

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 4:15 p.m.
Final Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2008 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather
M/S/C to accept the February 29, 2008 Financial Report as presented.

The auditors were in the union office week before last and met with Dennis Kelly and Elaine Merriweather to make recommendations, which will be presented to the Assembly after review by the Budget Committee and the Executive Board. Brother Kelly and Sister Merriweather also met with CFT Secretary Treasurer Dennis Smith because he wanted to have a better understanding of how UESF, as a local with different affiliates, pays its per capitas.

COPE Financial Report

M/S/C to accept the February 29, 2008 COPE Financial Report as presented.

Brother Tray gave an update on phonebanking and precinct-walking for Proposition A, the parcel tax initiative.

Resolutions (Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board – 20 minutes total)

1. M/S/C Funding for Schools/Progressive Taxation.....Tom Edminster, et al.
Whereas the current budget shortfalls from the State of California will create havoc in education, services and public and private employment throughout California; and

Whereas since BEFORE Proposition 13 (1978) was passed, both the tax structure of California and local revenue options have needed a radical overhaul based on

- Adequate division of existing revenues (apportionment),
- "Ability to pay,"
[progressive income taxes, split roll assessment of residential and commercial property, adequate corporate & wealth taxes, an end to the yacht exemptions, institution of an oil depletion allowance, etc] and
- A vision of adequate and well-funded common public goods
(including K-12 education, fire and environmental protection, a social safety net, public health provisions, parks, recreation, public safety, libraries, parks, post K-12 education, transportation options, etc.)
- In order to serve the population of this 8th richest economy in the world; and

Whereas the current crisis presents a historic opportunity to defend public education, the whole public sector AND to encourage progressive tax reform, with state and local components; and

Whereas even the Legislative Analyst as of Feb 20, 2008 has indicated key revenue options that the Governor and Legislature should explore BEFORE cutting funds for public education and vital needs; and

Whereas a fightback and vision based on PRINCIPLE could help reanimate public debate, give courage and backbone to other public sector unions, community organizations, as well as give many California residents a reason to participate in public life;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF encourage political mobilization, education and on-going research based on a long-range vision, general approach and analysis that poses funding public education and public goods based on "ability to pay"(progressive taxation) and adequate spending & investment sufficient for the well-being of all citizens and residents of California, especially the most vulnerable and victimized; and

Be it further resolved that UESF encourage its affiliates and allies and all of their members to seek tax reform at the state level based on progressive taxation and local progressive tax options based on majority rule; and

Be it further resolved that UESF seek political and coalition efforts towards a state-wide coordinated campaign (of unions, community organizations, and other allies) including but not limited to a mobilization in Sacramento this Spring, with an intent to STOP the current budget cuts aimed at public education and the public sector, and in favor of progressive taxation; and

Be it finally resolved that (appropriate forms of) this resolution should be submitted to the CFT Convention 2008, the CTA State Council, the San Francisco Labor Council, unions inside the AFL-CIO and Change To Win, and any other appropriate affiliates and allies.

2. M/S/C In Support of HR 676Dennis Kelly
Whereas HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system in the U.S. by expanding a greatly improved Medicare system to every resident, and

Whereas HR 676 would cover every person in the U.S. for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventative care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic and long term care; and

Whereas HR 676 ends deductibles and co-payments, and

Whereas HR 676 would save billions annually by eliminating the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry and HMO's,

Therefore Be it Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco supports the passage of HR 676; and

Be it Further Resolved that UESF will support a resolution to this effect at the CFT State Convention, the AFT National Convention, CTA State Council, and NEA/RA.

3. 5th Anniversary of the War in Iraq (for information purposes only)..... PJHR Committee

Whereas UESF has long stood against the US incursion into Iraq and re-affirms our continued opposition to the US occupation of Iraq; and

Whereas the 5th anniversary of the invasion by US-led forces provides yet another opportunity for UESF members, other union members, and many others to express their opposition to the US occupation and presence in Iraq; and

Whereas the opposition to the Iraq occupation continues to need public demonstrations as well as a host of tactics, including legislative lobbying, non-violent civil disobedience, etc.; and

Whereas UESF affirms its continued opposition to the US occupation of Iraq; and

Whereas UESF has no expressed position on some other issues sometimes raised by anti-war forces;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF mobilize for and participate in the event planned for Wednesday March 19th (an evening rally and march sponsored by ANSWER) via participation in the Labor contingent organized by local USLAW affiliates; and

Be it further resolved that UESF notes that its participation in the events of March 19th has as its sole focus opposition to the Iraq War and its continued funding, and does not suggest endorsement of the additional slogans or demands proffered by ANSWER.

This resolution was passed as a Special Order of Business at the March 5 Executive Board meeting because it is time sensitive; the march and rally are today. Sister Blanc provided details of the assembly points and march route.

4. M/S/C Endorsement of June 28th National Anti-War Conference..... PJHR Committee

Whereas UESF has long stood against the war in Iraq and

Whereas existing anti-war forces were unable to unite around a mass national mobilization upon the fifth anniversary of the war and

Whereas a call has gone out for a broad national and democratic anti-war conference in Cleveland on June 28-29th

Whereas this call has been endorsed by labor organizations including USLAW, UTLA and LA County Federation of Labor

Therefore be it resolved that UESF endorse the June 28-29th, 2008 National Assembly to end the Iraq War and Occupation.

