

**United Educators of San Francisco  
Assembly Meeting  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 4:15 p.m.  
Final Minutes**

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**Minutes**

Approval of Minutes ..... Susan Solomon  
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2007 minutes as presented.

**Financial Report** ..... Elaine Merriweather  
M/S/C to accept the 6-month Financial Report ending on 12/31/07. Sister Merriweather answered several questions from members.

Michael Rosenberg of Balboa High School announced concerns about a rumor that a charter school will be moving into Balboa. Staff members at Balboa will organize a rally either at the school board or the school if the rumors turn out to be true. (See below.)

**Special Order of Business**

CDP Pilot Program..... Betty Robinson-Harris  
M/S/C for the Assembly to support the CDP pilot program as developed by the CDP Task Force.

Sister Robinson-Harris described the background for this pilot, which is the result of CDP Task Force efforts to reduce the district-described "encroachment" of CDP on the general funds. The pilot sites are William Cobb, Las Americas, and Bessie Carmichael CDCs. An additional benefit to staff and students is that teachers' hours will be fulltime and standardized to 8 hours (7 hours of work, 1-hour lunch break), as will paraprofessionals', which will be 8 hours a day. Teachers at the affected sites have been given the choice to stay in the program or to be assigned to another site. No one will lose her/his job. The plan is to implement this program gradually throughout the CDP.

**Resolutions (All Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board)**

1. M/S/C with 2 abstentions: Reso to Establish Delegation Sizes to Conventions ..... Dennis Kelly  
Let it be Resolved that the size of the UESF delegations for the upcoming CFT, NEA, and AFT conventions shall be as follows:

CFT: 25 delegates and 5 alternates  
NEA/RA: 10 delegates and 5 alternates  
AFT: 10 delegates and 5 alternates

Important reminder: If members wish to run as a state delegate to NEA/RA, there is a separate nomination form in the NEA magazine. This can give us greater representation. This year, paraprofessionals can run as state delegates.

2. M/S/C with 2 abstentions: Reso to Amend CFT Constitution .... Dennis Kelly  
Whereas the CFT Constitution does not identify a point in time when newly elected officers take over, and

Whereas the successor to the President, the Senior Vice President, is not mentioned in the CFT Constitution section identifying officers,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Constitution of the CFT be amended as follows:  
Article IV: Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers

New section b.

The term of office for officers elected at a convention shall commence on July 1 immediately following the convention.

redesignate existing "b" to "c"

New section c. (in the event that the change above passes, this will item will become new section d.)

The twenty-four vice-presidents shall elect a Senior Vice President from their body at an Executive Council meeting following the convention. The tenure of the Senior Vice President shall be co-terminus with the office of the President.

Redesignate the succeeding sections appropriately

Be it further resolved that UESF shall advance these Constitutional changes to the CFT convention in 2008, and

And be it finally resolved that the UESF delegates to the CFT convention shall advocate for these Constitutional changes.

It was noted that there are two changes in the above resolution, one about the commencement of terms of office and one about the position of Senior Vice President.

3. M/S/C Reso in Support of Let California Ring.....Susan Kitchell  
Whereas, every day gay and lesbian UESF members are denied the freedom to marry the person they love, and

Whereas two people in a committed, trusting, and loving relationship deserve the honor and support that come with marriage, and

Whereas, each of us deserves to be treated fairly and have the same chance to realize our hopes and dreams, and

Whereas, people should be able to have different beliefs and still be treated fairly, and

Whereas, domestic partnerships do not provide the same security as marriage and treat people as second class citizens, and

Whereas the government is making the decision regarding marriage for gay and lesbian San Francisco educators, and

Whereas, everyone should have the choice whether or not to marry, and

Whereas, the labor movement has always considered an injury to one to be an injury to all,

Be it resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco will add its name to the list of over 45 published community organizations supporting the work and efforts of the Let California Ring public education campaign to open hearts and minds about the freedom to marry for gay and lesbian couples, and

Be it further resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco will notify and educate its membership to lend support to the efforts of Let California Ring, including volunteering for phone banking and as informational session hosts, and

Be it finally resolved that the UESF San Francisco Labor Council delegates shall, at the next meeting of the San Francisco Labor Council, introduce a resolution specifying that the San Francisco Labor Council add its name to the list of published community supporters of Let California Ring and that the San Francisco Labor Council notify and educate its membership, including volunteering for phone banking and hosting informational sessions to Let California Ring.

