

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 4:15 p.m.
Final Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon

M/S/C to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2007 and November 14, 2007 Assembly meeting minutes as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather

M/S/C to accept the November 30, 2007 Financial Report as presented. The CFT auditor just spent a week reviewing our books. She recommended working to stay within our budget in each area. The Budget Committee will be meeting soon and will discuss how best to achieve this goal. The paraprofessional dues increase was not implemented by the District in December as it was supposed to have been, which is why there is a shortfall in this month's budget.

COPE Financial Report Ken Tray

M/S/C to accept the November 30, 2007 COPE Financial Report as presented.

Last week, there was a fundraiser to retire the campaign debts of Hydra Mendoza, Kim-Shree Maufas and Jane Kim. UESF had donated up to the legal limit for Maufas and Mendoza as our endorsed candidates, but had not donated to Jane Kim, so UESF donated \$100 to help retire her campaign debt.

Resolutions - All Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board

1. M/S/C In Support of Black Caucus Committee..... Jeremiah Jeffries

Whereas in Sept. of 2005 UESF voted to establish a Black Caucus Committee;
Whereas the Black Caucus Committee has been meeting and successfully developed a Back to School Institute for the parents and caregivers of African American Students;

Whereas the Black Caucus Committee has worked to build a network of Black educators to provide community and begin to collectively address the needs of Black educators and students,

Be it therefore resolved that UESF continues to support the work and activities of the Black Caucus Committee to fulfill and carry out their mission as set forth in the founding resolution passed by the assembly in 2005.

2. M/S/C Revival of PJHRC Committee Lita Blanc, 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.

Sister Blanc said that meetings will be at Moscone Elementary School on the third Thursday of each month. Additional details will follow.

3. M/S/C Institute for African American Parents Event Dennis Kelly
UESF shall endorse and publicize the second installment of the Institute for African American Parents on Saturday, December 8, 2007 at Civic Center Secondary School.

This resolution was moot as the event took place on December 8.

4. M/S/C Teachers 4 Social Justice Event Karen Zapata
UESF shall endorse and publicize the Teachers 4 Social Justice Jan. 3, 2008 event, "What it Takes", part of T4SJ's continuing Public Education 411 series. It will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m., January 3, at New College of California.

(See flyer for details.) This will be an opportunity for people to have access to superintendent Carlos Garcia and Tony Smith.

5. M/S/C In Support of Striking Israeli Teachers Susan Kitchell
Whereas the Israeli Labor Court has voted to force the striking secondary teachers back to work in the midst of their two month strike, and

Whereas this action is a slap in the face to the teachers, an attack on collective bargaining and an assault on the right of a free people to withhold their labor;

Therefore the UESF Executive Board calls on the Israeli government to intervene to settle the strike without forcing the teachers to capitulate, and

Be it further resolved that the UESF leadership communicate with the Israeli consul in San Francisco to express the outrage and disappointment of the teachers and paraprofessionals of San Francisco and to express the intentions of of this resolution before the end of Hanukah.

This resolution was moot because the teachers were already forced back to work. The letter was already sent by UESF, as the resolution called for it to be delivered before the end of Hanukah.

6. M/S/C In Support of Prop. A Ken Tray
Whereas, there is an urgent need to repair and rebuild the neighborhood parks and playgrounds and protect open space throughout San Francisco; and

Whereas, Prop A will cover the most urgent park repairs without raising property taxes according to the city controller; and

Whereas, repairs on unsafe playground equipment, athletic fields and recreation centers used by our students on a daily basis is a high priority for Prop A; and

Whereas, endorsements by the San Francisco Labor Council, Mayor Newsom and every member of the Board of Supervisors represent the broad community support for Prop A;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the United Educators of San Francisco endorse Proposition A to help ensure that our students and their communities have safe and inviting recreational Facilities.

UESF delayed proposing an endorsement until we were assured by the Building Trades Council that there would be a Project Labor Agreement with the city.

