

United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2004, 4:00 p.m.
Final Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2004, Assembly meeting as presented.

Robin Brasso announced that on Saturday, November 13, the district is hosting the Enrollment Fair at Bill Graham Auditorium. She urged members to sign up to help staff the UESF table.

Financial Report..... Elaine Merriweather

M/S/C to accept the financial report as presented. Sister Merriweather provided a graph to show how our CTA dues are allocated.

Resolutions

1. M/S/C Regarding A.V.I.D. Program Mark Murray

WHEREAS the A.V.I.D. program has been highly successful in middle and high schools across the country, including a 100% high school graduation rate and a 77% rate of students going on to four year colleges,

AND WHEREAS the latest E.S.E.A. provisions include high school graduation rates as part of a school's annual yearly progress,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that U.E.S.F. advocate for adoption of the A.V.I.D. program in as many middle and high schools as possible,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that U.E.S.F. make a presentation to the school board and/or the appropriate district officials to further these goals. This could include contacting the programs' staff to assist in the presentation.

The A.V.I.D. (Advancement Via Individual Development) targets students who are at mid-level of achievement to help them prepare for and be admitted to college.

2. M/S/C Regarding Middle School Program Designation Mark Murray

WHEREAS current E.S.E.A. language allows school districts to designate middle school programs as either elementary or secondary,

AND WHEREAS many middle school teachers in our school district are elementary (K-8) certified,

AND WHEREAS these teachers would have to obtain secondary credentials in every subject they teach if their programs were designated secondary,

AND WHEREAS such designation would result in most elementary certified teachers having to leave middle school, regardless of their experience there,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that U.E.S.F. encourage the district to label as many middle school programs as elementary as would be needed to allow elementary teachers currently working in middle schools to remain there (For example: 6th grade programs where two teachers team teach the same group of students for their core can be designated elementary.)

- 3. M/S/C Regarding Dissemination of Highly Qualified Requirements.....Mark Murray WHEREAS teachers and paraprofessionals have until the end of next school year to become highly qualified under E.S.E.A. law,

AND WHEREAS SFUSD has thus far failed to disseminate this information to staff despite federal requirements to do so,

AND WHEREAS both groups may require time to take classes or get other documentation together to meet qualification requirements,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that UESF distribute the necessary information to teachers and paraprofessionals by training building representatives and by distributing necessary forms to individual school sites and that this be done as soon as possible.

There was some discussion about the meaning of the motion and the why it is necessary to disseminate the information about being highly qualified.

Question: If a para is working towards a degree, is it possible to get an extension?

Answer; No.

- 4. M/S/C In Support of Prop. F.....Tom Edminster

(This resolution came with a recommendation of a yes vote from the Executive Board.)

CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT - PROPOSITION F

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by adding Section 13.111 to authorize San Francisco residents 18 years of age or older either who have children in the San Francisco Unified School District or who serve as legal guardians or caregivers for children in the San Francisco Unified School District to vote in elections for the Board of Education, regardless of whether the resident is a United States citizen, and to direct the Board of Supervisors implement, by ordinance, non-citizen voting in School Board elections.

PROP F: OFFICIAL PROPONENT ARGUMENT

Education is the foundation of a strong societyresearch shows that when parents become more involved, all children benefit. A vote for Proposition F will allow San Francisco resident immigrant parents the right to vote in School Board elections.

No student should be left behind. It is estimated that at least 1 of out of 3 children in San Francisco public schools has an immigrant parent. Many of these students are American-born citizens, whose parents have no say in how the school system is run.

Immigrant voting has a long history in our country. For the first 150 years of our nation's history - from 1776 until 1926 - 22 states and territories allowed immigrants to vote and even hold office.

Immigrant voting is currently practiced in other cities and countries. Over the last three decades, cities and towns in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York have passed laws allowing immigrants to vote. 23 countries allow some form of immigrant voting.

Immigrant voting is legal. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly said that citizenship is not required to vote.

Immigrants seeking citizenship face enormous bureaucratic challenges. Government red tape and INS backlogs mean an average wait of 10 years to become a citizen. Waiting times for common immigration petitions have doubled since September 11th.

Please join the San Francisco Democratic Party, the San Francisco Green Party, Assembly Member Mark Leno, Assessor Mabel Teng, Treasurer Susan Leal, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and countless San Franciscans in voting YES on Proposition F to give all children a voice in their education!

Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Bevan Dufty, Matt Gonzalez, Sophie Maxwell, Jake McGoldrick, Aaron Peskin and Gerardo Sandoval all support this proposition.

5. M/S/C In Support of Prop. N Tom Edminster
(This resolution came with a unanimous recommendation of a yes vote from the Executive Board.)

Text of the Declaration of Policy:

"It is the Policy of the people of the City and County of San Francisco that: The Federal government should take immediate steps to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and bring our troops safely home now."

Ballot Argument on Antiwar Referendum by SF Labor Council:

Every justification President Bush gave for going to war — Iraq having weapons of mass destruction, collaborating with al Qaida, being an imminent threat to the US — has proven false.

Rather than bringing democracy to Iraq, the U.S. invasion and occupation has cost the lives of many thousands of Iraqi civilians and the maiming and wounding of countless more.

It has resulted in the death of nearly 1000 U.S. troops (as of August 2004) and wounding of more than 6000 others. It has resulted in widespread disease, hunger, homelessness, unemployment and suffering.

M/S/C to send this resolution back to the Executive Board as it is, but including the content in the motion that was not discussed and to make the resolution sharper and more focused. The wording of motion that was read but not discussed: "Be it resolved that the UESF demand that the Board of Education issue a cease and desist

in the implementation of reconstitution as part of the part of the “Dream School” reform process and model.”

6. M/S/C to send the following resolution to the Executive Board as it is, but including the content in the motion that was not discussed, and with the recommendation to make the resolution sharper and more focused. The wording of the motion that was read but not discussed: “Be it resolved that the UESF demand that the Board of Education issue a cease and desist in the implementation of reconstitution as part of the “Dream School” reform process and model.”

Resolution on Dream Schools Dennis Kelly

Whereas the public school teachers of the San Francisco Unified School District are dedicated professional educators whose lives revolve around their students and their work, and

Whereas the dedication of the teachers is matched and enhanced by the dedication and service of paraprofessionals and credentialed support personnel in many job classifications and categories, and

Whereas the SFUSD commitment to Excellence for All is fueled by the expertise, hard work and devotion of the teachers and other educational workers, and

Whereas school reform that is based on replicable research and is aimed at eliminating the achievement gap between groups of students is supported by the school community, and

Whereas such school reform is most fervidly supported when it is best understood and shared by those who must implement it, and

Whereas any school reform that does not have the involvement of site personnel and emanates as an imposition from an external source of authority will foster dissension among the site personnel and will remain an object of focus only as long as the external authority remains in place, and

Whereas the goal of the SFUSD, driven by the Consent Decree, is to eliminate the achievement gap between various groups of students, and

Whereas the educators of San Francisco, and their union, the United Educators of San Francisco, fully support that goal, and

Whereas the union believes for the program of reform to be successful the school workers need to be involved, committed, and respected, and

Whereas reform programs that employ “reconstitution” are built on a lack of respect for the dedicated employees, are a misguided attempt to identify the dedicated workers for chronic failures of educational systems, have no record of proven effectiveness, are divisive, disruptive, and demoralizing to the entire school district,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco reaffirms its dedication to the improvement of the schools, the closing of the achievement gap, and cooperative work with the SFUSD , and

Be It Further Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco also reaffirms its opposition to the use of reconstitution as a means to school reform, and

Be It Finally Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco will communicate this resolution to the membership, the media, and the community through every method at its disposal.

Brother Kelly and others summarized what has happened so far with school and community meetings and with communications with the district.

Dream schools meeting at Sanchez Elementary School: Spanish to English translations that were done by district personnel were not always accurate. Parents raised many questions and concerns.

Dream schools meeting at O’Connell High School: There were representatives from Alicia Chacon School in El Paso, and Superintendent Ackerman wanted the meeting to be only about that school, and refused to entertain questions from teachers and parents about plans for San Francisco schools. The meeting broke down into informal discussions and debates. A high-ranking administrator was heard repeating several times: “Teachers are only interested in taking care of teachers, adults are taking care of adults. They don’t care about the children.”

UESF asked for the list of schools that are dream schools and prospective dream schools. Two of the schools slated to be dream schools in 2005 were not on it. When the district was told this, the list was redone.

UESF’s dream schools meeting on October 19: There were fairly glowing reports from several teachers teaching at the 3 current dream schools. One of the main concerns from teachers at the seven schools designated to become dream schools in 2005 is that the staffs at the seven schools are doing the reform work and they have good programs in place, so therefore do not want to be reconstituted. The district is not calling it reconstitution.

Many members spoke to the resolution.

M/S/C to extend discussion by 15 minutes. Extended again by 4 minutes.

Lisa Lee, substitute teacher, attempted to go to scheduled meetings in her role as a parent earlier this year, and the meetings did not take place. She recommended that there be a role for parents.

The Board of Education’s Curriculum Committee is meeting at 7:30 tonight to discuss a resolution, authored by Mark Sanchez, stating that reconstitution cannot be used as part of reform models at schools. Members were urged to attend.

Special Order of Business

M/S/C 28 yes, 14 no, 2 abstentions on the following bylaws change:

- 1. COPE/Bylaw Amendment (2nd reading)Ken Tray
Article XII Dues
- d. Every member shall pay UESF/COPE-Dues as defined in item “e” below.
- e. UESF/COPE-Dues shall be in effect as of ratification of these amended bylaws on January 5, 2005
- f. UESF/COPE-Dues are \$1.67/month for a twelve-month payroll and \$2.00/month for a ten-month payroll.
- g. All UESF/COPE members have the option of withdrawing from UESF/COPE-Dues and membership by notifying UESF.

Brother Tray addressed the fact that there are concerns regarding the COPE endorsement process, and pointed out that the process can be re-examined and changed. The money that would be raised by this amendment would go towards next year’s campaign and will not affect this year’s election campaign.

M/S/F, substitute motion:

d. All UESF members shall be given the option to pay UESF-COPE dues as defined in items “e” and “f” below.

e. same as original motion

f. UESF/COPE-Dues are a minimum of \$1.67/month for a twelve-month payroll and \$2.00/month for a 10-month payroll. At the time of the option to enroll, members shall also be given the choice to increase their contributions beyond the amounts indicated above.

g. All UESF members shall be notified of the option of membership in UESF/COPE, within a time reasonable to conform with ratification as noted in “e” above.

M/S/F, 14 yes, 24 no, to postpone this discussion and continue it in February.

Reports

1. Substitutes Sandra Mack
Available for first reading: Proposed Substitute Division Bylaws changes. A written committee report was submitted.

2. Divisional Committees

a. Elementary School.....Susan Solomon

A written report was submitted.

3. Reports from CTA Leadership Conference.....Lisa Gutierrez-Guzman and Betty Robinson-Harris. Written reports were submitted.

4. Delegations Dennis Kelly

b. QuEST West: “Closing the Achievement Gap, Oakland Dec.3-4

c. Golden Gate Service Center School Board Dinner, November 19

Sergeant-at-Arms Roberto Michel reported that 37 sites were represented--17 elementary, 1 elementary/middle, 5 middle, and 12 high schools, and 2 CDCs—as were the retired and substitute divisions.

5. Election Committee.....Charles Hibbard

A written report was submitted.

Adjournment in memory of Dennis Kelly’s mother, Caroline Kelly, and Roberta Zadow’s mother.

M/S/C to adjourn at 6:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary