

**United Educators of San Francisco  
Assembly Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 4:15 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

Approval of Minutes ..... Susan Solomon  
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2006 Assembly meeting as corrected.

**Financial Report**.....Elaine Merriweather  
M/S/C to accept the January 31, 2006 financial report as presented. M/S/C to move into COPE. M/S/C to accept the January 31, 2006 COPE report as presented. M/S/C to move out of COPE.

**Special Order of Business**

1. ISA Teacher, Anne Lew, recipient of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) Award ..... Dennis Kelly

Dennis Kelly introduced Sister Lew to the Assembly. He recalled that in the past 38 years, she is the only San Francisco teacher to receive this award.

**Resolutions (1 through 4 recommended by the Executive Board)**

1. M/S/C to endorse Supervisor Ammiano's health care legislation.

Both versions of the resolution below were presented, the original and the version as amended by the Executive Board at its February meeting.

2. a) Honoring Teachers' and Nurses' Labor Organizations (v.1) ...Vince Quackenbush

Whereas, the California Nurses Association (CNA) was among the first targets of the Governor's ill-conceived, pro-business campaign; and

Whereas, the Nurses and their leadership, among whom was Roseanne DeMoro, were among the first in the Labor Movement to call for organized resistance to what at first seemed a juggernaut, and by doing so revealed the Governor to be a bully, a liar, and an empty shirt; and

Whereas, The California Teachers Association (CTA) mortgaged their headquarters building to raise \$60 million dollars, and mobilized their membership to fight the Governor's anti-labor and anti-teacher initiatives; and

Whereas, organized labor scored a great victory in beating back a reactionary agenda.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, be called upon to thank and honor Roseanne De Moro, the California Nurses Association (CNA) and the California Teachers Association (CTA) at the upcoming San Francisco COPE Banquet, for their leadership and solidarity in beating back one of the greatest threats to Labor in recent memory, and by demonstrating that Labor Solidarity is greater than mere organizational membership.

- b) M/S/C Honoring Teachers' and Nurses' Labor Organizations (v. 2)

Whereas, the California Nurses Association (CNA) was among the first targets of the Governor's ill-conceived, pro-business campaign; and

Whereas, the Nurses were among the first in the Labor Movement to call for organized resistance to what at first seemed a juggernaut, and by doing so revealed the Governor to be a bully, a liar, and an empty shirt; and

Whereas, The California Teachers Association (CTA) and the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) mobilized their membership to fight the Governor's anti-labor and anti-teacher initiatives; and

Whereas, organized labor scored a great victory in beating back a reactionary agenda.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, be called upon to thank and honor the California Nurses Association (CNA), the California Teachers Association (CTA), and the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) at the upcoming San Francisco COPE Banquet, for their leadership and solidarity in beating back one of the greatest threats to Labor in recent memory, and by demonstrating that Labor Solidarity is greater than mere organizational membership.

3. M/S/C Endorsement of Karen Breslin for HSS Board..... Gerry Meister  
Whereas the United Educators of San Francisco, active and retired, strongly supported Proposition C in November 2004, which restored an independent Health Service System, and also the election of Sharon Johnson to the HSS Board in May 2005, and

Whereas incumbent HSS Commissioner Karen Breslin also strongly supported Proposition C and the election of Commissioner Johnson, and

Whereas during her first term as HSS Commissioner Ms. Breslin has an excellent record of supporting the rights of HSS members, both retired and active, and as chair of the 2005-06 HSS Rates and Benefits Committee, worked closely with new HSS Director Bart Duncan to insure that the rate-setting process was the smoothest and most effective in HSS history, and

Whereas Ms. Breslin has consistently demonstrated her commitment to – and was at times in the past the only vote for – providing efficient customer service, protecting the HSS trust fund, strengthening City Plan 1 and fighting for reasonable out-of-pocket costs for members,

Therefore be it resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco endorse Karen Breslin in the Health Service System Board election and urge all members to support her candidacy in any way possible, and

Be it further resolved that UESF direct its Labor Council delegates to support her candidacy as well.

4. M/S/C Endorsement of USLAW Anti-War Demo 4-29-06 ..... Tom Edminster  
(Leaflet provided in meeting packet)

Julia Waters, CCSF student, addressed the meeting, speaking of concerns with school closures and the proposed education budget cuts. She invited members to become involved, starting with attending a planning meeting on February 19 in Oakland. At CCSF, they are working against the possible hiring of scabs and military recruiting.

5. M/S/C Emergency Resolution to Support State-Wide Initiative on Eminent Domain (Copies of the resolution were provided.) ..... Judith Christensen  
Currently, polls are running at 85% toward changing eminent domain laws. Jarvis and McClintock are collecting signatures for their initiative, and their campaign is

well-funded. The People's Initiative, #1198 *Government Acquisition of Private Property*, fixes *Kelo v. New London* U.S. Supreme Court Decision, so that there could be no eminent domain for private financial gain. This initiative would not destroy environmental regulations or end rent control, both of which will happen if the Jarvis/McClintock Initiative becomes law. M/S/C unanimously to bring the resolution to the floor. Petition packets were distributed to members at the meeting.

