

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 4:15 p.m.
Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes (Sign in and take a voting card.)Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2009 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather
M/S/C to accept the August 31, 2009 Financial Report as presented.

COPE Financial Report.....Ken Tray
M/S/C to accept the August 31, 2009 COPE Report as presented.

Cecilia Shephard, Urban Community Housing Coalition, gave a brief presentation on educators' housing. Flyers were circulated, announcing a first-time homebuyers' workshop on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Everett Middle School, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be a focus on teachers who have purchased single-family homes with these programs.

M/S/U that UESF endorse this program.

Special Order of Business

1. Support for Local 2 Hotel WorkersHERE Representative
Local 2 Community Outreach Organizer Reverend Israel Alvaran, San Francisco Labor Council VP Howard Wallace, and Local 2 bargaining team member Orlynn Rush all spoke to the Assembly. Sister Rush gave a brief history of the 2004 lockout that lasted 53 days. Their current contract battle centers around health care. Our guests distributed flyers announcing their September 24 action. There is a community briefing tomorrow at St. Patrick's Church. A sign up list was circulated so that our members can receive information. UESF has a long history of supporting Unite HERE, Local 2.

2. Giants TicketsSusan Solomon
Tickets are still available for UESF's day at the ballpark for the September 27 Giants-Cubs game. Over 250 tickets have been purchased by UESF members so far.

3. M/S/CU September 24: The Fight for California's Future.....Dennis Kelly and Linda Plack

Whereas, California is one of only three states that requires a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature to pass a state budget and raise revenues,

Whereas, this two-thirds vote requirement has allowed a small minority of lawmakers to hold the budget hostage to personal philosophical agendas that are not shared by the vast majority of Californians,

Whereas, the result of this tyranny of the minority has been over \$17 billion in cuts to education over the past two years, resulting in over 17,000 K-12 layoffs and cuts to vital programs and services,

Whereas, these cuts come despite tax cuts enacted since 1993 that cost the state of California \$11.7 billion in revenues for the last fiscal year.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the UESF Assembly stands with the California Federation of Teachers and the California Teachers Association in calling for a return to a simple majority rule of the state Legislature to pass a state budget and to raise revenues.

Be It Further Resolved that all UESF members be encouraged to wear their UESF t-shirts on Thursday, September 24th, as part of the California Federation of Teachers day of protest supporting majority rule in the Legislature.

There were flyers available at the meeting and members present at the meeting were urged to distribute the flyers at their work sites. There will also be a flyer to distribute to parents. Free CFT/AFT tee shirts will be available at the UESF meeting starting on September 21. This was a special order of business due to the time-sensitive nature of the resolution.

School Board member Rachel Norton greeted the Assembly and invited members to contact her if they have issues with which she can be of assistance.

Resolutions: All of the following resolutions were passed by the Executive Board at its September 2 meeting with a recommendation to support.

1. CARRIED: Return of Peace Justice and Human Rights Committee.....Tom Edminster
Whereas the Peace Justice and Human Rights Committee[PJHRC] has been a UESF committee for most of the life of this organization, and has its roots in the activities and concerns of UESF members, and our relationships to multiple activities for peace, justice, solidarity and human rights beyond our immediate organization; and

Whereas the UESF is served by having a such committee of concerned members whose mandate is to review, have oversight over and make recommendations concerning endorsements, policy initiatives, their related alliances and coalitions in the general field of 'peace, justice and human rights;' and

Whereas the PJHRC in recent years has assisted UESF in a number of manners, among them the UESF affiliation with United States Labor Against War [USLAW] and in assisting in UESF's continuing activities and union identity in anti-Iraq war activity, and also in helping lend UESF's voice to activities in support of immigrant students and families;

Therefore be it resolved that UESF authorizes the resuscitation/revival of the PJHRC as a special committee** of UESF; and

Be it further resolved that PJHRC shall comply with all existing rules governing the behavior of UESF committees; and

Be it further resolved that the PJHRC shall function, as in its past, open to all UESF members who share these concerns and are able to participate actively in the life of the committee.

2. CARRIED unanimously as amended: Class Size Increase.....Dennis Kelly and Susan Solomon

Whereas, kindergarten-third grade class size for the 2009-2010 school year increased from 20 to 22 students; and

Whereas, the Weighted Student Formula was decreased by 2% for each school; and

Whereas, SFUSD central office staffing increased by 12% or approximately \$2,000,000 for the 2009-2010 school year; and

Whereas, studies demonstrate that class size is a significant factor in student achievement; and

Whereas, historically the San Francisco Board of Education committed itself to make cuts as far away from the classroom as possible;

Therefore Be it Resolved that UESF demand that SFUSD reprioritize its allocation of funds, eliminate the increase in central office staffing and use those monies to help alleviate increases in class size, and

Be it further resolved that the UESF leadership direct UESF staff to communicate with union building representatives to find out actual numbers of students in K-3 classes.

M/S/C Amendment: After the "Therefore be it resolved," add : "and be it further resolved that the UESF leadership direct UESF staff to communicate with union building representatives to find out actual numbers of students in K-3 classes."

3. CARRIED as amended: Close Prop. 13 Loophole Linda Plack and Ken Tray
Whereas, San Francisco Assessor Phil Ting is launching a statewide campaign to reform Proposition 13 by creating a "split-roll" tax system that would protect residential property owners and force corporate property owners to pay their fair share of public expenditures; and

Whereas, closing Proposition 13 corporate tax loopholes generates revenues for schools, public health, and public infrastructure and can help California regain its role as a leader in public education; and

Whereas, the California Federation of Teachers, California Labor Federation and many other labor, political and community groups are building a movement to support initiatives that would eliminate the 2/3 requirement to pass a state budget or pass new revenue-raising measures; and

Whereas, the 2/3 requirement to pass a state budget or to raise new revenues allows a small minority of conservative Republicans to starve public education of the resources we so desperately need; and

Therefore Be it resolved that UESF endorses the "Close the Loophole" Campaign, and

Be it further resolved that UESF joins with CFT and the California Federation of Labor to form a coalition that will support and pass state initiatives that will eliminate the 2/3 vote budget and revenue raising requirement; and

Be it further Resolved that UESF will work within the CTA State Council to ensure that CTA will join in coalition with the other like-minded bodies and endorse and support campaigns to close Proposition 13 corporate loopholes, fix the budget crisis and institute progressive taxation to support public education, public health, public safety programs and important public infrastructure for the good of all Californians.

And be it finally resolved that UESF will work to educate its members and friends regarding these issues of tax equity, sufficient revenue and democracy vs. minority rule, utilizing a variety of sources and methods, perhaps including workshops or forums, email blasts and articles or features in the *UESF Educator*.

M/S amendment: Change last paragraph to “Be it *further* resolved...” and add, “And be it finally resolved that UESF will work to educate its members and friends regarding these issues of tax equity, sufficient revenue and democracy vs. minority rule, utilizing a variety of sources and methods, perhaps including workshops or forums, email blasts and articles or features in the *UESF Educator*.”

4. CARRIED as amended: Race to the Top-Wrong Track.. Linda Plack and Ken Tray Whereas, UESF supports the Obama Administration’s intent to bridge the achievement gap and improve underperforming schools by offering \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top grants; and

Whereas, Race to the Top funding is only available to states that have no “legal, statutory or regulatory barriers to linking data about student achievement or student growth to teachers for the purpose of teacher and student evaluation; and

Whereas, California law does not prohibit linking student and teaching data for the purposes of evaluation; and

Whereas, student and teacher data is already linked at the local level and local districts are held accountable for use of this data to revise and improve school plans; and

Whereas, UESF believes that teacher evaluation must remain at the local level as a crucial tenet of collective bargaining; and

Whereas there is no body of research or evidence that paying teachers based on test scores improves education; and

Whereas, teaching to the test takes valuable time and focus away from critical thinking and creative activities that prepare students for college and careers; and

Whereas, our democracy relies on new generations of students that can engage the political, cultural and social landscapes with critical and creative minds;

Therefore Be it Resolved that UESF strongly objects to any state legislation that removes local control of teacher evaluations to appease Secretary Duncan’s ill conceived “Race to the Top” federal dictums.

Be it further resolved that UESF present a workshop on “Race to the Top” at its October 31st educational conferences to cover current California law on merit pay and charter schools;

Be it finally resolved that UESF invite leadership of both OEA and UTLA to co-present the workshop and share their experiences in dealing with charter school expansion.

M/S amendment: Be it further resolved that UESF present a workshop on “Race to the Top” at its October 31st educational conferences to cover current California law on merit pay and charter schools;

Be it finally resolved that UESF invite leadership of both OEA and UTLA to co-present the workshop and share their experiences in dealing with charter school expansion.

M/S/C to separate the two parts of the amendment and to vote on them separately. Both parts Carried.

School Board President Kim-Shree Maufas greeted the Assembly and presented the body with a schedule of the SFUSD Budget Calendar Highlights. She urged members to attend Budget Committee meetings to make sure our issues are heard. A copy of that calendar was circulated at the meeting so that members could sign up to attend the Budget Committee meetings.

Reports

1. President’s Report..... Dennis Kelly
 - Report on AFL-CIO convention, including AFT President Randi Weingarten’s role in speaking to the convention about the importance labor unity; and President Obama’s speech.
 - District Third Party Administrator for 403B & 457: The district has opened up the matter of the Third Party Administrator which handles the 403B investments for the district employees. TDS, which has done the work for the past few years, is going through some problems and has proposed a plan that will charge as much as \$3/month to each account. STRS has a plan, costing \$2/month, that is also under consideration. CTA is advocating for the STRS plan. Other companies may also apply to the district to do the work. None of this so far has any effect on any individual’s accounts.
2. Executive Vice-President.....Linda Plack
 - Educators Housing: UESF continues to work on this issue with SFUSD. The question is what to do with excess property owned by the district. After several years, some of UESF’s work is finally coming to fruition. There will not be housing for everyone, but UESF would like to see housing for new teachers, for mid-year career teachers, and for rentals and condos.
 - Ice Cream Social: Reminder announcement that UESF is hosting this event on Thursday, September 17, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the temporary park called the Mason Green in North Beach. UESF members, families and friends are welcome!
3. COPE Committee.....Ken Tray

The first meeting, scheduled for September 24, was postponed because of the various September 24 actions. The committee is beginning a campaign to increase contributions to

COPE. An appeal went out to the Retired Division, and at least 80 retired members responded.

4. Divisional Reports:

a. Paraprofessionals..... Carolyn Samoa

The next Paraprofessional Division meeting, on September 23 at 4:15 in the Civic Center Secondary School auditorium, will be a UBC training. A meeting notice is going out to all paras this week. Members were urged to tell paras at their sites about this meeting.

b. SubstitutesLiz Conley

United Educators in the person of Vice President for Substitutes continues to struggle with the vagaries of SFUSD. So far this school year we have touched on the following:

- Clarifying number of and selection method for Prop A substitutes.
- Establishing assignment locations for CORES.
- New phone number for substitute assignments, 345-0064, (sprung without warning on us all without a forwarding from the old number!).
- Unexplained new payroll deductions.
- Attempting to understand the programming for the automated call-out system. If it weren't so frustrating for many individuals, it would be funny.

c. Retired DivisionGerry Meister

Members were encouraged to look at the website www.ssfairness.com for information on Social Security and the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, under which fully-earned Social Security benefits are denied to more than a million second-career public servants when they retire or when a spouse dies. The Social Security Fairness Act of 2009 would provide teachers, fire fighters, police and other federal, state and local workers the same rights as other workers.

Sergeant at Arms ReportRoberto Michel

Present: delegates from 6 high schools, 6 middle schools, 4 K-8 schools, 16 elementary schools, 2 CDCs, 1 multi-site, and 1 guest.

Adjournment: at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Solomon, Secretary