See [www.Letcaliforniarings.org](http://www.Letcaliforniarings.org) for additional information.

4. M/S/C Reso in Support of UESF Retired Members COPE.....Ken Tray  
Whereas, many members of the UESF Retired Division are involved in UESF/COPE activities; and

Whereas, the leadership of the Retired Division and rank and file members have asked for a UESF contribution appropriate for retired UESF members; and

Whereas, UESF/COPE's political program and activity promotes the interests of all UESF members, whether active or retired; and

Whereas, the **voluntary** contribution of retired members efforts in UESF/COPE political activities have helped ensure success in our School Board and other campaign and lobbying efforts.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco institute a **voluntary** \$10 annual UESF/COPE contribution for retired members; and

Let it Be Further Resolved that this annual contribution entitle UESF/COPE retired members full rights and responsibilities of UESF/COPE membership.

Gerry Meister pointed out that the Retired Division Executive Board is in support of this resolution.

A concern was raised as to whether the resolution needs to be brought to the Rules Committee. Brother Kelly ruled that this is not a change in the Constitution and Bylaws of UESF, and therefore it does not need to go through the amendment process.

Clarification: The word "voluntary" should be in the third "whereas" and the first "therefore."

### **Reports**

1. Divisional Reports:

a. Middle Schools.....Merilee Hearn

Issues discussed with Hepperly last week:

- Right of teachers to know whether any of their students have been involved in legal system. They did not have time to discuss it. Hepperly said she would research it. UESF cited the Ed Code.
- Educational Placement Center: It took a long time to place students, almost to mid-semester. Darlene Lim of EPC has said that she will make changes. One change for next year: If the parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students do not return an enrollment form by a given deadline, they will be notified of a placement.
- Middle School Initiative and benchmark assessments. Hepperly maintained that benchmark assessments are not part of MSI, but are part of the Principal's Expectations. Sister Hearn reminded members that UESF needs members to send in copies of their Principal's Expectations, as they are being used for teacher evaluations. Brother Kelly made the same request.

b. Elementary Schools .....Darcie Chan Blackburn

The issue of Principal's Expectations also came up at the Elementary Committee.

Substitutes were provided for CELDT, which is appreciated. The same is needed for Brigance assessments.

Linda Plack and Dennis Kelly also met with Darlene Lim. It was clear that the Special Education Dept. does not provide her with the necessary information. She hopes to see an improvement.

Sister Plack reminded members of the importance and convenience of having all division meetings at CCSS, the "UESF Annex."

2. President's Report .....Dennis Kelly

a. Governor's Proposed Cuts

The governor is willing to cut \$400 million this year, and not the full \$1.4 billion. Some categorical funds (\$346 million) have not been spent. They are looking at cuts in class size reduction, as well as other cuts. SFUSD's total budget is \$500 million, including federal money. Since most of the budget is for salaries, layoffs are being discussed. (Another criterion for layoff may be CLAD certification. The debate in Sacramento includes whether to introduce a new tax, an idea to which Republicans are adamantly opposed. This will get caught up in the schedule for layoff notification, which must happen by March 15, before the budget is settled. Tomorrow the board is to consider, as Committee of the Whole, Prop H and the third third, which is \$15 million. An additional \$15 million, not in the third third, is designated for sports, library, arts and music. UESF has sent a letter to the Prop H Advisory Committee, asking that the money not be spent. Jeremiah Jeffries, a member of the advisory committee, said that if the money is available, the committee will stand by its recommendations, but the responsibility is the board's. The committee's main endorsed recommendations: reduction of the counseling ratio, college counseling centers, and Muni passes for students. It rejected the superintendent's recommendations, such as laptops and projectors for all teachers. It also rejected the recommendation for expanding funding for benchmark assessments, as the district said last year that it was a one-time funding request.