6. M/S/C to support and endorse Mission High School Teach-In ..... Derrlyn Tom

On Thursday evenings, March 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 5:00-8:00, there will be a teach-in, based on the Freedom School model, which Kathy Emery will be conducting. There will be guest speakers and documentaries. The curricular theme includes civil rights, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and other topics. (Leaflet not available at this time.)

**Reports**

1. President's Report ..... Dennis Kelly

At noon on February 2, UESF declared impasse with the SFUSD. There were 29 bargaining sessions over 366 days. The mutually agreed-upon mediator, Paul Roose, who is the supervisor of the State Mediators, was given the list of articles on which we have not reached agreement, as well as our compensation proposal. Meetings with Mr. Roose are scheduled for February 24 and March 13.

In UESF's first meeting with interim superintendent Gwen Chan, the first item of business presented to her was our refusal to consider support of a parcel tax if it includes merit pay. The district had taken that condition off the table, so Brother Kelly and others told her we are interested in talking about working on a parcel tax.

On February 4, there was a strike action coordinator training for 200 UESF members. On February 14, about 12 UESF members entered the school board meeting room, carrying big valentine signs about fair pay, equal protection and safer schools. Darcie Blackburn spoke to the board about our love for our jobs and the hard work we do, and for the need for the district to acknowledge that love and hard work.

UESF and SFUSD have been in discussion about giving consolidation rights to teachers at closed and merged schools. UESF's directions said there should be priority consolidation rights given first to teachers at closed schools, and then to teachers at merged schools, to be followed by regular consolidations, and then voluntary transfers. The district's hesitancy is with giving priority consolidation rights to teachers at merged schools. The district offered to and is willing to do a poll of teachers at merged schools to find out what they want. It should be done soon.

a. Union Building Activities.....Jessica Humphrey

Sister Humphrey read a list of schools where no assessments are going on, and asked members to let her know if they can help with these schools.

On Saturday, February 18, UESF will be leafleting neighborhoods. A sign-up sheet was circulated. There was a lengthy discussion about strategy and communication about events.

A suggestion was made that, in the absence of Table Talk and with the declaration of impasse, communication still continue with members. Of concern is the budget information coming out for next year's weighted student formula and school site plans. A written message is also needed immediately to get members to the February 28 school board meeting.

2. Paraprofessionals ..... Mary Lavalais

Bradley Reeves had hip surgery and is doing well. There is a meeting on Thursday, February 16, from 6:00-7:30 at Everett concerning paras retiring on Social Security and their need for lifetime health benefits.

3. Substitutes..... Sandra Mack

A written report was submitted. In addition to that report, Sister Mack provided information about AFT credit cards and how to protect one's credit during a strike.

4. COPE Activities .....Ken Tray

Conversations with potential school board candidates have begun. Brother Tray explained the action taken at the Executive Board at its last meeting to direct UESF delegates to support Leland Yee and Fiona Ma, and that this directive be binding. This was particularly needed for the CTA endorsement process, which occurred last Sunday, but it was also for CFT and SFLC. In the meantime, under the guidance of Susan Kitchell and Tom Edminster, recommendations are being made for amending the UESF bylaws and constitution to make the endorsement process clearer.

M/S/C to maintain the executive board's directive, but remove that it is binding, and make it advisory instead.

5. Social Activities Committee ..... Susan Solomon

The party on January 26 was very successful. There were approximately 200 in attendance, and there was good live music, plenty of food and many raffle prizes. Thanks were given to the committee and the staff for their hard work. Other plans for the year: a TGIF or two, an end-of-year picnic, and a retirement dinner. An invitation was given to all members to join the committee.

6. Retired Division..... Gerry Meister

The first annual arts and crafts fair, featuring retirees' art, will be on March 26 at the Sharon Building in Golden Gate Park.

**Announcements**

Nathan Ladyshensky announced that they are setting up appointments to have workshops at schools to inform members about financial planning. A sign-up sheet was available.

The UESF Black Caucus Committee, which meets the second Wednesday of each month at Everett Middle School, will be contacting building representatives. The Caucus Committee and Youth Speaks will host an Educator Open Mic on February 23 at 5:00 p.m. at Café Soleil, 19<sup>th</sup> Street between Mission and Capp Streets.

See Tom Edminster to find out about free catalogs from Teaching for Change.

Modern Times Bookstore will be hosting an event on February 24, at 7:30 p.m. for Black History Month. Featured author: Ahmed Shawki, Black Liberation and Socialism.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. in memory of Richard Minderman, Woodrow Wilson teacher, and Coretta Scott King.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Solomon, Secretary