

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2005, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2005 Assembly meeting as presented.

M/S/C to change the order of the agenda so that the President's Report on Negotiations follows the Special Order of Business.

Financial Report.....Elaine Merriweather

M/S/C to accept the December 31, 2005 financial report as presented.

M/S/C to move into COPE. M/S/C to accept the December 31, 2005 COPE report as presented. M/S/C to move out of COPE.

Special Order of Business

1. California Labor History ClassFred Glass

Brother Glass described the class he is teaching at CCSF. Several members attested to the value of the class. Every student who takes the class will get a copy of the video set "Golden Lands, Working Hands".

President's ReportDennis Kelly

a) Report on Negotiations: Brother Kelly read some of the text of the "Table Talk" that will be distributed on Thursday, January 19, including UESF's latest counterproposal to SFUSD's latest counterproposal. Tom Ruiz, head of Labor-Management Relations, has started to report to Gwen Chan, who will officially become interim superintendent on February 2. In the meanwhile, Labor-Management Relations is reporting to the Board of Education. If they are willing to make significant movement on salary, we will meet once more on February 2. If there is no significant movement, we will meet briefly before then to call for impasse. Their proposal on salary is at 7%; ours is at 10%. When the overall effect is taken into account, it was calculated that they had moved .5% in their most recent counter, and we had moved 4% in ours. He explained our rationale for the formula we proposed. The district's covering of increased health costs has come from the 14.69% COLA, so what we are proposing is slightly higher than what is reflected in what is referred to as the "net COLA". Suggestions were made from the body about ways to inform our membership about negotiations, and several questions were asked.

b) School closures: Our message has been: "It's priority, not poverty." So far, we have been able to present our case so that we are not perceived as being the problem causing school closures. Linda Plack reported on the status of special education concerns. It is important to use our contract and to ensure that it is enforced.

M/S/C to change the order of the agenda to move Mission High School's resolution to the top of the resolutions.

Resolutions

1. M/S/C to table Resolution for General Membership Meeting 2/2/2006.....Andrew Libson, on behalf of Mission High School UBC

Whereas the membership of UESF has voted by an overwhelming 87% to hold a meeting for the purpose of conducting a strike authorization vote; and

Whereas SFUSD continues to extend bargaining though they continue to offer no retroactive salary increase while they have received a combined 14.69% COLA over three years; and

Whereas prolonging negotiations only works to the favor of SFUSD as they campaign to find scabs throughout the District while simultaneously blaming school closures on teacher raises; and

Whereas giving our leadership the right to authorize a strike will show the district that we are prepared to fight for a fair contract;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF will reserve an appropriate venue for a general membership meeting on February 2 at which time a strike authorization vote will be conducted.

This was the first resolution. It was tabled at the January Executive Board meeting, to be brought off the table when needed.

There was a lengthy discussion about the resolution.

M/S/C at 5:47 p.m. to extend the discussion with the caveat that speakers be limited to 2 minutes.

M/S/C at 6:15 to extend the meeting. M/S/F to extend discussion on the resolution. M/S/C to reconsider.

M/S to amend the date of the strike vote meeting to February 16. M/S/C to table.

2. M/S/C Support for AB 1121 (Death Penalty Moratorium) Adrienne Johnstone (Emergency Resolution due to time constraints, as it is currently being considered by the California State Assembly.)

[Insert date]

Assemblymember Paul Koretz
State Capitol, Room 2176
Sacramento, CA 94249-0042

Assemblymember Sally Lieber
State Capitol, Room 4162
Sacramento, CA 94249-0022

RE: Support for AB 1121

Dear Assemblymembers Koretz and Lieber,

On behalf of [input organization name here], I am writing to express our support for AB 1121, which calls for a two-year suspension of executions in California. [Description of organization should go here].

