

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2005 assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report.....Elaine Merriweather

The Budget Committee revised some expenses (i.e., for bargaining, since we do not know how long bargaining will go on), and the Executive Board approved the changes.

M/S/C to move into COPE. The new funds for COPE are not reflected in this report.

M/S/C to accept the COPE report as presented. M/S/C to move out of COPE.

Special Order of Business (15 Minutes each)

1. Counter Recruitment/College Not Combat.....Tom Edminster

There was a presentation of the College Not Combat Declaration of Policy by Josh and Stephanie from College Not Combat, an organization that hopes to put the resolution on the San Francisco ballot. Stephanie, a student at SFSU, explained recent events at SFSU when there was an anti-war demonstration and explained their opposition to military recruiting on campus. It is a declaration of a political stand, similar to Proposition N, and does not have enforcement language.

2. May 25th Sacramento Elaine Merriweather and Mary Anne Ahtye

There will be three buses leaving from three locations. The deadline for reserving a seat on the bus is May 20. Box lunches and water will be provided. An informational flyer was distributed. Some school districts have scheduled a minimum day. One bus will leave from Evans CCSF campus, one from Marina Middle School, and one from Everett Middle School. At least two bus monitors are needed for each bus. If interested, talk with Sister Ahtye or Sister Merriweather. Suggestion: the bus monitors could also be in charge of developing and leading chants. If you are interested in carpools, there will be information and a reimbursement form on the uesf.org website.

Resolutions (Numbers 2 and 3 were recommended by the Executive Board)

M/S/C to consider this motion now for reasons of timeliness, and thereby sending it to the Executive Board after the vote at the Assembly.

1. M/S/C Counter Recruitment Resolution..... Adrienne Johnstone

Whereas military recruitment has a direct impact on the students and families of San Francisco,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that UESF opposes U.S. military recruiters using public school, college and university facilities to recruit young people into the armed forces; and

Be It Further Resolved that UESF endorses the College Not Combat initiative; and

Be It Finally Resolved that UESF recommend endorsement of the College Not Combat initiative to the San Francisco Labor Council through the UESF delegation.

2. M/S/C as amended Resolution re: PTSA Observer at Negotiations Dennis Kelly
Whereas UESF appreciates the interest of the PTSA in UESF/SFUSD negotiations; and

Whereas the balance between the district and union can be imperiled by even the most well-intentioned neutral party;

Therefore Be it Resolved that: UESF welcomes the interest of the PTSA and other parent and community bodies in the process of negotiations and is willing to report to them and communicate with them about the ongoing bargaining; and

UESF regretfully declines the request of the PTSA to be involved in negotiations. President Kelly described the events that resulted in this resolution. In addition to the reason described in the second whereas, there is also the issue that there are parent groups that would be included, other than the PTSA.

M/S Amendment: Whereas there are legal obligations in negotiations for UESF and SFUSD that would not apply to third parties, and

Whereas UESF does not want to select which of several good parent bodies might be present at negotiations

M/S/C to divide the amendment into two parts.

M/S/C first amendment (that which would be the third whereas)

M/S/F second amendment.

3. M/S/C "Salary Parity" NEA New Business-"Continuing Responsibility" Tay McArthur

Reports

President's Report Dennis Kelly

- a. Brother Kelly thanked all members who entered their names as candidates. Results of the election will be in the next *SF Educator*.
- b. May 11th "Day of the Teacher" Report

Jocelyn Won: Plusses: It was a very successful demonstration. Although it was not part of the original plan, it worked very well to have participants crossing the streets.

Eric Hall: Minuses: There was not enough media coverage. There were not enough sign-in sheets returned which were circulated to give us an idea of who was there.

Many thanks to the Contract Organizing Team, and in particular, Lita Blanc, Adrienne Johnstone, and Darcie Chan Blackburn.

- c. Negotiations Report: We have focused on Special Education and paraprofessionals for the past several sessions. For Special Ed, the district said that anything that is in the law, they do not want stated in the contract. They rejected our proposals. After the long, hard work we put in, it really was a slap. For paras to be highly-qualified under NCLB, they either have to have 48 units or pass CODESP, the test the district selected. When we first proposed a HOUSE method of evaluation, there were none being used in the state, so it was difficult to convince the district. Now that it is being used elsewhere, we brought it to the district again, and again they rejected it.

d. There are 224 certificated consolidations and about 150 openings at this time. Not all retirements and RFLs have been reported yet, so there will be more openings. Brother Kelly described the way teachers have chosen up until now, by listing their top three choices in writing. Our professional staff recommended using two days when all the jobs are put on up on a board, and members will select jobs one at a time in order of seniority. If a member does not want to pick in this way, that member will be placed. This plan is being fine-tuned and will be finalized so that information will go out to members on Friday, May 20. At this time, the district is trying to keep consolidated teachers out of Dream Schools, since they do not have to interview. There will be a second date scheduled, partly to try to prevent principals from hiding positions.

2. Executive Vice-President's Report Linda Plack

- a. The April 25 training drew 129 participants, representing all divisions. Lists of e-mails and phone numbers were given to authorized representatives. It is an important mobilizing activity. Members were urged to submit the updated lists.
- b. AFT/NEA/NAACP 6th Biennial Daisy Bates Educational Summit (Bargaining Training) The issue: 51 years after Brown v. Board of Education, has the challenge been met? Sister Plack read a statement and questions which addressed the issues of neighborhood schools, diversity, and integration. While at the summit, Plack and Kelly met with the California NAACP director. SFSOS, a "community organization," had a press conference while Plack and Kelly were away, making reference to two lawsuits. One is about how the superintendent's salary increase was implemented, and the other is about the district skipping over Dream Schools teachers in layoffs, which is a violation of the Education Code.

Report from Sergeant-at-Arms: 62 members were in attendance.

3. Paraprofessionals Bradley Reeves

Brother Reeves reiterated how important it is for critical mass—members outside the bargaining team letting the district know our demands.

The CDP layoffs did not come up before the board. There were letters sent out, saying that the positions had been eliminated, when they are actually consolidated. The district sent everyone a letter, not just the least senior. There were about 50 CDP paras (C10s) at last week's meeting, which was specifically for C10s, a better-than-anticipated turnout. The district has interpreted the NCLB federal law requiring an assessment to mean a test or units.

4. Substitutes..... Sandra Mack

See written report. Correction: The End of Year Picnic is June 13. In response to a question, there are enough substitutes, so when a substitute does not show up, it usually means that there is a problem with the district.

5. Social Activities Committee Susan Solomon

Reminder about the End-of-the Year party honoring retirees on May 20 at the Irish Cultural Center.

6. Communications CommitteeRobin Brasso

Sister Brasso encouraged members to keep those letters and articles coming, and to wear UESF tee shirts to the May 25 rally.

7. Elementary School Susan Solomon

The committee met with Sandy Lam to discuss issues and concerns about Reading First. There was a useful exchange of information. Lam informed the committee that she preferred dealing directly with teachers rather than with field representative Eric Hall, so the committee informed her that he is authorized to speak on behalf of our members.

8. Child DevelopmentBetty Robinson-Harris

Committee members will be at the school board’s Budget Committee meeting tonight. As a cost-saving measure, the district wants to discontinue the provision of snacks for school age students in the afterschool programs.

9. Retired Division..... Gerry Meister

The division has 549 members now. In the fall, the division will be distributing information about the history of teacher and para unionism in San Francisco.

Announcements At a Board of Supervisors committee meeting, Ackerman said she got a good education at a segregated school. She told reporter Bonnie Eslinger of *The Examiner* that the counselor at an integrated school told her she would never get anywhere. SFUSD has resegregated schools, and she says it is acceptable. Some of the parties to the Consent Decree will be asking for an extension. The question is whether, given the district’s record with Consent Decree goals, the program should be allowed to continue.

Adjournment M/S/C to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary