

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 4:15 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes (Sign-In and take a voting card)..... Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2009 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report and COPE Financial Report Elaine Merriweather and Ken Tray
M/S/C to accept the September 30, 2009 Financial and COPE Reports as presented.

Janet Eberhardt passed out a questionnaire from CTA about the CTA budget. Sister Merriweather encouraged members to fill it out and return it during the meeting.

Resolutions (*Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board – 30 minutes total)

1. M/S/CU *Grass Roots Committee for Social Security Fairness.....Gerry Meister

Whereas the NEA/CTA and the AFT/CFT have endorsed the Social Security Fairness Act now in Congress (S 484 and HR 235) that would repeal the grossly unfair Social Security offsets that drastically reduce earned Social Security benefits for many UESF members when they retire, and

Whereas the Grassroots Committee for Social Security Fairness, an all-volunteer group of Bay Area educators and other public service employees, active and retired, is dedicated to raising public awareness of these offsets as part of the campaign to convince Congress to repeal them, and

Whereas, as reported in the September UESF Educator, President Obama has said, “Nobody should be penalized for serving our children, and that’s why I support repealing the GPO/WEP and will work to do so as President,” and

Whereas most UESF resources must now be focused on passing healthcare reform and the Employee Free Choice Act, it is also important that UESF members, active and retired, learn more about the offsets and have an opportunity to work directly with an organization dedicated to raising public awareness of this issue, expected to be addressed by Congress in early 2010.

Therefore be it resolved that UESF endorse the Grassroots Committee for Social Security Fairness efforts to convince the public and Congress that the Social Security offsets should be repealed, and

Be it further resolved that UESF invite the Committee to offer a workshop about the offsets at the October 31 membership conference.

2. M/S/C with 3 abstentions as amended: October 24th Mobilization to Save Public Education Cynthia Lasden

Whereas funding for public education in California has suffered since before the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, so much so that this state is now 47th in the US in per pupil spending; and

Whereas recent cuts to California public education have severely multiplied the crises of access, opportunity and employment at ALL levels; and

Whereas the SFUSD is projected to be hit with another round of severe cuts for next academic year; and,

Whereas the mass demonstrations of students, educators, and workers who shut down major sections of the UC system on September 24, 2009 to protest fee hikes and continued cuts in education have contributed to a growing mobilization to oppose public education cuts; and,

Whereas The San Francisco Labor Council recently endorsed the October 24 Mobilizing Conference to Save Public Education to be held at UC Berkeley;

Be it further resolved that UESF send a representative to participate in the Mobilizing Conference; and

Be it finally resolved that UESF publicize the Mobilizing Conference to our members in email blasts, *The Educator* and any other possible means of communication.

M/S/C to remove the first and third resolveds: Therefore, be it resolved that UESF endorse the October 24 Mobilizing Conference to Save Public Education---initiated by UC students, workers and their allies; and,

Be it further resolved that UESF support the Mobilizing Conference with a \$100 donation;

3. M/S/C with 1 abstention as amended: *In Unity There is Strength.....Dennis Kelly & Linda Plack

Whereas, San Francisco Federation of Teachers (AFT/CFT#61, AFL-CIO) and San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association (NEA/CTA) joined forces in 1989 to form the United Educators of San Francisco (AFT/CFT#61, AFL-CIO, NEA/CTA); and

Whereas, UESF, San Francisco's union for Teachers and Paraprofessionals, has a proud record of mobilizing its members to defend and promote the interests of those who do the work in our schools day in and day out; and

Whereas, UESF is now the most powerful, articulate and consistent voice for San Francisco's public schools and the students and families they serve; and

Whereas, UESF among other achievements won the contract fight of 2005-2006 by strategic organizing and finally mobilizing over 2500 members to a strike vote meeting, won full CTA membership for paraprofessionals, passed the historic Proposition A in 2008 and has formed active UBC's at almost every school site; and

Whereas, the challenge represented by the current economic and fiscal crisis is a daunting one, we have learned through struggle and celebration of victory, that in unity there is strength and by sticking to the union we will protect our work and save our schools;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the UESF Membership Conference on October 31, 2009 will commemorate our 20 years of unity with Joan-Marie Shelley, UESF's first president, and Judy Dellamonica, UESF's first Vice President, as an honored guest.; and

Be it Finally Resolved that we here assembled as the United Educators of San Francisco Assembly express our gratitude to President Joan-Marie Shelley and to Judy Dellamonica for the foresight and tenacity to lead the education workers of the San Francisco Unified School district into our merged union and to start us on the path to success we have followed for the past twenty years.

M/S/C with 1 abstention to add Judy Dellamonica to the resolution.

4. M/S/CU *One Union, Our Priorities to the Budget CommitteeKen Tray

Whereas, school sites face and will continue to face the danger of mid year budget cuts and further cuts for the 2010-2011 school year; and

Whereas, teachers and paraprofessionals are the best and most knowledgeable advocates of priorities for school site expenditures; and

Whereas, the Board of Education and Superintendent need constant reminders of their commitments to make cuts as far away from the classroom as possible; and

Whereas, the Budget Committee makes decisions that often have a direct impact on school site funding; and

Whereas, UESF must call on all of our political allies inside and outside SFUSD, including rank and file and union leaders, elected officials, community leaders and community of faith leaders to help us find adequate funding to defend our schools and our work; and

Whereas, the COPE Director and the COPE Committee responsibilities include organizing members and communicating UESF priorities to the Board of Education and government and community leaders,

Therefore Be it Resolved that each UBC will be urged to send one or more representatives to attend at least one Board of Education Budget Committee meeting during the 2009-2010 school year; and

Be it Further Resolved that the COPE Director and COPE Committee will be directed to implement the spirit and provisions of this resolution.

5. M/S/C w/1 abstention *Tsunami Relief.....Linda Plack, Carolyn Samoa, Susan Solomon & Ken Tray

Whereas, on September 30 a catastrophic tsunami struck American Samoa; and

Whereas, scores of people, maybe hundreds, died and thousands more are in need of food, clothing and shelter; and

Whereas, the territories capital, Pago Pago suffered widespread destruction disrupting government services, and

Whereas, many UESF members have family and friends on the American Samoan islands in need of immediate assistance;

Whereas, many UESF members have family and friends in the Phillipines in need of immediate assistance;

Therefore Be it Resolved that UESF donate \$500 to the American Red Cross Samoan Relief Fund and to the Phillipine Relief Fund.

M/S/CU amendment: Whereas, many UESF members have families in the Philippines, and an addition to the resolved: donate \$200 (amended to \$500) to the Philippine relief effort.

M/S/C amendment: to raise the amounts to \$500 each.

Reports

- 1. President’s Report..... Dennis Kelly
 - Bargaining Strategy: Report back from Executive Board and bargaining team meeting. Looking at extending the contract rather than opening UESF up to takeback demands from the district. Not a done deal. Bar. Team recommended 1 year extension. Don’t know how the d is going to respond. We had a bargaining survey ready to go. It is no more than talk right now. Of course it will come to the Assembly for a vote when a decision has to be made.
- 2. Executive Vice-President.....Linda Plack
 - Personnel Committee Report (written report attached)
 - Working with AFT to hire an organizer. ASP, preschools, etc. More info to come.
- 3. COPE CommitteeKen Tray

Meeting next week. Working on plans based on reso. On November 12, having a fundraiser for Tom Ammiano. First mailing went out requesting donations. A second mailing will go out next week. Ammiano has been a friend of educators. UESF is participating in CFT’s Strategic Plan in the state to stand

- 4. Divisional Reports:
 - a. High School Report Susan Solomon for Kathy Melvin
Special ed support, Data Director/School Loop, EPC. Chiu makes sure she gets the people we need to the meetings.
 - b. Middle School Report Patty Golumb
Special ed (similar to HS), and what else? First meeting with Pon.
 - c. Paraprofessionals..... Carolyn Samoa
Retirement committee exchanging proposals w/ d to improve retirement. Successful UBC training—thanks to MH. Encourage para participation on UBCs; paras are supposed to be part.
 - d. SubstitutesLiz Conley

(written report attached)

- e. Retired DivisionGerry Meister

- f. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

Good of the Order : Gale Ow was at Coal of Labor Union Women. New president. 100 new members in Iowa. Voted to increase VPs from 12 to 16. Agreed to reach out to younger women and to increase tech use.

SFLC will host education meeting next Monday, chaired by Kelly, and presentation by B Olsen-Jones and Fred Glass. Public welcome.

TE talked about Lakoff and someone else. I couldn't keep up.

Northern CA Socialist conference on www.norcal-socialism.org for more info.

Announcements

Adjournment: 6:09 Meeting Adjourned in Memory of Nathaniel Judah Hensler, son of Rebecca Hensler. Contributions: www.singlepayernow.net and www.familyhouseinc.org

and Dolores Delligatti, member before retirement.