The call came from activists in Boston and Cleveland, including USLAW, ANSWER, and individuals from United for Peace and Justice. The resolution does not call for any expenditure.

5. M/S/C Financial Audit Resolution.....Dennis Kelly
Be it Resolved that Rita C. Villa, CPA, be recognized as the Official auditor of UESF's books and accounts, and

Be it Further Resolved that any UESF member who has questions about the accuracy, or propriety of the audited UESF financial report shall be authorized to contact Rita C. Villa, CPA with those concerns.

This resolution came as a result of a recommendation from auditor Rita Villa, which itself is partly in reaction to the unfortunate problems in the Miami teachers' unions with their finances.

Special Order of Business

District Strategic PlanDennis Kelly

Guest speaker Tony Smith, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, Innovation and Equity, presented the District's ideas behind its "Stakeholder Scorecard," the priorities of which are achievement, access and equity, and accountability. Copies of drafts of the "Stakeholder Scorecard" and "The SFUSD Scorecard Overview: A Transformative Plan for Ensuring Quality Schools" were distributed. A question and answer period followed his presentation.

Tom Ruiz, who was also present, was asked if teachers who received layoff notices would have the right to a layoff hearing even if they did not return their form exercising their right to hearings by the quick turnaround date of March 19, 2008. His response indicated that efforts would be made not to exclude anyone from the hearings, and that Brother Kelly and CAO Deb Hirsh will have to discuss this.

Mr. Smith encouraged members to e-mail him with feedback at tonysmith@sfusd.edu.

1. President's ReportDennis Kelly
a. Report on Layoffs.....Eric Hall

There are law firms who have contested the union's right to represent teachers in layoff hearings if they have not filled out the consent form. UESF has not received nearly enough of those consent forms yet. Members were encouraged to tell teachers who received notices to send those forms in. We also need to hear from teachers who were told they were on the layoff list but did not receive a layoff notification. Brother Hall explained the recall process and why we have to be vigilant in watching for hidden positions. (The length of time teachers are on the call-back list is 24 months for probationary and 39 months for tenured teachers.)

- b. Quality Teachers and Education Act Report: The parcel tax initiative is Proposition A on the ballot. The firm that has been hired to work on this proposal has hired Katy Pulaski to do the groundwork. A mailing is going out to charter schools to say: look what the union is doing for you.

2. ParaprofessionalsCarolyn Samoa

Paraprofessional layoffs will be on the April 22 board meeting agenda and laid-off paras will be notified by April 24, most likely. Deborah McKnight and Deb Hirsh said that since there are a lot of jobs in Special Education, there will be no layoffs of special ed paras, and that laid-off paras can move into special ed and positions at children’s centers. Since there is bumping by seniority in the classified contract, a para position that is maintained at a school may not be filled by the person currently holding the position at the site.

3. SubstitutesLiz Conley

At the Substitute Division meeting last week, there was a discussion about how badly substitute teachers are treated. Teachers need to remember that subs are working hard to take their place. The sub call system still is not working well all the time. CDP subs are being asked to bring their personnel papers with them to each job to prove they are qualified. This has not been bargained.

4. COPE Committee.....Ken Tray

A process has been developed to do candidate endorsements. UESF will be looking for 5-6 people who would be interested in a stipended position organizing at the schools for the parcel tax.

March 11th Rally.....Matthew Hardy

There are news videos and photos of the March 11 rally on the uesf.org website. Thanks were given to the volunteers who helped with the rally. There was an amazing action protesting the state budget cuts at Flynn Elementary School, thanks to building representative Lisa Gutierrez-Guzman. Coverage by channel 7 includes urging viewers to contact their legislators.

CTA is organizing demonstrations on May 14, the Day of the Teacher.

Brother Hardy would like to get more stories out in the press. He is especially looking for coverage in the ethnic media, so if anyone knows of ethnically Chinese, Filipino, or Spanish-speaking teachers who were laid off, he should be contacted.

5. Retired Division Gerry Meister

Bart Duncan has rescinded his resignation due to an outpouring of support from members. Blue Shield has been terrible. Even so, a Blue Shield representative was sent to UESF, asking that UESF exert political pressure on behalf of Blue Shield!

6. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

See it.

7. Divisional Reports:

a. Elementary School Committee Darcie Chan Blackburn

The meeting with the elementary school assistant superintendents had to be rescheduled because of the March 11 rally. Issues that will be raised at that meeting:

- need for assistance with CELDT and Brigance;

- possibility of getting CELDT scores to teachers much earlier --results were sent March this year—in order to better inform instruction;
- question as to why is there no suspension school for elementary school students;
- what is happening with the 4/5 grade release time pilot;
- Williams Complaints;
- need for counseling for students; and
- getting WSF information in a more timely way.

Good of the Order: A question was asked about whether there is anything we can do about the controller's concerns about the Rainy day fund. Brother Kelly has been working with Tom Ammiano, who asked if we would consider putting pressure on the controller, like sending letters to him. Members will be notified if there is a decision to do so.

Announcements: Rockin' Solidarity Chorus will be singing at the CFT convention at the Oakland Marriott Convention Center on Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. There was a reminder about the April 2 workshop for those considering retirement. Paraprofessional Ida Stanford will be honored at CTA State Council on April 5. Brother Kelly is going to ask that the April Assembly and the divisional meetings dates be switched. There was a suggestion that meeting announcement postcards go out earlier than they currently do.

Adjournment: 6:24 p.m.

NOTE: Next Assembly Meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 2008