

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 4:15 p.m.
Final Minutes**

Special Order Of Business

Matthew Hardy described a letter-writing activity to protest the state budget cuts that would be taking place during the meeting.

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2008 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather

The auditor had to reschedule and will come into the office in March.

M/S/C to accept the January 31, 2008 Financial Report as presented.

COPE Financial Report

M/S/C to accept the January 31, 2008 COPE Financial Report as presented. There was a \$12,000 expense for polling for the parcel tax.

Resolutions (Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board)

1. M/S/C with 1 abstention as amended: Reso UESF Re-Affiliation With US LAW for 2008PJHRC

Whereas UESF has acted in concert with USLAW since its inception in the Spring of 2003; and

Whereas UESF has encouraged the affiliation of CFT and CTA to USLAW (E Board 12/3/03; Assembly 12/17/03); and

Whereas UESF affirms its intention to continue to be a part of and help in organizing anti-war voices and sentiment in the US labor movement, and

Whereas our sister local (of both the CTA and the CFT), the United Teachers of Los Angeles, have affiliated with USLAW [UTLA House of Reps 12/03/03];

Therefore be it resolved that UESF declare its intention to re-affiliate with USLAW for the calendar year 2008; and

Be it further resolved that UESF will seek to strengthen USLAW among labor and educator organizations locally and nationally; and

Be it further resolved that UESF explore the way to authorize and participate in the creation of a local Bay Area chapter of Labor Against the War; and

Be it finally resolved that UESF will make an annual affiliation contribution for the year 2007 of AT LEAST \$250 to USLAW.

M/S/C with 1 abstention this amendment: that UESF explore the way to authorize and participate in the creation of a local Bay Area chapter of Labor Against the War.

2. M/S/C with 6 abstentions: Reso in Support of UAW 3520 Freightliner Five.....
.....Adrienne Johnstone, et al.

Whereas, as a result of a strike by UAW 3520 Freightliner members in April 2007 over health and safety and other conditions and benefits, the management of Freightliner in Cleveland, North Carolina has fired 5 UAW strike leaders and members of the Bargaining Committee and Executive Board; and

Whereas, the struggle to prevent retaliation is important not only to defend the local but also to show workers throughout the country, and especially the "right-to-work" South, that the labor movement believes an injury to one is an injury to all; and

Whereas, the company with the support of the arbitrator is seeking to obstruct the union arbitration by insisting on 5 separate arbitrations; and

Whereas, these brothers and sisters have exhausted their unemployment benefits (they have been unemployed since April 5, 2007) and are fighting for funding to continue their struggle for justice; and

Whereas, it is critical that the labor movement support those trade unionists who are organizing the labor movement in the South and protect them from union busting, retaliation and the anti-labor onslaught;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that United Educators San Francisco call for the re-employment by Freightliner of fired UAW 3520 union leaders and members Robert Whiteside, Allen Bradley, Franklin Torrence, Glenna Swinford, and David Crisco and encourages members to contribute to their hardship fund; and

Be it further resolved that the union will send a letter calling for re-employment and full back-pay to:

Freightliner
P.O. Box 4750
Portland, Oregon 97208-4750; and

Be it further resolved, that UESF will donate \$100 to the hardship fund by sending a donation to

Justice 4 Five Solidarity Fund
P.O. Box 5144

Statesville, N.C. 28687; and

Be it finally resolved that information about this solidarity struggle, as well as a request for donations and letters of support will be published to the membership as soon as feasible.

There was a question about what UAW 3250's position is in this issue. The UAW at the national level is in conflict with the local.

Two of these members will be speaking on Saturday at 3:00 at ILWU Local 34. The SFLC voted to support these 5, but the SFLC Executive Director has since expressed reservations because it appears to be an internal conflict.

Reports

1. President's ReportDennis Kelly
 - a. Announcement: Arlene Ackerman has been named the new CEO of the Philadelphia school district.
 - b. Staff report.....Allan Brill
 - i. The district will not give UESF the list of teachers being recommended for non-reelection until the school board votes on them on Feb. 21. Members who know teachers who have been told they are being recommended for non-reelection were asked to tell them to call their staff representatives.
 - j. UBCs must meet regularly with the administrator. The UBC has rights to information, but individuals do not.
 - c. Due to impending budget cuts, layoff notices will go out. The Rainy Day Fund cannot be accessed unless and until layoff notices go out, as that is one of the triggering events for releasing the funds. Teachers without CLAD will be vulnerable to layoff. This type of layoff is a Particular Kinds of Services (PKS). For example, if PE teachers are needed, PE teachers won't be noticed. However, if there is a subject area where there is the possibility of increasing class size, there would be layoffs by seniority in that area. The district will overnotice.

CFT will likely organize an event after the April convention, to see what comes from the convention. CTA is encouraging local action. UESF is advocating for statewide action or at least for local events to be held on the same day statewide. The letter-writing campaign taking place at the meeting today was in response to the governor's budget cuts. Members were strongly encouraged to take the letter-writing materials to their UBCs and sites. A teacher from Cesar Chavez described her school's letter-writing campaign, which they implemented in their school community.
 - d. Tay McArthur described a project with which he was involved 25 years ago, when Oakland high school students wrote the resolution that became the legislation for MLK Day in California. The 6-minute DVD, titled "The Apollos," that was a result of a project done by former Lowell student Nick Harper and Oakland student Jasmine Jones, has won the NEA Human Rights Award. The students will be presented with the award at the banquet in July.
 - e. Quality Teachers and Education Act Report: The meeting packet included the Superintendent's Proposal and the MOU signed by UESF and SFUSD. Funds generated by the parcel tax are general funds, but SFUSD did not want to enter into this initiative without UESF's participation.

Armen Sedrakian, one of the five UESF members on the Parcel Tax Committee, was instrumental in putting together the salary schedule. He distributed copies of the salary schedule with percentage increases and explained the rationales behind the salary schedule. UESF is hopeful that the implementation of the tax will be July 1, meaning the first taxes will be collected in December 2008. The district has said we can have about 40% of the funds by January 2009. Brother Kelly praised Brother Sedrakian's stupendous work on the salary schedule.

The continuing education component (not "professional development," which is less understandable to the general public than CE) was explained.

Paraprofessionals will receive an additional .7% towards retirement, so it will be equivalent to Social Security contributions. PARS, the current retirement system for paras, is terrible. Our hope is that this increase will enable the union to move paras out of PARS and into a more viable program.

Brother Kelly described the other components of the initiative, including the language regarding hard-to-staff schools. UESF insisted that the extra pay had to be in recognition of the extra work teachers do, and not the fact that they work at these particular schools.

The parcel tax language includes an elevator (inflater) based on the CPI of Urban Areas.

There was a very lengthy discussion about the details of the MOU.

There was a vote of 20-7 to uphold the ruling of the chair that Jeremiah Jeffries's motion was out of order. (The motion was to request reconsideration by the school board of the MOU.)

Adjournment: 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary