

Valencia School Site Council
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2008

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Nicole Dennis.

Present: Dianna Higinbotham, Nicole Dennis, Kim De Serpa, Robin Elliot, Karen Richmond, Susan Perez, Dawn Binder and Eileen Shea

II. Introductions/Additions To Agenda

Dawn Binder asked to talk about “rewards” given by teachers. It was added as item D under Discussion Agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes

With a motion by Susan Perez and a second from Kim De Serpa, the minutes from December 11, 2007 were approved.

IV. Discussion Agenda

A. New Parkhurst community Update

The children did not materialize. There is a total of eight students and ten outstanding students. Nicole Dennis does appreciate how the new teachers are being utilized at Valencia. Students were not moved at this time because it was felt that it was not in their best interest. Instead math classes have been reduced using the new teachers hired for second and fourth grade. Rooms were ready to be occupied on February 13, 2008. Dawn Binder wanted to know how teachers were adjusting to absorbing the incoming students. Dianna responded that all was going well and that three to four classes were at 21 instead of 20.

B. State/District budget crisis

Nicole Dennis will represent the North Zone at budget committee meetings. Nicole gave the group an overview of the Governor’s budget and how it will affect Pajaro Unified. Nicole said to look at the Legislature Analyst Office for good neutral information. The May revise will be the place to start reacting. At this point there is only speculation. She commented on how freezing funds does not solve anything because you are freezing one time money. This does not help the problem.

Dianna gave the group an overview of the district budget and commented on how this is always upsetting and how education always bears the brunt of the states overspending. Budget needs to be balanced and that will probably mean pink slips to some teachers by March 15th. This is not fair to our teachers. Karen Richmond asked about the grant money and if that was part of the freeze. P.O.s are being written and have not been turned away. Dianna continued to explain the

Districts budget and projected budget and possible mid year cuts. Dawn Binder feels that this kind of situation impacts teachers lives and that the teachers lose trust in the system. Teachers need to hold on and they will get through this together.

C. School Plan Update

1. Budget Status, no change, next month we will get an update.
2. Pages 10, 10a and 10 b will be tabled until next month
3. APS/Academic Program Survey: Staff went through composite scores. Valencia is not a program improvement school so we do not have to follow lock step with the rest of the district.
4. First Trimester Test Results: These test indicate that writing is the weakest area out of Reading, Writing and Math.

D. Rewards

Dawn Binder wanted to discuss whether other parents felt that kids received too many candy rewards. This was discussed and parents did not feel that it was a huge problem.

V. Reports

A. Staff and Principal Report

Smart boards were installed during winter break and they are a big hit with the teachers and students.

Fourth grade Sacramento trip is on February 15th

April 24th is Kindergarten roundup

Science Fair is February 13th

Maiya Shoemaker and Jamie Ferrell are representing North Zone Spelling Bee

Michael Katz the storyteller was a huge success.

Drama Class started after school on January 29th

B. Home and School Club

New officers are being sought for next year. They will plan on having a table at the Kindergarten round up. Kim De Serpa would like to resurrect the tri fold information brochure for parents new to Valencia.

Kim De Serpa let the group know that there is an artist available, Steven Young to do sketches of your children and 1/3 of the sales of these picture will be given back to the school. A golf tournament was mentioned as another fund raiser for Home and School.

C. North Zone

Budget report was the topic of that nights discussion. Susan Perez added that PVUSD's GATE program was also was presented at the North Zone meeting. The comment was made that North

Zone was a quiet and slow moving meeting this month.

D. Grants/Playground

Kim De Serpa gave us an update on monies received. 10,000 pending from Santa Cruz County Parks, 5,000 from Safeway and 500 from Bay Federal. \$15,000 needed for installation.

VI. Plusses/Deltas

None mentioned

VII. March Burning Issues

Charter Schools and how they do or don't impact schools, budget and school plan.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The next School Site Meeting is March 11, 2008 in the Valencia School Library.

Respectfully submitted by: Eileen Shea