

UESF Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2001
McAteer High School

Minutes

President Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:20.

Minutes

Approval of Minutes.....Dennis Kelly

MSC to accept the minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2001 as amended to insert the word “from” following “withdraw” in item 4 (UESF Elections) on page 2.

Reports

1. Treasurer’s Report Lily Gee Hickman

Line 20 of the budget shows the effects of increased utilities charges. The Budget Committee has taken this item into account for the next budget by increasing the category by 100%.

The District has paid for their portion of the printing of the teacher and para contracts.

2. President’s Report Kent Mitchell

a. The CTA bus tour will be at Balboa tomorrow morning. It is intended to show the needs of low-performing schools.

b. Bruce Julian, the district negotiator, called yesterday to say that they would like to sit down and talk about a PARS retirement incentive. The meeting will take place in May.

c. The contract bargaining surveys for the teachers were summarized in 1000 pages. About 1600 surveys were returned, or about 52%. A survey of substitutes is being prepared, and the paraprofessionals survey is being tallied. A survey from the superintendent is also coming out soon. Building Reps will be expected to distribute and collect the surveys for her. Yet another survey will go out to the 90 or so people involved in the Peer Assistance and Review program.

d. On 4 May there will be an event involving the area legislators and the AFT locals of the Bay Area. This will involve City College’s teachers, USF teachers, and the Archdiocesan Teachers of San Francisco as well as the elementary and high school Jefferson District teachers from Daly City.

e. The energy crisis is having an impact on the taxes collected in the state which in turn cuts into the money available for schools. The bellwether of impending danger is the amount of withholding tax collected by the state. Withholding taxes are reported being at an all-time low.

3. Vice President’s Report..... Rudi Faltus

a. There will be another UBC training workshop next week. It will focus on evaluation.

b. There is a distribution this week.

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c. The UBCs are going to be asked to report on when each site will hold its site elections and also to make a report on the accomplishments of this school year.

d. UESF is involved in providing five scholarships honoring members and friends of the union who have passed away.

e. The local is supporting the CTA Urban Issues conference at the end of April. 30 registrations will be paid for.

4. Contract Development UpdateSteve Shapiro

So far there has been the open-ended survey of new ideas, the survey of four areas, and discussion of the ideas raised at grade level committees.

Committee Reports

• Child Development

• **Elementary Committee..... Rudi Faltus**

Elementary prep time; class size of 20; reduction of kindergarten to no more than 240 minutes.

• **Middle School CommitteeRobin Brasso**

This committee reported work in the area of student discipline and the contract. The issue has been reduced to several component which are the focus of the committee meetings. Middle school parent conferences and the hours that they eat up are a new area of concern. State class-size reduction and its impact on the rest of the school; the need for added dental coverage; opening of general fund budgets to UBC involvement; posting of vacancies: the definition of a “period”; “real” involvement in the interviews for principals; and the role of the UBC in student weighted formula.

• **High School Committee.....Luisa Ezquerro**

Every school has been represented at least at one of the meetings. There will be another one on 25 April. A list of fourteen items (unranked) which have been brought to the committee was provided to the Assembly members. Items brought up in the committee include: the need to provide for students who have several failing grades; the need for a real class-size maximum; a change in the way that the high school allocation of staff is arrived at; the preponderance of special education at some schools and in some classes; issues around contractual Article XXV and administrative respect for the union on site; realistic graduation requirements; teacher evaluation processes; honest reporting of teaching openings; coordinating grievances with the union office; the noticeable loss of paraprofessional support in classrooms; early retirement incentives; salaries; classroom occupancy; and issues of morale.

• **Counselors Committee.....Linda Plack**

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There are two main issues, and a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Proper disciplinary standards and procedures for students are essential. A workable ratio of students to counselors is also desired. (National organizations recommend a ratio of 250:1.)

Action

Old Business

New Business

1. Municipal Utility District ResolutionDennis Kelly

MSC to support the resolution as presented.

2. May Day Resolution.....Larry Orloff

MSC to support the resolution as recommended by the Executive Board with the final wording deleted from “including” to “28th”.

3. Request to acquire and publicize the Harvard Educational Review report on the benefits of the unionization of teachers.

4. **MSF** to reconsider the May Day resolution.

Good of the Order

- 125 members have sign-up for the pre-retirement conference on this Saturday
- Paras are needed for a conference.
- Earthwatch packets are available with scholarships to fund summer workshops all around the world.
- Scholarships are available for the children of members through the CFT, California Labor Federation, and the CTA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 in memory of Sister Gustavia Gash and Brother Bill Keays.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelly, Secretary