MINUTES OF V.A.S.E. MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2008

Board Members Present:  Rania Lavranos, Becka Baldwin, Christina Fasciana, Terry Allan

Other Members Present:  Ed Fava, Julie Bangs, Christine Winters, Jane McCarthy, Lynne Kuhl

Rania opened the Meeting at 9.05 a.m.

Treasurers Report:  Christina reported that the VASE Fundraiser made a profit of approx. $10,000 - $11,000. There are still a few outstanding items to finalize before the final total is known. To date $321.98 has come in from Shaws receipts.

Teacher Liaison:  Julie wants to work with Rania to iron out the process of Zeiterion permission slips. Ed would like to have a list of those students attending ahead of time, so parents who have not returned money for their child can be notified. Julie suggested that a couple of extra permission slips be included in the teacher packets. The go ahead has been received from teachers to begin the Box Top incentive program and the date of June 1st was confirmed for Field Day. The teachers have been working hard getting the new report cards ready and meeting with parents.

Principals Report:  The repairs to the front office will not be completed until late January. Ed plans to begin drawing names for “Caught You Being Good” on December 12th and hopes to have a pizza party in the Hardwork Café for the winners. Ed gave an overview of the new report card at the information night this week. He emphasized that the report card is still a work in progress. Ed has begun an after-school science lab for some boys and would like to start a girls section in January when he hopes to have more tanks ready. Hopefully, next year this program will be open to the entire school. Also, Ed would like to host a co-ed industrial arts night.

Budget - Ed has completed going through each line item of the budget and reported that this year’s budget looks good. Next year we are looking at a 2% increase with all staff getting a 3.25% raise. Two teachers will be retiring and Ed is looking at reducing two staff members from Grades 3 & 4, increasing those class sizes to 22-23 students. This will come close to balancing the budget, so no further cuts will be needed. Kindergarten Registration will begin in January as the tuition payments for all-day Kindergarten will affect the budget.

Schedule – Ed is trying to implement a unique schedule that works for both the staff and students. He is interested in a schedule that includes four days covering new learning materials with Fridays used for catch up, i.e. remediation and enrichment. He wants to reduce the amount of pull-outs from classes and hopes to change library into a specialist to free up the teacher. He would also like to meet with staff once a week.

Cafeteria - Ed would like the students to become aware of how much food is thrown away at lunch time. He would like a couple of parents to help him record the waste. Becka Baldwin and Terry Allan offered to help. Christine Winters stated that it is a goal of the School Committee to address the issue of school lunches. Ed would like to form a nutrition group made up of parents together with Dr. Mendes to discuss school nutrition.
Other Business – Lynne Kuhl has designed a “Bully-Free Classroom” sign for all classrooms and Principal Fava will introduce the program at the next All School Meeting.

VASE Committee Updates:

VASE Fundraiser – Rania reported that the Silent Auction and Wine Tasting was a great success. She thanked everyone involved and plans to send out thank-you letters to all the participating merchants and also print a thank-you letter in the paper. The response to the event was very positive, however, making this an annual event may be too taxing on merchants and volunteers. Rania said it would be nice for VASE to offer a yearly social event of some sort.

Box Tops – Packets will go home with students describing the incentive program with periodic updates. At Feb/March All School Meeting winners will be announced with a popcorn party awarded to the class collecting the most box tops and a $25 gift certificate for the teacher for school supplies. An individual gift will be awarded to the student who collects the most box tops.

Zeiterion Family Shows – 22 tickets were purchased for the Magic Show and 16 for “Charlottes Web”.

A.C.E. – We need someone to spearhead this program. Terry Allan and Lynne Kuhl said they would be willing to help. It was suggested that we contact ORR High School and Tabor to see if their students would be willing participate in the program.

Family Events – Principal Fava still hopes to have story time with the younger children in January. He would like a parent to help organize this event. February 6th is Providence Bruins night. VASE hopes to have a middle of winter Bingo night. Skip the Screen Week – VASE would like to offer something one of the nights – possibly a night at Carousel for Sippican school students.

Spiritwear – We hope to have a spring offering with maybe a few new items.

Shaws Receipts – Amy Read is doing a wonderful job with $321.98 raised so far.

Playground Committee – We hope John Weedall and John Durocher will take this on – Becka will check in with them. The budget is $15,000 and we hope to keep it under this amount.

Kiln – We are still waiting to get a requisition form from Erin Sullivan. Lynne Kuhl will follow up with her.

Meeting Adjourned 10.50 a.m.