There was further discussion about the anticipated state budget cuts and what is being done and what we can do at the local and state level to fight them.

b. Parcel Tax (Recruit/Retain Educators)

Any money that goes into the district is the provenance of the district. District only wants to move forward if there is an agreement with us about how the money will be spent, and there has been a long fight about that. UESF has made proposals for paras and substitute teachers. The district has suggested some draconian measures regarding evaluations, and UESF continues to resist such proposals. There has been debate over what percentage will go to salaries. The proposal for the total amount of dollars coming from the parcel tax has been reduced based on polling.

- 3. Executive Vice-President's Report .....Linda Festa Plack
  - a. Goalview Update (Special Education)

During winter break in December, Jeannie Pon and Deborah McKnight sent out a memo to pre-k Special Education teachers, mandating use of Goalview for all IEPs, stating that parents would not be able to enroll their children in kindergarten if all IEPs weren't online by January 14. Instead of rolling the Goalview plan out gradually and carefully, and making sure that the necessary equipment was in place, the district tried to enforce implementation all at once. UESF sent a letter to the district with serious concerns about how this will affect students, as well as our members. Sister Plack and Brother Kelly met with Special Education Director Deborah McKnight and Carlos Garcia today. Promises were made to provide the necessary equipment, laptops, scanners and Internet access. As a result of this fiasco, there will be Special Ed teachers will be leaving the district for other districts.

- b. Parcel Tax: District wants money for hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-fill positions. UESF has said extra money is not what retains teachers at schools. Charter schools want some of the money and have threatened to oppose the tax if they are not included. The Superintendent wants money set aside for technology and innovation, without defining it. The district wanted a pay-for-performance component which UESF shot down. A message came during the Assembly meeting that there is a new district proposal. The length of the parcel tax will probably be 20 years. Assessment is likely \$198/parcel.

- c. QEIA training dates have been changed to February 12 for elementary schools and February 14 for secondary schools. Schools must have teachers, SSC members and an administrator present at the training.

Update on Balboa: There will likely be an action at the site Thursday or Friday, not at the board. Garcia is saying there will be no vote tomorrow, but possibly a discussion.

- d. Paraprofessionals .....Carolyn Samoa

Feb. 7 is a mandated floating holiday. Feb. 8 is a working day, a PD day. It is site-based unless paras' sites send them elsewhere. Security aides will go to a separate PD. Jan. 28 is a non-service day. Paras will have to take a vacation day.

- e. Substitutes .....Liz Conley

The Committee Report was included in the meeting packet.

- f. COPE Committee .....Ken Tray

Feb 27: All division meetings need to take place at CCSS because right after the meetings there will be a COPE political training for the parcel tax campaign. Now is the time to start identifying members to take the lead for this. A letter will go out to most committed UESF activists asking them to join the "\$10 for Victory Club" by making their monthly COPE contribution \$10. There are important events and elections coming up that need funding.

- g. Retired Division ..... Gerry Meister

There will be a retirement income management meeting April 7 in the afternoon in the Lincoln High School library.

h. Social Committee Report ..... Susan Solomon

UESF's annual mid-semester party on February 1, our Political Party, will feature local elected officials, DJ Mark Murray, ukulele player Hiram Bell, lots of food and drinks and raffle prizes. This is an opportunity for members to make our issues known to politicians and to talk with each other in an informal setting.

i. Sergeant at Arms Report ..... Roberto Michel

I have it.

**Announcements:** The Rockin' Solidarity Chorus is performing this coming Saturday. Teachers for Social Justice, as part of their "411" series of discussions, will have a discussion on January 29 about techniques for effective classroom discipline. The Peace, Justice and Human Rights Committee will be meeting at Moscone Elementary School at 4:00 on Thursday, January 17 in the staff room.

**Adjournment:** 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Solomon, Secretary