Recent events and technological advances have revealed that innocent people are being sentenced to death at an alarming rate. In fact, since the early 1970's, 119 of

this nation's death row inmates have been exonerated, in some cases escaping death by hours. Six were wrongfully convicted right here in Californians. This kind of grave error is unacceptable; the wrongful execution of even one person is one too many.

AB 1121 temporary suspends executions in California, while the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, a bipartisan commission created by the state Senate last year, investigates the causes of wrongful conviction and the application of criminal justice in this state. The Commission will release their finding no later than December 31, 2007.

AB 1121 does not call for abolition of the death penalty. Rather, it calls for a temporary suspension of executions while Commission completes its research and until the Legislature is able to fully consider their findings. The legislature can repeal the moratorium at any time. However, if the legislature chooses not to act, the moratorium shall end on January 1, 2009.

A California Field Poll shows that 73% of Californians favor a temporary suspension of executions while the reliability and fairness of the death penalty are studied. More than 40% of these people are supporters of the death penalty. In addition, over 430 organizations – representing diverse constituencies – have passed resolutions calling on Governor Schwarzenegger to suspend executions.

[insert organization's name here] strongly supports a temporary suspension of executions in California and urges timely passage of A.B. 1121.

Sincerely,
[Contact Name]
[Title]
[Mailing Address]
[Phone]

M/S/C that UESF sign this letter. It will be mailed tomorrow.

3. M/S/C Oppose SFUSD Proposal to Withdraw Employees from HSS.....Gerry Meister
Whereas, according to a letter from Attorney Jonathan Holtzman on behalf of the SFUSD and Community College District and the presentation he made to the HSS Rules Committee on October 25, 2005, the SFUSD is considering withdrawing active employees from the HSS and placing them in a undetermined separate health plan, while leaving retired SFUSD employees in the HSS system, and

Whereas the HSS, backed by the provisions of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, continues to provide excellent and affordable health care for both retired and active SFUSD employees, and

Whereas removing active SFUSD employees from the HSS would drastically alter the HSS health care pool and dramatically increase rates for remaining HSS members, including active City and County and Community College District employees, as well as all retirees,

Therefore be it resolved that UESF reject any such proposal now or in the future because of its negative effects on retired, as well as active, UESF members.

This came to the Assembly with a unanimous yes vote recommendation from the Executive Board.

- 4. M/S/C Resolution to Establish School Improvement Committee.....Mark Murray
WHEREAS UESF-has adopted a position paper on school reform, and

WHEREAS UESF, has already begun to sponsor union led professional development through the Educational Research and Dissemination program, and

WHEREAS a previous committee has already developed a position on teacher input on matters of curriculum development, and

WHEREAS, despite the questionable future of "Dream Schools," school reform will continue to be an issue in the district, and

WHEREAS future leadership in the district may be more amenable to union input on school reform,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UESF shall establish a standing committee on school improvement. The committee shall be comprised of volunteers and/or members selected by the President. The responsibility of the committee will be to look at reform models and curriculum and serve as a resource to advise parties involved in reform efforts. The committee could also be a vehicle for coordinating and promoting union based, teacher-led P.D. through the E.R. and D. model.

- 5. M/S/F to table the motion. M/S/C: Resolution to Establish New Orleans Public Schools Fund.....Marc Christensen
Whereas, public school children, and public school employees of the New Orleans Public School System have been displaced due to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath; and

Whereas, many schools in the New Orleans area have been either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable; and

Whereas, it will take countless millions of dollars to rebuild the school in the New Orleans area; and

Whereas, it will take additional millions of dollars to provide textbooks, equipment and supplies that were destroyed by the Hurricane and its aftermath; and

Whereas, current relief efforts will fall short of the goal of returning the New Orleans area schools to their pre-hurricane level of service,

Therefore be it resolved, that the United Educators of San Francisco (CFT-AFT, CTA-NEA) embark on a fund raising effort to support the Public Schools in New Orleans; and

Further be it resolved, that this effort take the form of a voluntary donation by UESF members to the sum of \$100; and

Further be it resolved, that UESF members are urged to donate \$100 at one time, or \$50, twice over two months, or \$25, four times over four months, or \$20, five times over five months; and

Further be it resolved, that this fund will be called the "\$100 at a Time Fund— The New Orleans Schools Need Our Support;" and

Further be it resolved, that UESF collect the donations and then distribute the funds to the AFT and NEA agencies entrusted with rebuilding the New Orleans Public Schools; and

Further be it resolved, that UESF communicate the results of this effort to the CFT and CTA, and the AFT and NEA to encourage the State and National Organizations to embark on the same fund raising strategy to reach every teacher in the United States.

Mary Anne Ahtye visited Baton Rouge recently and reported on the devastation she witnessed. The teachers' union was the largest union in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina. Most of the teachers have been laid off.

Reports, cont.

- 1. Executive Vice-President's Report Linda Plack
 - a. Academic Calendar for 2006-2007: Sister Plack apologized because there were no copies of the calendar available. She described the way in which the calendar was developed. Upon return to school in August, there will be a teacher work day the first day and a professional development day on the second day. Spring break will have an extra day due to Cesar Chavez Day. UESF has requested that the district conduct a survey to find out how many students attended CDCs on the day before Thanksgiving. The calendar will be on the web page as soon as it is approved.
 - b. February 4, 2006 Building Rep Training: it is not just for building representatives; rather, it is for any members to be trained to be Action Coordinators so that UESF will be prepared in the event a strike is necessary.

- 2. Vice President for Paraprofessionals..... Bradley Reeves

The next Paraprofessional Committee meeting on January 25 will have an early session and a late session, the first beginning at 4:00 and the second at 6:00 p.m.

- 3. Union Building Activities..... Rob Callahan and Robert Jensen

Brothers Callahan and Jensen, AFT organizers, introduced themselves.

Brother Jensen: The action plan for support of the bargaining team is very important. The best way to avoid a strike is to be so prepared that the district will back down. According to our database, there are 30 schools without building representatives.

Brother Callahan: their role is to work with activists, to assess memberships' readiness, and to assure that a strike vote is a confirmation, not a question. He urged attendance at the February 4 Action Coordinator Training.

Ken Tray: On Saturday, January 21, there will be a "grade-in" at Van Ness and McAllister. Members were urged to participate.

- 4. Sergeant-at-Arms Report.....Roberto Michel

Eighty-five members were present, representing members from elementary, middle, K-8 and high schools, and from the substitute, retired, health programs, multilingual and special education divisions.

- 5. Substitutes..... Sandra Mack

There was a written Substitute Report available at the meeting.

- 6. Report on Recent Arbitration Victories Elaine Merriweather

There was an arbitration hearing in August. The ruling came down in January. A part-time CDP teacher applied for a full-time job and the job was given to another applicant. The contract stipulates that part-time teachers have priority, which the district interpreted to mean that that gives them the right to an interview. UESF prevailed.

- 7. Report from The Election Task Force Charles Hibbard

A written report was submitted. Results of CTA State Council delegate runoff: Susan Solomon won by 12 votes. Elaine Merriweather is the alternate.

Good of the Order

- 1. Betty Robinson-Harrison received an award from the San Francisco Labor Council at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community-Labor breakfast. Her photo had been used on anti-Schwarzenegger-propositions literature; the governor was at the breakfast, but unfortunately did not stay to see Sister Robinson-Harris receive her award.
- 2. It was recommended that members get new glasses now, as we have new vision coverage.
- 3. A suggestion was made that something needs to be said to the people who move and vote for meetings to be extended, and then leave before the meeting is over, meaning they are missing important information. It was requested that the minutes reflect the sentiment that members should not be allowed to make such a motion if they are not going to stay for the entire meeting.

Adjournment: at 7:03 in memory of Patricia Robinson Guinden, sister of Betty Robinson-Harris, and Charlie Lyons, high school teacher for 29 years, whose former wife Andrea was also a member.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary