

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

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2009 Assembly meeting as corrected.

Financial and COPE Financial Reports..... Elaine Merriweather and Ken Tray
M/S/C to accept the March 31, 2009 Financial Report as presented.
M/S/C to accept the March 31, 2009 COPE Financial Report as presented.

Special Order of Business

1. AFT Summer ProgramDennis Kelly
See meeting packet. Members were encouraged to inform UESF soon if they or anyone they know wish to attend.
2. Election Committee Report Chuck Turner
 - a) The Candidates Forum will be held on April 21, 4:00, at Civic Center Secondary School. All candidates running for officer positions in contested elections will participate.
 - b) A mailing to substitutes is going out this week.

Resolutions:

1. M/S/C as amended: Opposition to AB 223, Local Control....Tom Edminster, et al

WHEREAS trustees of local school boards and county boards of education are elected by their communities to determine policy for all local public schools K-12 and said trustees are responsible for establishing local educational goals and appropriate local educational policy; and

WHEREAS Assembly member Ma has introduced a bill, AB 223, which would have the California Legislature require San Francisco to reintroduce the JROTC program in our schools, and

WHEREAS, AB 223 is a clear violation of every precedent regarding local control of educational program in California; and if AB 223 become law, San Francisco will be the only city in the country that is mandated by law to offer a particular elective program; and

WHEREAS thus AB 223 clearly undermines local control of educational decisions; and therefore sets a dangerous precedent in the state education code allowing the state to circumvent and nullify the education decision-making process of local boards; and

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Board of Education, along with other local jurisdictions, should retain the authority to make curriculum and program decisions that are compatible with its values and community resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UESF opposes the state dictating specific curricula for specific localities without making those decisions for all communities. (This would be in place of the resolved in the original motion.)

(Original language: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the United Educators of San Francisco/UESF declares itself opposed to AB 223, and shall communicate this position to Assemblywoman Ma, to the other members of the San Francisco state legislative delegation, and to UESF's state affiliates, the California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers.)

M/S/F amendment to delete all of the whereases of the resolution, and keep the substitute resolved.

Although this resolution did not go to the UESF Executive Board first, there is a timeliness to it because the bill will be going to committee before the next Executive Board meeting.

Our position will be communicated to Assemblymember Ma and all of the parties mentioned in the original motion.

2. Brother Edminster presented another resolution which was distributed, "UESF Opposition to Statewide Proposition 1A". Brother Kelly ruled him out of order due to timeliness, and Brother Edminster challenged the chair. Each spoke to his reasons for consideration.

M/S/C, 23-9 to uphold the ruling of the chair.

3. M/S/CU May 1 Immigrants Rights Rally (Resolution brought forward with a affirmative vote from the Executive Board April 1 meeting.) Derrlyn brought a formal letter about the donation mentioned in the resolution, and she invited Brother Kelly and Sister Plack to speak.

Reports

1. President's Report.....Dennis Kelly
 - Para Lay-offs: On April 14, UESF had a meeting and then a rally about the para layoffs, discussing ahead of time how the Board of Education typically lowers the number of layoffs, but proceeds with some layoffs anyway. Rally participants chanted outside of the school district building and then marched in the board chambers. Carolyn Samoa, Janet Eberhardt, Daniel Markarian, Susan Solomon, Roberto Michel, Pam Routh and Dennis Kelly spoke. The school board voted 5-2 against laying off paraprofessionals!
2. Vice-President's Report Linda Plack
 - K-3 Class Size: The district is planning to increase kindergarten class size to 23. Even though the class size reduction money will still be coming from the state, the fines for exceeding the limit have been greatly decreased. (Class size reduction in 9th grade English and math classes will also be affected.) Sister Plack spoke to the importance of keeping classes at 20 students as one way to help close the achievement gap. On April 28, 5:00, UESF will rally and then head to the school board meeting to protest class size increases. Members were urged to talk with co-workers and parents about coming to the rally and the school board meeting. Flyers about the rally and meeting were distributed.

- Prop A implementation: The District still is not willing or able to name the 25 hard-to-staff schools. The list has been promised by April 20. They are having the same problem with hard-to-fill subjects, which will probably be special education, possibly some science courses, and maybe bilingual. Master Teacher: Many models are being considered. Being out of the classroom one day a week is more difficult for elementary teachers than secondary. Whole-school bonus: Some want to base it solely on test scores, but UESF is asserting that various other factors should be used as well. Matthew Hardy will be putting Master Teacher information on the UESF website.

In bargaining this week, UESF asserted that Prop A monies are not to be used in reopener bargaining. It is separate bargaining.

3. COPE Committee Ken Tray

COPE is considering sending out an endorsement and information cards for the May 19 special election. The committee would like to include information about Proposition 1a, but UESF might not have a position in time. Rachel Norton disappointed us with her vote last night to lay off paras. Norman Yee voted with us, showing that he is listening to us. COPE will be undertaking a membership drive soon to increase monthly contributions.

4. Divisional Reports:

- a. Middle School Committee Report included in packet.
- b. Elementary School Committee ReportDarcie Chan Blackburn

Hoover Liddell will be attending the 4/22 committee meeting to talk about the report card that is now in its third pilot year. He will also attend the committee's meeting with the assistant superintendents. The committee has been developing a pocket guide for Weingarten Rights.

- c. ParaprofessionalsCarolyn Samoa

Members were encouraged to attend the next Paraprofessional Division meeting.

- d. Substitutes..... Liz Conley

Sister Conley is recovering from hip surgery.

- e. Retired Division Gerry Meister

Members soon can campaign and vote for the person we endorsed for Health Services System Board, Sharon Ferrigno.

- f. Sergeant at Arms Report.....Roberto Michel

Represented at the meeting: 1 CDC, 11 elementary, 3 K-8, and 4 high schools, and 5 substitutes, 3 retired members, and 1 SHPD member were in attendance.

Adjournment: at 6:20 p.m. in memory of Daniel Garcia, husband of paraprofessional Jeannette Garcia at Cleveland, and labor leader Bill Price.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary