

VAPO Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2009

Meeting called to order at 8:19 a.m.

Members in attendance: Audra Nuttall, Lisa Schulte, Pamela Silva, Dawn Peabody, Tina Wigman, Angela Waite, Laura Nicholls and Donald Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance, welcome, and introductions- guests present were Blanca Loya and Karen Carter.

President report-Newsletter items are due April 21st. The board/VAPO dinner is scheduled for April 24th at 6:30 p.m. at Audra's house.

Notes from the board meeting: Teachers are having a trunk sale to clear our unwanted items from their classrooms on April 17th immediately after school. The board is sending Heidi Mitchell to Valley Leadership meetings once a month for networking. A new 7th grade class is being added for the coming year (for a total of 3 classes). There will be only three 5th grade classes.

PIN: The Parent Information Night meeting regarding fund raising yielded only two attendees other than VAPO Council members. We discussed whether or not to replace the Fall cookie dough fund raiser with Walk-A-Thon or to keep both of them. We decided to go ahead with the Walk-A-Thon this spring and cookie dough in the fall.

Elections: Audra is sending out a flyer to encourage parents to apply for VAPO Council committee seats. She also asked everyone to try to recruit someone to be on the council. Elections will be held at our next meeting on May 13th.

Stage: The cost of the new stage is \$8,525 plus tax & shipping. Lisa made a motion to allocate \$10,000 toward the purchase of the stage. Pamela seconded the motion. Motion granted.

Basketball court: Tina made a motion to allocate \$10,000 toward the purchase of a second basketball court if the school can appropriate funds for the remainder of the cost to build it. If not, we will discuss other options for the use of these monies. We want to review the bids before the funds are issued. Laura seconded the motion. Motion granted.

New Parent Orientation: meetings are scheduled for April 15th, May 13th, and June 17th.

Treasurer report-Committee budgets were handed out and need to be reviewed in detail by each VAPO member. Proposed budgets for the incoming governing council for 2009-2010 must be submitted to Donald at the next meeting.

Minutes: Donald made a motion to approve February and March minutes. Tina seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Spirit Day Ice Cream: Lisa proposed a prepaid ice cream card for Spirit Day ice cream. The cost of the card is \$3.00 for 9 ice creams (buy 2 at \$.50 each, get 1 free). Ice cream will be available for purchase without a prepaid card for \$.50 each. Cards will be sold at the beginning of the school year and will be available for purchase throughout the year if needed. Laura made a motion to approve this proposal; Tina seconded the motion; motion approved.

Curriculum: 7 books were reviewed and are ready for addition to the Recommended Reading List (see list attached). Tina made a motion to approve the books, Donald seconded the motion, motion granted.

Mr. Bauer, 7th & 8th grade English teacher, requested that some books be added to the list of Classroom Sets (see list attached). All of the books are already on the Recommended Reading List. Donald made a motion to add the books to the Classroom Sets list, Tina seconded the motion, motion granted.

Committee Updates:

Box Tops: The last day for Box Tops to be turned in to teachers is April 15th. Box Tops parties will be held during lunchtime on April 28th. One last collection will be made the last week of school so that none get lost during the move into the new building. Those Box Tops will not count toward any contests. A final submission will be made to General Mills at the end of May in order to redeem any BT that may expire in June.

Harkins Summer Movie Fun: Ticket sales went well. We sold 452 which yielded an income for VAPO of \$1,265.60. Tickets will be distributed the week of April 20th.

T-shirts for the new building: Audra & May are working on this.

Spring Book Fair: is scheduled for April 13th-17th. Dawn is sending out flyers and organizing this event.

Spring BBQ: is scheduled for April 17th. Pamela is organizing food and activities for this event.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 8:15 a.m. in the library. We will voting on new governing council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Books added to Recommended Reading List:

1. Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Genre: Fiction Interest Level: 4-6 Grade Level: 4.1
Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for RRL. Comments: This was a very fun, entertaining book to read. Pretty short and to the point. This book can show children about taking responsibility, not judging others. All the characters are interesting. Flow of book is good; keeps your interest. It would be best suited for 3-6 grade reading levels.
Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the RRL. Comments: Great book. Appropriate for any child grades 4 or up. Excellent way to show how an animal can help to bridge the differences between people.
Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Great tale of a girl and her dog.
Reviewer 4: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.

2. Charlotte Courage of the Stone by Helen Hughes Vick

Genre: Historical fiction Interest Level: 4-6 Grade Level:
Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Good book. Vivid detail. Author did a good job of depicting Arizona history in the late 1800's. Good depiction of Pima Indian culture in early AZ history.
Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: This was a really good book. Based in the southwest.
Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.

3. Flat Stanley Series by Jeff Brown

Flat Stanley series of books reviewed.
Genre: humor/fantasy Interest Level: K-2 Grade Level: K-2
Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Teaches values of family, honesty and making efforts to help others. Demonstrates that not everyone has the same attitude and it is better to care about people who need help. It also shows that adults can be angry, and may change their minds when approached by other adults.
Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Very fun to read. Great for kids imagination.
Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Great book.
Reviewer 4: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Great book. Could be used in conjunction with a Flat Stanley Project for fun in the first grade.
Reviewer 5: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.
Reviewer 6: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.
Reviewer 7: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.
Reviewer 8: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.
Reviewer 9: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.
Reviewer 10: Circled **DON'T KNOW** for the **RRL**. No Comments.

4. Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Genre: Adventure Interest Level: 5-7 Grade Level: 6.3

Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Really enjoyed this book. Premise is a boy (13) on his way to visit his father in Canadian wilderness—the pilot of the small plane has a heart attack and the boy has to figure out the best place to crash land. Then he has to figure out how to survive with only the hatchet his mother gave him. He never loses hope or gives up—he fights to survive and he learns about himself, his strengths, his courage and his ability to co-exist with the creatures of the lake and forest. He watches, he listens, he learns and he changes as a person and recognizes that his experience is changing him forever. Great book!

Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Excellent reading – I did not want to put it down! It's about a 13 year old boy.

Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: I enjoyed the book. It could be compared to Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell.

5. Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff

Genre: Historical Fiction Interest Level: 3-5 Grade Level: 4.9

Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Early to mid 1800's Ireland and the potato blight. The indifference of the English landowners to the people dying of starvation. Told through the eyes of a 12 year old girl. It's about faith, perseverance in the face of extreme difficulty and innovation to stay alive. The importance of family and caring about others. The author makes us feel what it is like to be hungry all of the time, to have nothing and the futility of their situation. It brought tears to my eyes. The infusion of some Irish words and way of talking in this period of time may throw some off—but it is well worth the small effort.

Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Interesting book about the potato famine in Ireland. Irritating fact – several foreign expressions requiring use of dictionary at front of book; not self explanatory in story.

Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.

6. A Single Shard by Linda Sue Parker

Genre: Historical fiction Interest Level: 4-7 Grade Level: 6.8

Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Excellent book. It is easy to find yourself rooting for Tree-ear in all his endeavors.

Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Wonderful book full of examples of honesty and integrity, gratitude and hard work. Set in Korea a long time ago.

Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. No Comments.

7. When the Soldiers Were Gone by Vera W. Propp

Genre: Historical fiction Interest Level: 3.6 Grade Level: 3-5

Reviewer 1: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Couldn't put it down! Author wrote a scaled down to a child's level account of a young Jewish boy's life after WWII as he adjusted to life with his birth parents. He had lived with non-Jewish friends to save his life and thought they were really his parents.

Reviewer 2: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: Very compelling story for a young reader. Story is told through the eyes of an 8 year old and is very tender and very believable. The only part of the story that might cause a problem is on page 63 when one child calls another child "dirty Jew." It is said in context to the story and in my opinion a typical statement for the era in which this story takes place.

Reviewer 3: Circled **YES** for the **RRL**. Comments: This was a really good book! Very enjoyable.

Book added to Classroom Sets Lists:

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Silas Marner by George Eliot

Island of Dr. Moreou by H. G. Wells

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

The Red Pony by John Steinbeck

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Animal Farm by George Orwell