V.A.S.E. MEETING
February 7, 2008

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

Other Members Present: Julie Bangs, Debbie Breault, Jane McCarthy, Helia Macedu-Fields, Geri Owens, Lynn Parks Kuhl, Trina Waniga, Peter Winters

Guests Present: Jane Macdonald

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

Secretary’s Report – Suzy Taylor reviewed the highlights of the January 10th meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report – Christine handed out our financial statement. We have a total of $43,362 in our accounts. Christine reminded us that our largest bills always come at the end of the year.

Principal’s Report – Dona Mahoney was not present at the meeting. (She is on sick leave due to a recent operation)

Teacher Liaison – Julie Bangs noted that she was going to survey the teachers to see what they wanted from V.A.S.E. for the MCAS days. Rania noted that V.A.S.E. had already decided we would be giving each child taking the test a Pretzel Pack which contains pretzels and fun motivational messages.

Julie also noted that Vocabulary Day is scheduled for March 20th – flyers were sent home.

Everything is set with Lyn Hoops coming in April 7, 14, 28 and May 5th for the 3rd graders. She will be doing a teacher workshop for the K-2 teachers on March 17th. Julie requested that V.A.S.E. arrange for someone to greet Lyn on the days she is here. She also requested that we reserve a room for the teacher workshop.

Lastly she noted that Rui Yu, our Chinese Exchange teacher, will be leaving Sippican this week. She will still be in the area until the end of the school year – but she will be working at another school. Christine suggested we give her one of the Marion prints we have. Lynn Parks-Kuhl suggested we give her a book. Jane McCarthy noted that the School Committee will be recognizing her at their May meeting.

Christine asked Julie if she was aware of any teachers retiring. She was only aware of Phyllis Carrado.
VASE Updates

Skip the Screen Week – Jane McCarthy is working on coordinating Bret Outchunis, the Yo-Yo Man, to come in. We all agreed 6:30-7:30 was the best time so that children could get home before it was too late. She is waiting to see if there will be a Math/Science Night this year. V.A.S.E. will be coordinating a Pizza and Game Night on Monday. Lynn Parks-Kuhl volunteered to have the children work on a mural after school during skip the screen week.

Budget – Jane also encouraged parents to attend the Town Meeting that evening at the Music Hall to get involved in the budget process.

Special Guest – Jane Macdonald – Jane brought in a copy of the draft of a Standards Based Report Card. The O.R.R. school district will be switching to this new report card format next year (2008-09). Sippican will be switching to a trimester year (we now have 4 semesters). A copy of the draft will be on the V.A.S.E. website. Jane did a great job of explaining how the report card was designed and the benefits to both parents and teachers with the new card. The parents present had many great questions and some concerns regarding the new card. All parents are encouraged to look at the draft and ask questions.

Sippican School Store – will open next Wednesday, February 13th. We now have enough parent volunteers (thanks!). V.A.S.E. will be giving teachers coupons for them to distribute any way they would like to their students. The coupons are valued at $.25 (twenty-five cents).

Drama Club – Suzy gave a quick update on the club which starts next Tuesday with 115 children. We are fortunate to have many parents willing to help.

Shaw’s Receipt Rewards Program – Suzy announced that we have been approved by Shaw’s for their program. We are still waiting approval from the School Committee. She encouraged everyone to begin saving their Shaw’s store receipts. We can use old ones dated back to January 2007. Once the program has been approved a flyer will go home in everyone’s backpack. Many ideas were quickly discussed regarding ways to get more receipts.

A.C.E. – the A.C.E. program will be happening this spring on Thursdays.

Light Fundraiser – we will be doing the NStar efficient light bulb fundraiser in April.

Lynn Parks-Kuhl requested to be on next months agenda. She wants to give us more information about the Arts Enrichment Space. They are putting together a group of parents and local artists to discuss how to best utilize art in the school building. If you are interested in this, please contact Lynne.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.