

United Educators of San Francisco Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, November 21, 2001, 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

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

Approval of MinutesDennis Kelly

MSC to accept the minutes with editorial changes.

Reports

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

Sister Hickman was not present. President Mitchell presented the Treasurer's Report and explained the Building Committee is a group charged with investigating office space for UESF use when the current lease runs out.

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

Sister Faltus proudly presented the names of the twelve new Board certified teachers in the SFUSD. One teacher, Marsha Pannone, had previously won Board certification. A fourteenth person to receive Board certification is an artist-in-residence at SOTA. Sister Faltus explained that the accomplishments of these members of the district are in line with the union's focus on the quality of the staff.

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

- Bargaining update

President Mitchell noted that the training sessions for the bargaining teams had been completed and that a schedule of meetings reaching into February had been set. He identified the COLA for this year as in the neighborhood of 3.85% and explained that a challenge in bargaining would be to achieve any salary above that percentage.

- PARS

The PARS buyout this year could be helpful to the district if there is a significant shortfall of state money in the next two years.

- President Mitchell distributed a pair of items from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. Articles in the *Chronicle* had implied that School Board members Jill Wynns and Dan Kelly were the only people on the Board when ex-Superintendent Bill Rojas and his wrecking crew played fast and loose with the construction bond moneys. Today in a letter to the editor, Margaret Brodtkin of Coleman Advocates is linked to Wynns and Kelly. The *Bay Guardian* article gave a more comprehensive account of the roles of individuals and noted that Leland Yee was in a leadership role on the Board at the time of the Rojas transgressions, a fact seldom alluded to in the *Chronicle*. President Mitchell mused about the possible connection between the anti-Edison Corporation stands of Wynns and Brodtkin and their apparent targeting by the newspaper.

Action

New Business

COPE Committee Resolution, Assembly Candidates.....Dennis Kelly

WHEREAS the Primary Election to determine the candidates who will vie for the two State Assembly seats representing San Francisco is to be held on March 7, 2002 and,

WHEREAS teachers and paraprofessionals have a strong interest in electing representatives who will best represent our interests and help further our programs, and

WHEREAS there are no incumbents running for re-election in either Assembly District, and

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the members our union to play an active role to influence other local and statewide labor and community organizations to cause them to support the candidates we believe best meet the above described criteria, and

WHEREAS there is a need to ascertain which, if any, of the candidates for these offices have substantial agreement with the issues, goals, and aims of the UESF and/or have demonstrated responsibility and consistency in the performance of other duties or in the execution of other offices, and

WHEREAS the normal procedure for reaching endorsement decisions would have the COPE Committee interview candidates and make endorsement recommendations to the Executive Board and/or the Assembly for action, and

WHEREAS our COPE Committee Chair had originally scheduled a COPE endorsement meeting in December on a day which would have allowed the normal process to occur at the December Assembly meeting, and

WHEREAS at least three influential statewide organizations, the California Labor Federation, The California Federation of Teachers and The California Teachers Association have informed us that they have scheduled their endorsement meetings for the either the last week in November and/or the first week of December, and

WHEREAS historically our endorsement recommendations have proven to be very influential in the decision making of these organizations, and

WHEREAS the resources of these organizations would be extremely helpful to whichever candidates they endorse,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the UESF COPE Committee meet on November 26th, 2001 @ 5:00 PM at the UESF office for the purposes of interviewing candidates and making recommendations to the Executive Board as to which, if any, candidates for Assembly Districts 12 and 13 to endorse, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President shall cause a notice of the COPE Committee meeting to be sent to all COPE members in good standing, as soon as practicable, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President call for a special Executive Board meeting on November 26, 2001 @ 8:00 PM, for the limited purpose of receiving the recommendations of the COPE Committee and deciding which, if any candidates shall be endorsed by UESF, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President shall cause a notice of the Special Executive Board Meeting to be sent to all Executive Board members as soon as practicable, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the President shall forward the endorsements, if any, to any and all organizations he believes will act favorably upon them as soon as practicable.

MSC to adopt the resolution

Old Business

Good of the Order

Brother James Galgano (MLKing MS) sought clarification regarding items in the current contract and the upcoming meeting of the Special Education committee.

There were several other items of Good of the Order business which were unfortunately blown out of the Secretary's hand as he sought to retrieve the papers from his car on the blustery evening of the meeting.

Adjournment

At 5:35, the meeting adjourned with a moment of silence in memory of Brother John DeGregorio.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Kelly, Secretary