

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2008 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather
M/S/C to accept the April 30, 2008 Financial Report as presented.

Special Order of Business

1. Prop. A – The Final Push.....Ken Tray/Matthew Hardy

The latest survey indicates that Prop. A is polling at 66.32%, just shy of the 66.67%. This is why it is critical to make a final push to get voters out to vote for Prop. A. Attendees at the Assembly, the rank-and-file leaders of UESF, were strongly encouraged to sign up for the last few days of campaigning.

2. M/S/C Certificated and Classified Contract Re-openers.....Dennis Kelly

3. NEA Board member Report.....Claire Merced

Sister Merced reported on her activities as an NEA Director. Much of her time is spent in lobbying legislators, and the focus has been on NCLB. Other issues: Social Security and universal education for all the world's children.

4. Endorsement and fundraising of Mark Murray as CTA Director.....Earl Lene DeSantiago

Sister DeSantiago called for the endorsement of UESF Executive Board Mark Murray's candidacy for the position of CTA Director, and encouraged members to donate to his campaign. The election will take place at the June CTA State Council meeting.

5. CTA Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Caucus Award to Eric Blanc. He will be receiving the Paul Mann Peace and Justice Award. One of Eric's accomplishments was to organize about 800 young people for a rally outside of Pelosi's office, protesting war spending. He credited his teacher, Ken Tray, and his mother, Lita Blanc, with getting him interested in being involved.

Resolutions (Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board)

1. M/S/C CTA/CFT Prop. 13 RewriteLinda Plack
Whereas the California education system was once a model for the nation in providing high quality public education for students with early childhood education through the university

Whereas the present budget crisis has demonstrated clearly that the present method of providing financial support for California's education system is inadequate and does not fund the necessary amount needed to properly educate the students of the state

Whereas the amount of money allocated the school system under the best of circumstances still leaves California behind 45 of the 50 states of the nation in the ranking of the yearly average expenditure per student

Whereas it has been thirty years since the passage of Proposition 13

Whereas Proposition 13 has allowed for the protection of a certain group of homeowners, primarily homeowners who do not sell their homes, but it has also allowed businesses and corporations to avoid the payment of increased property taxes for over thirty years,

Therefore be it resolved that UESF shall call on CTA and CFT to begin an initiative campaign to rewrite Proposition 13 with the goal of creating a split roll tax that will remedy this serious problem and raise the necessary revenue for the state's education system, and

Therefore be it finally resolved that UESF's delegates to CTA State Council shall formulate the content of this resolution as a New Business Item and present it to the June, 2008 meeting of the CTA State Council.

There was a discussion about the effects of Proposition 13 and what changing it might mean.

2. M/S/C with 1 abstention: Amendment to California Constitution.....Linda Plack

Whereas the passage of the budget of the state of California requires the agreement of 2/3 of the members of the legislature, and

Whereas this requirement has had the result of making it possible for a minority of elected legislators to obstruct the will of the majority of the legislature and the people that they represent, and

Whereas there are only a handful of states that maintain this requirement, and

Whereas the purpose of government is to protect the citizenry, care for the elderly, the most vulnerable, the feeble, the sick, and the needy and to educate the people of the state, and

Whereas the existing financial crisis requires that additional revenue be provided for programs that have already been reduced and are not adequate to perform these functions and meet the needs of the people of the state,

Therefore be it resolved that the CTA and CFT join or start an initiative campaign to change the California Constitution to permit the passage of a budget with a simple majority vote, and

Therefore be it finally resolved that UESF¹'s delegates to CTA State Council shall formulate the content of this resolution as a New Business Item and present it to the June, 2008 meeting of the CTA State Council.

3. M/S/C as amended: CTA 3 year \$60.00 Assessment Dennis Kelly
Whereas the CTA asked for and got a three year special assessment for the successful fight against the proposals by the governor in 2005, and

Whereas that assessment was for \$60 spread over three years at \$20 per year, and

Whereas that assessment is due to sunset at the end of this year, and

Whereas the Board of Directors of CTA has asked that the \$20 continue as a portion of dues with the money split between an advocacy fund and a scholarship fund, and

Whereas CTA dues will increase according to an indexed formula that does not include the assessment, and

Whereas several local unions within the CTA State Council oppose the continuation of the assessment and have offered a variety of alternate plans such as:

- Halting the collection of the assessment
- Designating the assessment for local operations
- Supporting an advocacy fund but not a scholarship fund
- Supporting an advocacy fund and a local operations fund, and

Whereas the San Francisco delegates to the State Council should have the sense of the membership when debating and deciding this issue at the June 6 meeting of the CTA State Council,

Therefore be it resolved that the UESF Assembly is opposed to the continuation of the \$20 assessment of the assessment for the advocacy and scholarship purposes being proposed and

Be it further resolved that the UESF delegates shall be authorized to consider other uses for the assessment including local operations and total cessation of the assessment.

M/S/C amendment to first therefore: Therefore be it resolved that the UESF Assembly is opposed to the continuation of the \$20 of the assessment for the advocacy and scholarship purposes being proposed.

(CTA's "Voluntary Dues Contribution Key Points" was distributed at the meeting.)

