

United Educators of San Francisco
Executive Board
Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 4:15 p.m.
Minutes

Order of Business

Agenda

1. Roll Call Roberto Michel, Sergeant at Arms
2. Minutes..... Susan Solomon, Secretary

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the August 30, 2006 Executive Board minutes as presented.

Financial Report.....Elaine Merriweather

Sister Merriweather presented the proposed expenses budget for 2006-2007. The revenue budget has not been completed yet because dues based on the 2% and 6.5% raises have not been fully calculated and implemented. UESF went over budget for 2005-2006 due to repayment to the SFUSD of the monies owed. The debt is almost entirely repaid. We are hoping to recover some of the money spent on organizing from CTA.

M/S/C preliminary adoption of our 2006-07 expenses budget, contingent upon the information about revenue that will be presented next month.

Special Order of Business

1. M/S/F with 3 abstentions: Resolution and Debate on Proposition 89. Tom Edminster
Whereas the influence of large donors in political campaigns has been subject of much study and political research; and
Whereas the influence of increasingly large amounts of money and financial interests in political campaigns has contributed to cycles of "donor seeking" by candidates and political campaigns instead of loyalty to and political programs and interests aligned with the needs of working people, women, people of color, environmentalists, and other popular interests; and
Whereas Proposition 89, the "Clean Money Initiative" seeks to lessen the influence of large donors and enhance the influence of ordinary citizens and popular interests; and
Whereas Proposition 89 seeks to level the playing field by creating guidelines for "Clean Money" candidates and ballot measures, including a modest boost in the corporate income tax (0.02%); and
Whereas Proposition 89 also encourages designated "Clean Money" candidates to seek public support and minor contributions from small donors rather than huge funders; and
Whereas, Proposition 89 has been endorsed by the Democratic gubernatorial candidate (Phil Angelides), the League of Women Voters, and Common Cause---in addition to its visionary and activist initiators, the California Nurses Association;
Therefore be it resolved that UESF endorse Proposition 89 "The Clean Money" initiative as a pioneering first step in both (1) encouraging a healthy dose of citizen involvement in candidacies and initiatives, and in (2) discouraging and further exposing the distortions that large donors have on the political processes in this state.
A speaker from CAN spoke in favor of Proposition 89.

Shannon O'Hara of CTA spoke in opposition to Proposition 89. There was a lengthy discussion about the proposition. M/S/C to extend discussion by 10 minutes.

2. Bargaining Survey Linda Plack and Dennis Kelly

Certificated: Suggestion that "teacher" be replaced with "bargaining unit member" wherever appropriate, or that the wording be changed, i.e. "reimburse teachers" to "reimbursement."

Suggestions: firm limit on class size. More on assignments and reassignments, construction protocols (pay for moving, packing and setting up rooms)

Classified suggestion: paid professional development appropriate for their work.

Bargaining priorities for substitutes needed.

Time for paras and teachers to meet together.

Para evaluation.

Certified, elementary: prep time in the form of relief time during the instructional day.

Assignments of paras, especially S10s.

3. Arbitration Appeal Stan DeBella

The grievant, Patrice Thompson, English teacher at Washington High School, presented her case. There was a lengthy discussion after a lengthy presentation. M/S/C to extend the discussion by 5 minutes. M/S/F with 4 abstentions to take this to arbitration. The Grievance Committee noted that, if there are further incidents between this member and her principal, UESF will assist her.

M/S/C **President's Recommendations for Expenditures** Dennis Kelly

- 1. TURN Membership Pre-registration..... \$300.00
- 2. TURN Winter Conference..... (up to) \$1,000.00
- 3. Coleman Advocates (Agency Membership) \$100.00
- 4. SF Organizing Project (Support) \$100.00
- 5. SPUR (Membership)..... \$100.00
- 6. SF Red Cross Community Heroes (4@\$50.00) \$200.00
- 7. SF Housing action Coalition (Membership) \$500.00
- 8. SFUSD/UESF – Para to Teacher Program..... \$1,000.00
- 9. Renewal of USLAW Membership \$250.00
- 10. Region 1 Leadership Conference (retroactive) (3@\$275.00) \$825.00
- 11. Added by Tim Reidy: training for two members through the School Counselors Assn AB1802..... \$250

TURN stands for Teacher Union Reform Network.

SPUR stands for San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association.

#7 was pulled in the initial vote to consider it with the resolution below.

