

UESF Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2001
McAteer High School
MINUTES

Vice-president Rudi Faltus called the meeting to order at 4:20 and then directed the members to an exercise in collecting data regarding evaluation. The groups reported briefly and turned in the chart paper on which their notes were taken.

Group 1: Some high schools are in the new STARS evaluation program

Group 2: three schools were unaware of what the STARS program is

Group 3: no STARS process at elementaries; some in MS

Group 4: short form evaluation is more positively received; Lowell UBC surveyed staff before entering STARS.

Group 5: some schools in STARS without UBC involvement, some with UBC involvement

Approval of Minutes.....Dennis Kelly

MSC approval of the minutes

Reports

1. Treasurer's Report.....Lily Hickman

Sister Hickman directed attention to the report in the packet. She explained that with 42% of the year gone, UESF has taken in 48% of its projected revenue and has spent 43% of its expense budget. Some questions about the accurate numbers for distribution purposes arose from the floor. Members also asked for examples of items covered by specific categories of expenditures.

The COPE report showed no financial activity during the past month.

2. President's Report.....Kent Mitchell

- The new Board of Education majority has taken over. Jill Wynns was elected president 7-0. Dan Kelly was elected Vice-president by the same margin. The board now has shifted into the learning mode.
- Evaluations: The old system has a defined contractual process and no standards. The new STARS standards are derived from the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. There is a danger that administrators will apply the old criteria to the new process. Administrators need training to make it all work.
- Elections: Officer and Executive Board elections begin next month. Nomination forms should have been received for CFT convention, CTA State Council, and NEA Representative Assembly. President Mitchell described each constituent body.
- Election Committee: Gerry Meister, Elections Chair, needs volunteers for the committee.
- Contract Building: The timeline and individual questionnaires were presented and described. NEA will provide UESF with a complex survey for use in early March.

Duties and responsibilities of the Contract Committee members were described and members were urged to apply for the committee. The size of the committee will be determined by the versatility of the applicants.

Prioritization of the items comes about through discussion within the Committee, Assembly, etc.

- In response to a question from the floor, it was reported that no consolidations are planned for the spring semester, nor are there any paraprofessional layoffs planned.
- UESF is committed to participation in the upcoming rally, march, and breakfast honoring Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez Day will be celebrated at the end of March. His birthday is the 31st of March.

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

- The UBC training program will begin on 30 January and continue through the spring. Both teacher and para contracts will be covered at the meetings.
- There will be a pre-Valentines Party at St. Mary's Cathedral on 13 February.

Old Business

New Business

- A member asked if UESF will take a position on Governor Davis's proposal to extend the middle school year. Discussion centered around using the processes of the union to discuss the issues and to raise policy positions afterward. It was clear from the discussion that there is little if any support for the Governor's proposal from teachers or their unions at any level.

Good of the Order

- Commendations to Vice-president Faltus for addressing strengthening UBCs
- UBCs should urge members to be involved in contract development.
- The High School Exit Exam is being locally mandated for all ninth grade students even though passing it will not count. The Lowell UBC has written to the Superintendent asking for the blanket requirement for the test to be waived.
- UBCs should meet with administrations regarding emergency procedures and preparedness in regard to rolling blackouts.

MSC to adjourn at 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelly, Secretary