V.A.S.E. MEETING
January 10, 2008

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

Other Members Present: Rebecca Baldwin, Julie Bangs, Matt D’Andrea, Pam Friedman, Kim Frink, Diane Hartley, Maria Keegan, Jane McCarthy, Marissa Ortiz, Geri Owens, Donna Walther, Trina Waniga, Laura Zell

Guests Present: Nancy Braitmeyer, Judith Coykendall

The meeting was opened at 9:05 by Rania Lavranos.

Secretary’s Report – Suzy Taylor reviewed the highlights of the December 6 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report – Christine was not present at the meeting and no report was available. We will get the information out via e-mail.

(Info provided after the meeting - Checking $3,801.53, Savings $35,276.98, CD $3,370.67  TOTAL: $42,449.18)

Principal’s Report – (Presented by Vice-Principal Matt D’Andrea) Matt noted that March 13 from 5:00-8:00 and March 15 from 8:30-1:30 there will be a Strategic Planning Meeting for the coming years. Teachers, Administrators, Parents and Town representatives will meet to determine some key plans for our schools. Jane McCarthy gave an overview of the last such meeting 5 years ago.

Matt also informed us that he is again working with Tabor students to set up tutoring for the end of January. He also is having teachers helping tutor Math and ELA for MCAS prep before and after school.

Teacher Liaison – Julie Bangs provided feedback from the teachers that the students loved the pencils that we gave them last year for MCAS. She also said healthy snacks provided for the test days would be great. It was noted that last year VASE put up a large banner stating “Do Your Best on The Test” – but some students got stressed out with all the pre-MCAS information. It was suggested we use the banner only the day prior to the MCAS testing. The Board will meet to finalize plans for providing items to the students during MCAS exams.

Special Guests – Nancy Braitmeyer and Judith Coykendall came to the meeting to present the Tri-Town League of Women Voters. Their goals for their presentation were to update us on how the League and the school intersect and also to look for new members. Nancy noted that the League is non-partisan and
was established back in 1920, when women were first given the right to vote. The League is designed for concerned, active women and men. They study issues carefully from all sides. Currently they are studying affordable housing. Judith noted that they are responsible for the blue book (our local phone book). The profits from the book are used to provide educational grants. Sippican has been the recipient of money to use in our edible garden and also for new books. Teachers can apply for grants – especially for professional development. The Tri-Town League gives out about $4,000 to $5,000 a year to our schools. (Since 1996 they have given $47,544 to teachers)

Membership forms are available in the Sippican office. Feel free to contact Nancy or Judith if you would like additional information.

VASE Updates

**Sippican Store** – Trina Waniga gave us an update on the store. It will be stocked with scented erasers, notebooks, highlighters, pencils with Sippican on them, and other small items. There will be advertising using posters around the school and order forms will be sent home with parents. It is scheduled to open February 6th. It will be open from 11:30 -1:15 in the HardWork Café and perhaps 10:00-11:30 on a rolling cart. Trina asked if we wanted to have Spiritwear sold at the stores. Rania noted that we do not stock these items currently. We only purchase what is being ordered. Trina is looking for help from parents on Wednesdays from 11:30-1:30 to help supervise. They will be deciding in the next few weeks where to contribute any profits from the store.

**Poinsettia** – Maria noted that we made approximately $400 in profit.

**Providence Bruins Night** – January 25 – flyers have been sent home for this very fun night.

**Spiritwear** – we had 51 families order items for a profit of $173.50.

**Drama Club** – Suzy noted that the Enrollment Form was sent home this week with students. We are excited to have the Priscilla Beach Theatre helping with the club and also coming to Arts in Action here at the school.

**ACE** – Marissa Ortiz noted that Stacey Soucy was doing afterschool Clusters and was concerned that with the Clusters and the Drama Club there would not be much interest in ACE. We all agreed that we should still do ACE but do it on Thursdays so that it did not conflict with the Drama Club. Jane McCarthy suggested we contact the Council on Aging for potential teachers.
Marion DPW Water Loss Grant – Rania was contacted regarding educating students on conserving water and a poster contest. Matt D’Andrea is working with the 3rd grade teachers since they are studying the water cycle.

School Committee – Jane noted that the next School Committee meeting is Wednesday January 16th and they will begin discussing the new budget.

6th Grade Fundraiser – Marissa noted that they are waiting approval from the School Committee for a Wave fundraiser – a percentage of the bill will be given to the sixth grade class for all meals purchased by Sippican families. A notice will be sent home once it is finalized.

School Websites – a quick conversations ensued regarding the school website. Some teachers use it and some do not. A concern was expressed that some teachers do not even answer their e-mails. Matt will further investigate this. A consensus of the VASE members was that they would like to see homework assignments listed on the websites. The sixth grade teachers were commended for their sites.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.