Resolutions

- 1. M/S/C Housing Action Coalition (forwarded from June, 2006 meeting...Dennis Kelly
Whereas UESF has long argued that there is a need for educator housing; and

Whereas UESF and the Board of Education have both passed resolutions calling for the use of SFUSD surplus property to be used to lessen the educator housing crunch; and

Whereas, the Housing Action Coalition appeared before this body in June and then before a group of interested members during the summer; and

Whereas there is a continuing interest and need for educator housing;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that UESF shall join the Housing Action Coalition for a \$500 membership fee and seek their guidance in pursuing the goal of educator housing.

2. M/S/C: Resolution in Support of T4SJ.....Karen Zapata and Tom Edminster

Whereas Teachers 4 Social Justice is a non-profit organization that promotes peer-based approaches to professional development for teachers and functions with volunteer assistance and without traditional grants and funding; and Whereas Teachers 4 Social Justice has been presenting an annual conference for educators since 2001 and will present the 2006 conference on Saturday, October 14th at Mission High School; and

Whereas the conference is free of charge and includes lunch; and

Whereas the workshops presented at the conference deal with many issues that SFUSD teachers struggle with: War and current events, classroom discipline from a social justice perspective, gender and queer issues, and ethnic studies curriculum; and

Whereas many teachers involved in the organization are SFUSD teachers and activists within UESF;

Therefore let it be resolved that United Educators of San Francisco will contribute \$200 to the Oct. T4SJ conference, and will also help to publicize this event, including but not limited to an announcement in their monthly newsletter and email blasts, and any other effective means to publicize the conference among educators.

3. M/S/C Endorsement of USLAW Conference and Demonstration.... Tom Edminster

Information about the conference and demonstration were included in the meeting packet.

4. M/S/F with 4 abstentions: Retired Division Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposal..... Gerry Meister

Whereas UESF-Retired Division members did not have an opportunity to meet to consider the proposed UESF Constitution & Bylaws amendments affecting the Retired Division before the amendments were introduced for first reading at the May 17, 2006, Assembly meeting and

Whereas the Retired Division Executive Board surveyed the membership this summer to determine their initial reactions to four of these proposed amendments and received responses from more than 200 members, and

Whereas the Executive Board has reviewed and summarized members' comments, which indicate that many Retired Division members are concerned about potential immediate and long-term effects of these proposed amendments, and

Whereas the Retired Division will submit a resolution to the Assembly at its September 20 meeting asking that all amendments affecting the Retired Division be tabled and referred to a special committee,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the UESF Executive Board establish a special committee, to be approved by the Assembly, composed of three UESF Executive Board members who are not Retired Division members and three Retired Division Executive Board members to be chosen by the Retired Division Executive Board, to

review and reconsider the proposed amendments to the UESF Constitution and Bylaws that relate to the Retired Division.

The UESF Retired Division meets every other month. Sister Meister expressed concern that there was not sufficient time for the division to consider the proposed changes. Motion to table the decision about the separation of the amendments and the formation of a special committee to the next Assembly failed for lack of a second.

- 5. M/S/C Oakland Local 771 Crisis.....Dennis Kelly

Be It Resolved that UESF Executive Board call on the director of the Oakland USD adult division to respect the office of the President of the local 771 and to refrain from terminating her for union activities, and

Be it Further Resolved to direct the UESF president to write to the Oakland administration and Board of Education to communicate the UESF position.

- 6. Election Committee Recommendations (reminder) Charlie Hibbard

The recommendations, which were presented at an earlier meeting, were included in the meeting packet as a reminder that they will be voted on at the next Assembly meeting.

Reports

- 1. President.....Dennis Kelly

- a. Contract Committees: Brother Kelly pointed out that he has appointed convening chairs for union-district committees, to be formed as a result of negotiations. Committee members will be appointed soon.

- 2. Executive Vice-President Linda Plack

- a. September 30th Membership Conference: Sister Plack reviewed the schedule for the annual conference, to be held at Washington High School.

- 3. COPE Report.....Ken Tray

Brother Tray spoke of the importance of members participating in phone banking and precinct walking for the Angelides for governor campaign, as well as for phone banking for our three endorsed candidates for school board, all 3 of whom were endorsed by SFLC.

- 4. Committee Reports (As Needed)

- a. Grievance Committee Stan Dobell

M/S/C to deny taking case 05-06 54 to arbitration.

M/S/C to take case 05-06 55 to arbitration.

M/S/F (tie vote) to reconsider the earlier arbitration appeal.

Adjournment at 6:50 p.m. in honor of Keith Eickman and Sue Bierman.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Solomon, Secretary