

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Approval of Minutes.....Susan Solomon
M/S/C to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2009 Assembly meeting as corrected.
(p. 4, under spec order of bus, #1, the word be.)

Financial Report and COPE Financial Report..... Elaine Merriweather and Ken Tray
The CFT auditor will be in next week.
M/S/C to accept the 2/28/09 Financial Report and COPE Financial Report as presented.

Special Order of Business

1. Nominations for UESF Exec. Board & SF Labor CouncilSusan Solomon

Nominations from the floor:

Kathy Melvin, certificated, high school
division

Claire Merced, San Francisco Labor Council
Judith Christensen, San Francisco Labor
Council

Hene Kelly, San Francisco Labor Council
Aracelly Martinez, CDP instructional aide
Helen Karoukian, certificated, bilingual

Lisa Gutierrez Guzman, certificated,
bilingual

Ron Trapp, substitute division

Marilyn Cornwall, substitute division

Sal Aguilera, classified, A-series instructional
aide

Guilio Sorro, certificated, high school
division

Carmen Melendez, certificated, elementary
division

A J Frazier, classified, T10 instructional aide

Anthony Singleton, classified, Spec. Ed

Patty Golumb, certificated, middle school
division

Rose Curreri, certificated, elementary school
division

Tom Henriksen, classified, A-series
instructional aide

Karen Quinn, classified, CDP instructional
aide

Tom Harriman, San Francisco Labor Council
(See below for additional nominations.)

A sign-up sheet was circulated for Election Committee volunteers. Dates were announced for when help is needed.

2. Budget Committee ReportEarl Lene De Santiago

(See page 11 of the meeting packet.) The report provided background for the first resolution below. Additional information was provided by Sister De Santiago, including the amounts and percentages that are paid to our affiliates, SFLC, and UESF.

M/S/C to accept the recommendations from the Budget Committee with 2 abstentions.

Resolutions (Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board)

1. M/S/C Re-Prop. A: Additional Income..... Dennis Kelly
Whereas, the "savings clause" of Proposition A calls for UESF and the district to negotiate over the share of any overage or underage in the annual collections for the parcel tax; and

Whereas, the negotiated spending plan calls for 71.6% of the parcel tax proceeds to go to the UESF bargaining unit members, and

Whereas, the initial spending plan estimated \$28.5 million in parcel tax proceeds, but the current fiscal projection indicates a total of \$30.9 is more likely to be received;

Therefore Be it Resolved that UESF's negotiating position regarding any surplus parcel tax receipts, when they are finalized in April, be directed to:

- a Across the board increases for all classified employees and CDP members
- b Reducing healthcare co-pays

M/S/F to add a c): Reinstate health care benefits for the 16 pre-Prop. A 160-day substitutes. The intent of the motion was to reinstate benefits to the 16 who previously had benefits, but not take benefits away from the 40 current Prop A substitutes.

20 in favor, 19 opposed. President Kelly exercised the prerogative of the chair and made the tie, so the final vote was 20-20. A tie means that the motion does not move forward.

M/S/C with 4 abstentions the original resolution.

M/S/C at 5:32 to extend debate on the above item for five minutes.

M/S/F at 5:39 to extend debate on the above item for another five minutes.

2. M/S/C Zimbabwe: Political, Trade Union and Human Rights... Dennis Kelly
WHEREAS, UESF is profoundly concerned about chronic food shortages, the spreading cholera epidemic, hyperinflation, and the eradication of political, labor and human rights faced by the people of Zimbabwe resulting from the acts of tyranny and repression carried out since 2000 by President Robert Mugabe, his ruling political party and the Zimbabwe security forces; and

WHEREAS, acts of brutal repression, violence and intimidation committed by Mugabe and his supporters since the last elections have been condemned by world leaders including Africa's leaders in civil society and government such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Graca Machel, the presidents of Senegal and Botswana and by other world leaders, all of whom have called for a return to the rule of law and democracy; and

WHEREAS, teachers and healthcare workers have been forced to leave their professional positions, in some cases beaten, arrested and disgraced; schools and hospitals are closed; children are starving and abandoned:

RESOLVED, that UESF supports the call for a peaceful resolution to the current crisis and an end to politically motivated intimidation and violence, and immediate implementation of the agreement signed by Mugabe and opposition political parties to create a unity government;

RESOLVED, that the UESF stands in solidarity with the Zimbabwe teachers unions, Zimbabwe Teachers Association (ZIMTA) and the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), in calling for the immediate release of trade unionists and others arrested and imprisoned while exercising their rights of free speech, association and political belief; and

RESOLVED, that the UESF calls on the new Zimbabwe government to put aside its differences and give its urgent attention to restoring the health of its people, creating job opportunities, and putting in place sound fiscal policies; and

RESOLVED, that the UESF joins with the American Federation of Teachers, Education International, international labor unions, and Zimbabwean unions and civil society organizations, who share the values and objectives of democratic governance and the rule of law, in promoting reconciliation and undoing Mugabe's damaging policies in Zimbabwe.