Reports

- 1. President's Report Dennis Kelly
 - a. Parcel Tax (Recruit/Retain Educators)

There was a Committee of the Whole meeting and UESF was able to get their commitment. In other places, districts tend to get a parcel tax and the union comes in later. This is different, as UESF is in on the planning. The major portion for UESF is teacher pay. The district is not as interested in raising paraprofessional pay, but is amenable to increasing hours per day. Continuing Education designed by school sites would be embedded in the work day. UESF is resisting "combat pay," but is advocating for resources in those hard-to-staff schools. The district wants a modest amount of money for innovations at sites, and money for technology. Linda Plack, Carolyn Samoa, Ken Tray, Armen Sedrakian, and Dennis Kelly are the UESF members on the Parcel Tax Committee. There is a meeting with a political consultant tomorrow; they are looking at how much money will be available through a parcel tax. The challenge will be to get the 2/3 vote which is required. It is still a 184-day work year, which would be the least change for our members. The details and fine points have not been fully developed or worked out. Issues about how the suggestions regarding embedded Continuing Education would affect elementary schools in particular were discussed at the Assembly meeting. These issues are also being discussed in the meetings with the district. Rule of thumb: half of the money generated by the parcel tax would go to teacher compensation. There will be political polling to find out what about this will be attractive to voters, so that the general wording of the initiative reflects those interests. There will be 4 community meetings in January; 3 will be on weekdays, and one on a Saturday, which will also be a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Sister Plack pointed out that there is no question that educators need more money, and it is not going to come from the state. We need a parcel tax to provide that compensation, and we need to convince voters of that fact.

- b. Letters from AFT and CTA thanking UESF for donations to their disaster funds were included in the meeting packet. There was also information

about CTA's Staff Intern Program, applications for which are due February 8, 2008.

2. Executive Vice-President's ReportLinda Festa Plack
 - a. QEIA Scheduled Training: SB 1133, which was a result of CTA's lawsuit against the governor, provides additional funding for some decile 1 and 2 schools. Sister Plack gave some additional background and details of QEIA. UESF has been speaking out about the fact that the district has been spending this year's planning-year money inappropriately. Examples of what the funding is for: Lower class sizes of 25:1 for 4th-12th grade, and additional counselors—a ratio of 300:1. Trainings will be on February 12 and 13. Teachers will have to be released, and principals will have to invite parents and also attend themselves.
 - b. Goalview Update (Special Education), the computerized IEP system. As of October 1, all IEPs were supposed to have been on computer, but there were inadequate or no computers, little or no training for many sites. The newest deadline was December 1. Teams will go to schools to train teachers and there is also training at 601 McAllister on Wednesdays. 35 schools have responded so far to UESF's inquiry that went out week before last about what problems teachers are encountering.

UESF also needs to hear from elementary and middle school teachers if there are problems with OARS, SCOE and any other assessments.

3. SubstitutesLiz Conley
Sister Conley's report was included in the meeting packet.

4. COPE CommitteeKen Tray
The committee is preparing for the Attract and Retain initiative (the parcel tax). It may be more effective to bring the issue up before talking about a tax that will pay for it.

Update on next year's school board elections: There will be 4 seats up for election, those of Mar, Sanchez, Wynns and Yee. Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez will not be running again, as they will be running for the Board of Supervisors. Jill Wynns and Norman Yee have not yet stated their intentions.

UESF has endorsed the Iraq moratorium. There are more "End War" buttons available now. Brother Tray encouraged members to wear their COPE "Education is Political" buttons.

5. Retired Division Gerry Meister
The division is planning a 3-hour STRS workshop in April on retirement income management for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. They also hope to have HSS folks come by as well.

Brother Kelly explained the Scatena Fund and encouraged members to take applications, available at the meeting, which are due in the UESF office on January 2, 2008.

There was information at the meeting about the Raoul Teilet scholarship. Members are asked to encourage students to apply and to inform counselors.

6. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

A total of 35 members signed in. There was representation from 6 high schools, 4 middle schools, 2 K-8 schools, 5 elementary schools, 2 CDCs, and 2 SHP, 3 Substitute Division and 2 Retired Division members.

7. Divisional Reports:

- a. Elementary Schools Darcie Chan Blackburn

A meeting with the 3 SOIS still has to be scheduled. Issues: pilot 4/5 grade relief time; CELDT; Brigance and UESF's survey about it; principal expectations, especially when being used in evaluations; and what happens when a school does not follow the SSC plans.

8. Social Activities Committee.....Susan Solomon

UESF's annual mid-semester party will be a Political Party on Friday, February 1 at the Local 34 union hall. Local elected officials have been invited, and there will be information about current and ongoing campaigns. Dance music will be provided again by member and DJ Mark Murray. Soul food will be on the menu.

Adjournment: at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary

NOTE: Next Assembly Meeting will be Wednesday, January 16, 2007