

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

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
M/S/C to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2009 Assembly meeting as presented.

Financial Report Elaine Merriweather
M/S/C to accept the November 30, 2009 Financial Report as presented.

The auditor was in for a regularly-scheduled visit. UESF may need to order some additional UESF/SFUSD contracts, as there are no more paraprofessional contracts.

COPE Financial Report Ken Tray
M/S/C to accept the November 30, 2009 COPE Financial Report as presented.

Expenditures have been minimal. There were suggestions about bringing forward detailed reports. This will be done when there is a campaign going on.

Resolutions (*Recommended for Approval by the Executive Board)

1. CU: *Parent, Teacher, Para, Community Organization Ken Tray, et al.

Whereas, we know that parents, educators and community coalitions are essential in the struggle to gain the resources San Francisco's public schools need to promote educational equity for our students and economic equity in our urban landscape; and

Whereas, over the next few months UESF and the San Francisco unit of ACORN or its successor organization will focus on three core areas:

- Taxes and the Close the Loophole Grassroots Campaign
- Community Benefits for Community Schools Campaign
- Preschool Organizing Project.

Whereas these areas of focus will build a platform for parents, educators and community groups to attack the issues of poverty, inadequate funds for teacher and paraprofessional compensation and inadequate funds for classroom and supportive services and the lack of services for communities and schools.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the UESF President be authorized to pursue and investigate the formation of a Parent, Teacher and Paraprofessional Community Coalition and Organization and report back to the Executive Board and Assembly.

2. C as amended: *UESF Support for March 4, 2010 Actions Susan Solomon, et al.

Whereas, California public education from pre-school through graduate school is facing a budget crisis that threatens educators' ability to meet the needs of our students; and

Whereas, due to the lack of revenue for public education thousands of school workers face layoffs this spring and for the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, the October 24 Conference in San Francisco called for a Day of Action on March 4, 2009 to save public education and oppose the impact of massive budget cuts; and

Whereas, UTLA and other CFT and CTA locals are planning activity in support of a March 4 Day of Action; and

Whereas, UESF can use the March 4 Day of Action to reach out to our parent and community allies to build a local rally and demonstration,

Therefore, be it resolved that the president appoint a committee to work with the leadership and rank-and-file, including members who wish to work on the committee, to plan for a March 4 event, and that UESF consider organizing a local demonstration and rally in support of the March 4 Day of Action; and

Be It further Resolved that the publicized demands for these actions will include, “No Cuts. No Layoffs. Emergency Funding for Education Now”; and

Be it further resolved that UESF will carry this resolution to CTA State Council Jan. 29-31, 2010 for endorsement of March 4 action; and

Be it finally resolved that UESF bring our call for local actions on or about March 4, 2010 to the San Francisco Labor Council and our other labor affiliates and community allies.

(Note: An organization called the March 4 Strike and Day of Action has mistakenly listed UESF as an endorser without UESF’s official endorsement.)

Blanca Misse, a student organizer and graduate student/teaching assistant, addressed the Assembly with the permission of the group to inform us about what actions students will be taking on March 4.

M/S/CU amendment, after “Therefore...”: Resolved that the president will appoint a committee to work with the leadership and rank-and-file, including members who wish to work on the committee, to plan for the March 4 event.

M/S amendment, to be placed before the final resolved:

Therefore, be it resolved that UESF organize lunchtime rallies and other actions throughout the district on March 4;

Be It further Resolved that the publicized demands for these actions will be, “No Cuts. No Layoffs. Emergency Funding for Education Now.”; and

Be it further resolved that UESF will carry this resolution to CTA State Council Jan. 29-31, 2010 for endorsement of March 4 action; and

M/S to consider ad seriatum.

M/S/C Amend first part of amendment to: “that UESF “consider organizing” rather than “organize.”

M/S/C to change “be” to “include” in “... that the publicized demands for these actions will...”

M/S/C Be it further resolved that UESF will carry this resolution to CTA State Council Jan. 29-31, 2010 for endorsement of March 4 action; and

(Pam Routh asked, “On March 4, are we going to march forth?”)

Reports

- 1. President’s Report..... Dennis Kelly

- a) Pensions: City workers' pensions are under scrutiny, though it is unlikely that any attempts to change them will be taken for the next election. Teachers' pensions are likely to be getting the same reaction.
- b) Race to the Top (RTTT): The District needs to sign on by January 8, 2010, and wants UESF to consider signing on. This means the Executive Board will need to make a decision about whether to sign on at the January meeting. It is not possible to sign on to some sections and not all sections.
- c) January 5 demonstration in support of Unite HERE Local 2. (See flyer in meeting packet.) AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka will be in attendance.

2. Executive Vice-President.....Linda Plack

- a) Reminder: If members intend to resign, notification to the District by March 1 will mean summer health benefits.
- b) Permanent Campaign meeting: This group, comprised of people who worked on the Prop A and other education initiatives, met today. The goal is to support and promote public education. The PTA is planning a town hall meeting about the state budget, and is supporting March 4 actions.
- c) CTA is probably going to support several of the ballot measures that will be on the November 2010 ballot. State Council has to decide. These include initiatives to change the budget and tax structures and improve the revenue stream.
- d) