetry workshop is only offered to the K-2 students. It was noted that this is the ages that are studying poetry in school.

Rania also said she will be giving the teachers a copy of the Great Source Books catalog to see if they would like any other books, besides the Math at Hand and Math to Know books that VASE has orchestrated ordering for parents in the past, to be added to the order form. Perhaps a science book?

VASE Updates

PTO Manager – 101 people are currently signed up which is great. We need to continue to encourage parents to log in their volunteer hours. VASE will be having a raffle in December ($25 gift certificate from Target) for any parent that has logged in their hours.

Bingo – It was suggested that a reminder note be sent home with the students on the Monday prior Bingo Night, which is November 15th. We could also inform
parents if there are still open spaces so that they can just come the night of the event and pay at the door.

**Innisbrook Fundraiser** – our total sales were $8,600 which was down from our Yankee Candle fundraiser last year in which we sold $13,000. We will make about $4,300 in profit. The deliver date for the fundraiser is November 15th and 16th. On Thursday it will be 12:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:30 and on Friday it will be from 12:30-3:00 so that parents can pick up their orders during conferences. We spent time discussing future fundraiser ideas including walk-a-thons and other non-gift wrap ideas.

**Staff Appreciation Week** – The board discussed the way we did Staff Appreciation last year and we agreed to keep it the same. Parents only are asked to support the staff luncheon. Christine said she saw an article in PTO Manager where they suggested doing monthly appreciation days. We decided that would be more time consuming for the VASE members. We did suggest that students use the internal mail distribution system to send notes to their teachers in lieu of the individual teacher gift bags that we used last year.

**Poinsettia Sales** – Volunteers are still needed to help unload the truck. If anyone is interested, contact Maria Keegan.

**Marion Occupation Program (MOP)** – We discussed last month moving the MOP program earlier in the year. However, MCAS presented issues. So we have scheduled it for Wednesday, June 4th. We are looking for an event leader for this great day.

**School Store** – The school store is moving ahead. VASE is purchasing a cart and supplies. Stacey Soucy has surveyed teachers and it was determined it would be best to have it open on Wednesday during recess times. If children have money they will be able to go to the store which will be located in the HardWork Café. It will also be opened from 2:30-3:00 on Wednesday afternoons. It will be a supply based store – not candy or food. Trina Waniga is the VASE liaison with the store.

**Teacher’s Book Room** – Rebecca Baldwin volunteered to help with the book room – thanks!

**Community Service Learning Committee** - - Jane McDonald is looking for a parent to join this committee. For more information contact Jane.

**After Class Enrichment (ACE)** – Marissa Ortiz is chairing ACE again this year. We are looking for someone to work with her as co-chair with the idea that they will chair it next year. This is a very fun program that has been running for years and is rather easy to chair.
Drama Club – Suzy Taylor gave an update on the club. A flyer was sent home this week. Unfortunately it had the wrong return date – it is due back November 7th to the VASE office. She is trying to get a feel for how many people are interested in the club and then her committee will begin making the final plans. She also received a call from the Priscilla Beach Theatre in Plymouth. They have some grant money and are interested in helping the club. Suzy will pursue this relationship.

Sixth Grade Book Fair - - the book fair will be held the week of December 3-7th. This is a great time to purchase books for our students.

PTO Manager – We discussed methods of getting all parents names in PTO Manager. This is a great resource so we encourage parents to use it.

VIBES – we are officially going on-line with VIBES. We will be sending a notice to the teachers to have them send their information electronically to Melissa Morrill by November 15th. She will then have VIBES on-line by December 1st. We will be doing VIBES on a bi-monthly basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.