Reports (These Reports are welcome to be made in writing)

1. President's Report Dennis Kelly
 - a. March 12, Save the Rainy Day Fund Demonstration. Just two days before our event, the mayor announced that he would support the release of the full \$23 million of the Rainy Day Fund. The rally therefore did not have the same urgency as it would have, but it was still a spirited display. Several supervisors attended the rally and pledged to support the release of the funds. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to release the full \$23 million.
 - b. COBRA rights for non-reelected teachers: field representative Eric Hall explained that one of the provisions of the federal stimulus is that people who have lost their jobs involuntarily will have 65% of their COBRA costs covered by their former employer. This factors into a decision about whether to resign, as resignation does not enable a person to receive the 65% COBRA.
 - c. Layoffs: the district has again skipped teachers for layoff, and included others on the layoff list who should not have been included. In spite of the announcement about the Rainy Day Fund, we still have to take it seriously until the layoffs are officially rescinded. The Bakersfield ruling granted probationary rights to teachers who are not really temporary, which means seniority trumps probationary status.
 - d. Non-reelection was defined, as well as what it means to be probationary. The district will again have an appeal process for teachers who have received non-reelection notices.
2. Vice-President's Report Linda Plack
 - a. Cal. Labor Federation, Sacramento Report: The theme of the meeting was "Restoring Economic Justice." Hilda Solis and Karen Bass were great. Lots of doom and gloom about the budget. Plack and Kelly heard Mark Leno, Tom Ammiano and Leland Yee. The frustration for Ammiano was the way every legislator but 5 were shut out of the state budget negotiations. John Chiang spoke—a hero because he refused to do what Schwarzenegger told him to do. Plack and Kelly attended the Community College demonstration (49 busloads of students were there from San Francisco), and the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) demo. They heard heart-rending stories of union-busting tactics where there is no card-check protection. Kelly convinced CTA State Council to address EFCA and have delegates lobby for it. Cards were available at the Assembly meeting to advocate for EFCA.
 - b. Contractual Union/District Professional Development Committee. UESF has told the District we want it to happen.
 - c. The Buildings and Grounds Committee of the school board will hear the first report, on Monday, March 23 at 5:30, of the results of educator housing survey. M/S/C at 6:14 to extend meeting by 10 minutes.
3. COPE Committee Ken Tray

The scheduled meeting had to be rescheduled because of the March rally. It was our efforts that led to Rainy Day Fund release. UESF is now recognized as a political force at City Hall.

- 4. CTA Human Rights Conference Report James Sheldon
(Written report included in the meeting packet.)
- 5. Divisional Reports:
 - a. Paraprofessionals Carolyn Samoa

Nathan Ladyshensky of Mosher Financial will be coming to the next paraprofessional meeting. Layoffs will probably be announced mid-April.

- b. Substitutes Daniel Markarian

(Written report included in the meeting packet. There is a Substitute Division meeting on March 25. Sister Conley was successful in getting the district to list classroom assignments with job assignments.

- c. Retired Division Gerry Meister

Election Committee volunteers are greatly needed on April 22 and 23.

Bart Duncan of the HSS Board will be the speaker at the March 25 meeting. The annual Retired Division Arts and Crafts Sale is this Sunday, March 22 in Golden Gate Park, Sharon Arts building.

- d. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

Members present: 57, including 8 substitutes, 7 retired members, 1 itinerant teacher, 2 SHP members. Represented: 8 high, 5 middle, 13 elementary, 2 K-8 schools.

Final nominations from the floor:

Heidi Scott, certificated, high school division
Earl Lene De Santiago, San Francisco Labor Council
Diane Johnson, classified, Special Education instructional aide

Good of the Order: The march and rally against the war in Iraq is this Saturday, March 21. The USLAW contingent is congregating at Justin Herman Plaza, south of Market. Communications Director Matthew Hardy requested that anyone who took photos on Pink Thursday or Friday to send them to him.

Announcements: Union Night at ATT Ballpark is on April 17. Tickets are \$17 and include admission, a drink, and a pre-game party. Tickets will be available from UESF through Susan Solomon.

Daly City has Proposition A, a parcel tax for schools, on the ballot.

CTA will probably move to support it state initiative 1a, and CFT will probably take no position or oppose it.

Golden Gate Service Center Council will have a Spring Reception on Thursday, April 2.

The Jewish Labor Federation is hosting a Labor Seder on April 22, 6:30-8:30 at Local 34. All are welcome.

Adjournment: at 6:29 p.m. in memory of Betty robinson-Harris' father, Walter Robinson.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary