

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 4:15 p.m.**

Minutes

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Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the May 28, 2008 Assembly meeting minutes as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather
M/S/C to accept the August 31, 2008 Financial Report as presented.

M/S/C COPE Financial Report.....Ken Tray
There was very little activity in August. The COPE campaign is going to include mailers, buttons, and window signs for the school board candidates endorsed by UESF. Phonebanking will be a major part of the campaign, and will take place Monday-Thursday, 5:30-8:00 at the UESF office. Phonebanking sign ups were circulated at the meeting. There can also be mobile phonebanking at other locations, though using s school is against the law. Brother Tray described the strong slate UESF is endorsing.
Currently, \$48,000 is in the COPE account. \$30,000-40,000 will be spent on the campaign. It is expected that CTA will contribute \$20,000-50,000 and that CFT will contribute around \$5000.

There were questions about the process for Board of Supervisors endorsements.
Explanation: The Executive Board acted as the COPE in the summer, as the UESF bylaws stipulate.

M/S to endorse Eric Mar, district 1; John Avalos, district 11; David Chiu, district 3; Ross Mirkarimi, district 5, Mark Sanchez, district 9; and Sean Elsbernd, district 7.

M/S Substitute motion: to separate out Sean Elsbernd and to vote to endorse only Mar, Sanchez, Chiu, Avalos and Mirkarimi. Gerry Meister spoke: There are concerns about Elsbernd's role with changes in the Health Service System and with his role in disassembling a trust fund that has subsidized the HSS plan. He has taken no leadership in his role as a Health Services Commissioner pushing for an improved budget for HSS.

M/S/C to endorse, Mar, Avalos, Chiu, Mirkarimi and Sanchez.

M/S/F to endorse Elsbernd.

Special Order of Business

1. Constitution and ByLaws (no action required)Dennis Kelly

This is on the agenda for informational purposes and for reasons of transparency. A) grammatical, etc, changes B) financial stability: capture dues from stipends; set how dues are set, which isn't specified in bylaws C) if we can identify some people as potential members (such as K reso appointments), we can increase number of members. These items are before the Rules Committee, which has to go through a process. The Rules Committee is meeting on Monday, September 15 at Lincoln in the bungalow in which Edminster teaches.

Resolutions (First Resolution: the Executive Board voted that UESF make no recommendation. Second resolution: approved by the Executive Board.)

1. M/S/C that UESF take a position of no recommendation: JROTC Proposition V Tom Edminster/Lita Blanc

Whereas JROTC is one of the Pentagon's primary recruitment tools; and

Whereas the voters of San Francisco have passed many initiatives that oppose militarism, and militarism directed at young people, specifically" College not Combat"; and

Whereas SFUSD pays almost one million dollars annually to support JROTC; and

Whereas although local ROTC supporters claim to be gay-friendly, JROTC instructors are selected by the military and must adhere to Don't Ask, Don't Tell; and

Whereas SFUSD has banned partnerships with institutions that discriminate against any group based on sexual orientation; and

Whereas there are alternative leadership programs that are not connected to the military such as the Ethnic Studies and Leadership program that is being piloted this year at Lincoln and Balboa; and

Whereas the pro-JROTC initiative scheduled for the November election is a misleading attempt to garner support for a program that SFUSD has already decided to appropriately jettison;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF oppose the JROTC initiative on the November 4th, 2008 ballot.

1st vote: M/S/F, 16-19, Substitute motion of support for the resolution that has been brought to UESF, as written above.

2nd vote: M/S/C, 20-14 for UESF to take a position of no recommendation on Proposition U.

There was a lengthy discussion and debate about the issue.

2. M/S/C Yes on Proposition U..... Tom Edminster/Lita Blanc

Whereas, in 2004, the voters of San Francisco declared it City policy to urge the United States government to withdraw all troops from Iraq and bring all military personnel in Iraq back to the United States;" and

Whereas, this war has also taken the lives of over 4,000 American soldiers, in addition to tens or even hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, and more than 30,000 Americans have been wounded; and

Whereas, the City of San Francisco has struggled to fund its schools, meet the health care needs of its citizens, and provide safety on its streets, while over \$600 billion has been appropriated for the war and occupation of Iraq, costing the state of California \$68 billion, and the city of San Francisco alone \$1.8 billion; and

Whereas, the invasion of Iraq was based upon groundless allegations of “weapons of mass destruction,” initiated without United Nations authorization, and is illegal under international law; and

Whereas, UESF has continually opposed this war,

Therefore be it resolved that UESF endorses San Francisco Proposition U that declares

“It is the Policy of the people of the City and County of San Francisco that:

Its elected representatives in the United States Senate and House of Representatives should vote against any further funding for the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq, with the exception of funds specifically earmarked to provide for their safe and orderly withdrawal;”

And be it finally resolved that, once Prop U is passed, UESF will work with organized labor to enforce the political expectation of Proposition U with our Congressional delegation.

Reports

- 1) President’s ReportDennis Kelly
 - a) Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Concerns: The district is upset because the section of Proposition A which is about PAR does not say that teachers exiting PAR must be deemed proficient in the 7 named elements.
 - b) Reopener Negotiations: The district is working with a new attorney, Greg Dannis. UESF’s reopeners include the grievance procedure; paraprofessional job classifications for layoff procedures; and certificated evaluations, as well as automatic reopeners.
 - c) Appointments: High School Division Chair, Cathy Melvin and PAR Panel, Darcie Blackburn and Rick Girling. Elizabeth Levett and Carl Seyer-Ochi are continuing on the PAR panel.
 - d) In response to a question that was asked of Carlos Garcia when he spoke at UESF’s Leadership conference: The district blocks certain websites at school sites because of federal funding regulations. If members have concerns with technology issues, they should e-mail field representative Eric Hall at ehall@uesf.org with those concerns.
 - e) Members were reminded to take CTA flyers about calling the hotline set up by CTA about the lack of a state budget and distribute them at their sites.

 - 2) Executive Vice-President’s Report Linda Plack
 - ◆ Educator Housing Project: This is for teachers and paras. One of the possibilities the district is exploring is using excess SFUSD property either to find housing or as sites for housing. A survey be out soon to find out what UESF members want for housing. It will be online, and hard copies will also be available. Members were urged to take the survey seriously so that accurate results can be derived.

 - 3) ParaprofessionalsCarolyn Samoa
- The first meeting of the school year is on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 4:15 at Civic Center Secondary School. The first union-district Para Retirement Committee meeting is September 25. The Medical Procedures Committee will be meeting again soon.

Adjournment: was at 6:22 p.m. in honor of George Washington High School teacher Sid Sherill, and retired Charles Drew Elementary School teacher Bonnet Brown Meihoefer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary