

VAPO Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2009

Meeting called to order at 8:25 a.m.

Members in attendance: Audra Nuttall, Lisa Schulte, Diana Hernandez, Pamela Silva, Dawn Peabody, Laura Nicholls, & Donald Smith.

Welcome and introductions- no guests were present.

We took a picture of the VAPO Council for the yearbook.

A box will be added to the VAPO mailboxes for “approved flyers”. This is for any flyers that are distributed school wide. They will be filed in a binder by month so that future incoming council members will have examples of all the different types of flyers that went out during each month.

President report-Audra said that Christine Shupe volunteered to coordinate the Walk-A-Thon again this year. She reminded everyone that 100% of the donations go back to the school. Coach Mims will choose the proposed date of the event. Pledge packets will be distributed March 30th and must be turned in by April 8th.

Treasurer report-Dawn resigned from her position as Treasurer however; she will remain the Library Chairperson. Donald expressed interest in becoming Treasurer and resigned from his position as Vice President. Laura made a motion to elect Donald as Treasurer; Diana seconded the motion; motion granted. Pam was nominated as Vice President. A vote will be taken via e-mail or at the next scheduled meeting.

Donald made a motion to approve November & December meeting minutes. Dawn seconded the motion; motion granted.

We voted on 9 books that were reviewed for the Recommended Reading List. Pamela made a motion to add all 9 books to the RRL; Donald seconded; motion granted. See attached for a list of the books and reviewer comments.

Spirit Day Ice Cream-Angela researched other companies for lower ice cream prices, but did not find a company with lower prices than those we are already paying. We discussed raising the price to \$.50 for the remainder of this year but decided to wait until the next school year since ice cream sales are not operating at a loss but rather close to a break-even point. Donald made a motion to raise the price of ice cream to \$.50 for the next school year; Pamela seconded the motion; motion granted.

Committee updates:

Campus Pride-regarding Handy Dads-Diana will inquire about what steps have been taken to get the sand boxes built. Audra asked that the Handy Dads volunteer to help

with traffic control at the Spring Festival. Diana will work with Vicki Lowery to coordinate this.

Curriculum-The Social Studies review done by some of the parents of Valley Academy is finished. Laura presented the review results. See attached for information that is more detailed. Donald made a motion to recommend Harcourt/Holt social studies curricula to the Principal for review; Pamela seconded the motion; motion granted.

Student Relations-Field Day will be spread out over 3 days, Feb. 18th-20th, with different games than those played in the past. Coach Mims is coming up with ideas for the games.

Fundraising-Audra would like to set up a Spring Festival blog on the Internet to keep everyone updated on the progress of the event. She will seek approval from administration before setting it up.

Box Tops-Lisa reported we are expecting a check from General Mills for \$3,827.57 for the October submission.

February 4th is the school-wide Read-In. The library fund will pay for breakfast for the readers. Student Council will serve the breakfast & escort the readers to the classrooms.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 18th at 8:15 a.m. in the library.

1. **Horrible Harry Series**

4 titles reviewed: Horrible Harry's Secret, Horrible Harry Goes to Sea, Horrible Harry and the Christmas Surprise, Horrible Harry and the Kickball Wedding written by Suzy Kline

Published by Penguin Books and Scholastic, 1990-2006 Approximately 50-60 pages each.

Genre: Fiction, Humor Interest level: K-2 and 3-5 depending on the book.

Reading level: 3.1-3.5

Reviews 1, 2, and 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 4: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Relates well to 7 year olds. Teaches good standards.

Reviewer 5: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Enjoyable!

Reviewer 6: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Good book, the story flows easily and is a great first chapter book.

Reviewer 7: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Age appropriate, fun reading.

Reviewer 8: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Great for 2nd grade book reports.

Reviewer 9: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Good balance of text and illustration for younger readers. The 2nd grade setting is appealing to kids in that range. Good opportunity for further discussion on values, cultural differences. Promotes peaceful conflict resolution as well as empathy. A good read—even for the 40-something set!

2. **A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt written by C. Coco De Young.**

Published by Yearling in 1999 105 pages

Genre: Historical Fiction Interest Level: 3-5 Reading level: 3.2

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Set in the USA during the Great Depression. An 11 year old girl's idealistic life is threatened by the onset of the depression. She is afraid but wants to help her family.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

3. **Water Song written by Suzanne Weyn.**

Published by Simon and Schuster Children's Publisher in 2006. 194 pages

Genre: Fiction/ fairy tales Interest Level: 9-12 Reading Level: 6-8

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Fiction—a retelling of the Frog Prince tale. A nice, sweet, innocent romance. Setting is WWII. Fun story—lets the reader decide if something is “magic” or imagination. Good quality pleasure reading.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: The book is a good bridge between simplistic fairy tales and “reality”. Contents may provoke some scary thoughts and questions about warfare. Well written.

4. **To Touch the Stars written by Karen Zeinert**

Published by Waterbird Books in 2004 126 pages

Genre: Historical Fiction Interest level: 4-6 Reading Level: 5.0

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

5. The President's Daughter written by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Published by Yearling in 2004 156 pages

Genre: Historical Fiction/ Biographical Interest Level: 3-5 Reading Level: 4.1

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Wonderful depiction of a family's life when the father is thrust into role of US President. Author did *extensive* research before writing this book, so it is highly accurate in many areas. Ethel was shown as a high-spirited young lady who struggles to adjust to her new life.

6. Lily's Crossing written by Patricia Reilly Giff

Published by Yearling in 1997 180 pages

Genre: Historical Fiction Interest Level: 3-5 Reading Level: 5.8

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Told through the eyes of ten year old girl, Lily. Setting is WWII in the Northeast part of the US. Details blacking out car headlights and house windows, fishing for fish so there was meat to eat, war posters, etc.

7. Grandfather's Dance written by Patricia MacLachlan

Published by HarperCollins in 2006 84 pages

Genre: Fiction, Humor Interest Level 3-5 Reading Level: 2.4

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

8. Sing Down the Moon written by Scott O'Dell

Published by Yearling in 1970 137 pages

Genre: Historical Fiction Interest Level: 3-5 Reading Level: 5.0?

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: This is a great book. It has a great historical feel to it. The writer tells the story effortlessly—it flows very well and is very readable. The reader gets a good sense of what the Navaho Indians went through as they were forced to move away from their homes.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Great illustration of Arizona history—full of facts woven into a lovely story.

Reviewer 3: No Comments.

9. Crispin At the Edge of the World written by Avi

Published by Hyperion Books for Children in 2006 234 pages

Genre: Fiction, Adventure—sequel to Crispin The Cross of Lead (which is required reading in the 6th grade classes) part 2 of a trilogy, the third and final book has not yet been published.

Interest Level: 6-8 Reading Level: 5.2

Reviewer 1: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 2: Circled Yes for the RRL. No Comments.

Reviewer 3: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Contains a little language such as “bastard”, “by the wounds of Christ” and other exclamations that are used in context and are appropriate for the time period being written about.

Reviewer 4: Circled Yes for the RRL. Comments: Wonderful book set in England in the 1300’s AD. Makes the reader think about the differences in people’s appearance and religion and how people treat each other. The author writes at a children’s level without talking down or preaching. The book easily leads to further discussion on some very important social issues.

Social Studies Curriculum Review

As of January 2009, the Parent Textbook/Curriculum Committee has reviewed the current Valley Academy Social Studies Curriculum which is the Pearson textbooks for grades 1-6 and the Houghton Mifflin textbooks for grades 7 and 8. In conjunction with this review, we have also reviewed the Harcourt Social Studies program which includes the Harcourt textbooks for grades 1-6 and the Holt textbooks for grades 7 and 8 as an alternate possibility for the Social Studies curriculum taught at Valley Academy beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

The following report has been compiled as per the Valley Academy Textbook Selection Procedures. To show compliance to these procedures, I will reference the Textbook Selection Procedures throughout the report. The procedure language is shown in bold below, with the actions taken to comply noted in normal text following each procedure point.

- **“Recommendations for the textbooks and the supplements to be reviewed may come from the Principal, faculty, and parents. The textbooks recommended should be the best choice for meeting the objectives of the Board adopted curriculum while reflecting the philosophy of Valley Academy at stated in its charter.”**

The decision to review our current Social Studies Curriculum and compare it to the Harcourt curriculum was made during the 2008-2009 school year, prior to my position as Curriculum Committee Chairperson. Other curricula including Prentice Hall and Glencoe McGraw Hill were looked at as possible curricula to review however, the decision to not include these other curricula in the review process was made during the 2008-2009 school year.

- **"Upon deciding what textbooks are to be selected for review, administration will work with the parent textbook/ curriculum committee to collect samples of textbooks, teacher manuals, and Valley Academy course objectives to arrange to have them on display for all parties to review. Textbook review forms will be available in the same area in which the textbooks are placed for review.”**

Harcourt School Publishers was contacted for samples of their Social Studies curriculum for grades K-8. These samples have been in our possession since April of 2008 and include the Holt Social Studies program which is a division of Harcourt School Publishers. The Pearson curriculum was gathered from Valley Academy teachers and staff. These curricula were put on display for review on campus, side by side per grade level, for parents to come and review the possible material that would be taught in the classroom.

Advertising was used to announce the need for reviewers. Signs were put up along the pick-up and drop off zones. Signs were on the office door, on the VAPO Board and in the Multi-purpose room. Information was also available in the Valley Academy Monthly Newsletter in September, October, November and December of 2008. The Social Studies Curriculum was made available to the parents from October 2, 2008-December 20, 2008 at various times and days to meet the needs and schedules of all those interested in reviewing. There was also always the opportunity to set up a private appointment for review if the hours provided did not meet with a parents schedule.

A survey was created on surveymonkey.com for the parents to fill out. The survey was shown to and approved by Mrs. Szostak and Mrs. Wilber in September of 2008. 19 reviews were completed.

- **These procedures and all original documentation, once submitted, will be kept on campus until the textbooks have been adopted and in use a minimum on one year following textbook adoption and use.**

This report and all original information will be available for at least one year on campus.

- **The parent textbook/ curriculum committee will collect the review forms at the end of the review period.**

I have collected all the reviews and input the data into the survey created on surveymonkey.com. The Survey results are attached.

- **The parent textbook/ curriculum committee will compile and present review forms along with their recommendations to the Governing Council.**

This report and the survey results will be presented to the VAPO Governing Council at their monthly meeting on January 21, 2008.

- **The Governing Council will make its recommendation to the Principal.**

On January 21, 2008, following the Governing Council's meeting; all information, collected data, reviews and survey information will be given to Mrs. Szostak.

At this point, the Parent Textbook/Curriculum Committee responsibility has been completed. We will be happy to meet with the Principal and/or the Faculty Staff Advisory Council if the request is made to do so.

The Principal will review and present the textbook recommendations to the Faculty Staff Advisory Council for their approval.

If the Governing Council and the Faculty Staff Advisory Council are in agreement, the Principal will submit the recommended textbooks to the Board of Directors for approval.

If the Governing Council and Faculty Staff Advisory Council are not in agreement, the Principal will work with the two groups to try to establish an agreement. If, after working with both groups, agreement cannot be reached, the Principal will decide on the final recommendation to be made to the Board of Directors.