

United Educators of San Francisco Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2002, 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

President Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:15.

Endorsed Assembly candidate **Harry Britt** showed up without prior announcement and was asked to speak to the body. He explained that he is a teacher and thinks that there needs to be a radical change in the approach to education in Sacramento. He thanked UESF for its endorsement and asked that volunteers turn out to help his low-budget campaign.

Minutes

Approval of MinutesDennis Kelly

MSC to accept the minutes.

Reports

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

- UESF is audited each year to establish the Hudson Report amounts. This set of reports will look radically different from the next set which will be re-formatted in conformity with the audit. Per capita payments were withheld in anticipation of buying the UESF building, but will be recredited as a part of the audit.

- There will be a meeting with a broker for office real estate. The current advice is to make another offer on the property at 655 14th Street.

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

- Labor 88 (California Labor History with an emphasis on SF teachers) begins tomorrow evening at 7pm at 655 14th Street.

- UESF will reimburse registration fees (\$45) for successful completion of the course.

- UBC training topics were distributed at this meeting. There are five monthly sessions for the spring. The training is open to non-UBC members of UESF on a space available basis.

3. President's Report.....Kent Mitchell

- Bargaining update

The fourth bargaining session has taken place. The Executive Board members will soon be involved in subcommittee work. 23 dates have been set for bargaining (along with the hope that all of them will not be needed).

The old conference room at 135 Van Ness was the site of the district's chief financial officer opening books for the purpose of facilitating comparison of SFUSD salaries with other districts.

A bargaining update is included in the distribution that goes out tomorrow.

The current bargaining team for the district has no history with the district and so some things that the union takes for granted are news to them. At this point they have been receptive to learning.

- PARS buyout

There are many rumors and the superintendent assures the union that she has no opinion and is only looking into the costs. The district has contracted with School Services to do an analysis of the program and report around 21 January. The main question seems to be: Is the program fiscally sound? Motivation for the district—loss of Consent Decree funds and cutbacks in state funding—do not seem to be forthcoming. The program may be suspicious to some because it is a product of the former superintendent. San Francisco still attracts people who want to come here and the Human Resources has traditionally had ample response to any recruiting. Test One was met when enough teachers signed up for the program. Test Two seems to have been met, but there is not yet adequate data about who is teaching and being paid by what fund. (75% of 38 people in that category is 28 people/positions.) The key to Test Two is to identify a set of people paid by the general fund but working outside the classroom. There is no Test Three in the contractual agreement.

Colorful characterizations of the results of withholding PARS retirement came from the floor.

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- Disturbing Board of Education tendencies

Under the reign of the prior superintendent there were socially ambitious resolutions developed and promulgated by the Board of Education that depleted the general fund and forced the district into patterns of fiscal irresponsibility. Some of that same kind of talk seems to be arising spontaneously from current Board members. These appear to be at cross purposes with the goals of the superintendent and are especially disturbing when the union is bargaining for the available money in the district.

- The development of the ten year plan and the task forces appear to be signs of a sound approach to the fiscal problems of the district. The union has not been well-involved in the committees or task forces, but the goals seem good.

Action

New Business

Fiscal Priorities for the SFUSD Resolution.....Kent Mitchell

WHEREAS, research supports the conclusion that no single factor is more important in a child’s learning than the quality of the child’s educator; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Unified School District has struggled to retain and attract quality educators; and

WHEREAS, the most significant factor in the District’s struggle to retain and attract sufficient numbers of quality educators has been the relatively low salaries paid by this District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has had a history of fiscal irresponsibility and of taking money from the General Fund and thereby reducing the ability of the District to increase salaries; and

WHEREAS, the current Board of Education has recently given signs of continuing that practice; and

WHEREAS, the District and Union are currently engaged, in negotiations and one subject of negotiations is developing comparability standards and formulae to make salaries competitive; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that UESF oppose any resolution before the Board of Education that diminishes the General Fund unless said resolution at least specifies 1) a source of funding for the program, or 2) identifies corresponding cuts in other programs or administrative costs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that UESF keep records of the voting patterns of current Board Members on Board resolutions that do not meet the standards of fiscal and educational responsibility stated herein; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that said voting pattern be a factor in any future political endorsement process conducted by UESF or its affiliates; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that any abrogation of the district’s responsibilities to its

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employees, the teachers and paraprofessionals who educate the children of San Francisco, will be interpreted as an unacceptable sign of bad faith.

MSF to amend by adding (after “bad faith”) to the final Resolved:

That may ultimately undermine the interest based-contract negotiations that the district and union are now engaged in.

MSC (the vote was unanimous)

Old Business

Good of the Order

- A question regarding teachers’ individual professional development plans was raised.
- Western Workers Festival will take place over the coming weekend.
- KALW will have a couple of pertinent programs related to SFUSD.
- Counselors Committee will meet at Lowell on 14 February.
- The UESF contingent will be marching in the Martin Luther King march. There is a poster in the distribution about the march.
- An OHMY (Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth) is being held on 2 March 2002 at Horace Mann Middle School.
- Cesar Chavez curriculum training at Mission HS on 7 February. A release day will be provided. There is a \$100 stipend.
- Indoor Air Quality help is available and is advertised in the next distribution.
- February 2 there is a call for volunteers to work in the Superquiz portion of the Academic Decathlon.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelly,
Secretary