4. M/S/C T4SJ ConferenceKaren Zapata, PJHR Committee
Whereas Teachers 4 Social Justice is a non-profit organization that promotes peer-based approaches to professional development for teachers

and functions with volunteer assistance without grants and funding; and

Whereas Teachers 4 Social Justice has been presenting an annual conference for educators since 2001 and will present the 2008 conference on Saturday, October 11th; and

Whereas the conference is free of charge and includes lunch; and

Whereas the workshops presented at the conference deal with many issues that SFUSD teachers struggle with: war and current events, building classroom community, social justice and ethnic studies curricula; and

Whereas many teachers involved in the organization are SFUSD teachers and activists within UESF;

Therefore be it resolved that United Educators of San Francisco will publicize this event, including but not limited to an announcement in their monthly newsletter and email blasts, and any other effective means to publicize the conference among educators during the months of August, September and October; and

Be it further resolved that UESF will have a table at the conference, being a visible presence for members; and

Be it finally resolved that UESF will donate \$250 to help with the cost of the conference.

Sister Zapata asked members to distribute postcards describing the event at their sites. The postcards were available at the meeting.

5. M/S/C Resolution to Oppose the Runner Initiative.....Tom Edminster, PJHR Committee

Whereas, the Runner Initiative, called the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, is a ballot proposition introduced by Antelope Valley State Senator George Runner, and is currently being circulated for signatures in order to be included on the November, 2008 ballot, and

Whereas, The Runner Initiative would seriously cripple the California budget by spending \$20 billion dollars over forty years on failed programs that make us less safe, and

Whereas, The Runner Initiative directs billions of tax dollars to prisons, probation, and police (one billion dollars in the first year, and half a billion per year thereafter; plus additional unfunded mandates that local and county governments will be forced to pay), and

Whereas, The Runner Initiative would facilitate the prosecution of more youth as adults;

- Facilitate the prosecution of more youth as adults;
- Increase penalties for drug related offenses;
- Increase penalties for offenses alleged to be "gang related";
- Create mandatory criminal background checks for housing subsidy recipients;
- Prohibit bail for undocumented immigrants charged with "gang related" felonies.

Whereas, groups such as UTLA, the NAACP, and a number of other organizations and individuals have formed a coalition to work against this initiative in order to defeat it before it reaches the ballot; therefore

Let it be resolved, that the United Educators of San Francisco declare its opposition to the Runner Initiative, and

Further resolved, that the UESF will work with other organizations and individuals to thwart its authors' efforts for it to be placed on the ballot, and if it reaches the ballot, to assure its defeat; and

Finally resolved, that the UESF will inform its members about the initiative and urge them not to sign it for qualification for the November, 2008, or any subsequent ballot.

The Runner Initiative has not yet qualified for the ballot.

Reports

1. Divisional Reports:

- a) Elementary School Committee Lita Blanc

The committee has been meeting monthly, but just had its first meeting with the elementary division SOISs.

Issues: Ongoing need for counseling at the elementary level; release time for CELDT testing; usefulness in training noontime monitors, few if any of whom are able to participate in PD; 14 days straight of testing for ELL students because they also test in their home language; suspension center for elementary school. There will be more of an effort to meet with SOISs monthly. The first meeting of the next school year with them has been scheduled.

- b) Middle School Committee Allan Brill

There are 3 or 4 middle school principals who would better serve the district by serving in different capacities. Therefore, due largely to union activity, two schools, Denman and MLK, will have different principals in the 2008-2009 school year.

2) President's Report Dennis Kelly

- Edison Charter School Organizing

UESF passed a bylaws amendment, enabling it to organize educators who are not UESF members. CTA has organized Edison Charter. Since charter schools are included in Proposition A, UESF will be able to establish that it helped to fight for pay raises for charter school teachers.

- SFUSD School Staff Satisfaction Survey 2008: The district solicited comments from UESF. Some of UESF's recommendations were incorporated. Filling out any or all of it is strictly voluntary. There is no mechanism for surveying substitutes.

3) Executive Vice-President's Report.....Linda Plack

- 2310 Mason Street Building Report: Necessary repairs would cost \$2 million. While UESF pays 2/3 of the expenses, and theoretically has use of 2/3 of the building, it only has 50% power in decision-making. It is not in a convenient location. A possible buyer has made an offer on the building. There are several options available for where to move.
- CTA weekend Minority Leadership workshop is coming up. A member who has attended before cannot attend again. Applications must be submitted by June 27.
- June 9 early evening: Retirement Celebration at North Light Court in City Hall.

4) Paraprofessionals..... Carolyn Samoa

Out of 69 paras who were to receive layoff notices, it is down to 9. These 9 are eligible to move into CDP, and there will be a CCSF program this summer to enable paraprofessionals to become qualified to work in CDP. Now, the committee is working to eliminate the 9 layoffs. Two Board members, especially Kim-Shree Maufas, understand the importance of knowing what UESF's concerns are, and that helped greatly in reducing the layoffs.

5) Retired DivisionGerry Meister

Deadline for HSS ballots has been extended to June 9. Members can contact City Hall to get a replacement ballot if needed. Members were urged to vote for Claire Zvansky.

6) Sergeant at Arms ReportRoberto Michel

Represented at the meeting were 12 elementary schools; 7 middle schools 5 high schools; 1 CDC; 2 K-8 schools; 1 itinerant teacher; 5 substitutes (para and teachers); and 1 retired.

Good of the Order: \$235 was raised for Mark's campaign at the meeting. Thank you to Janet Eberhardt for her eloquent presentation about Prop A at the recent, well-attended para meeting.

Adjournment at 6:29.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary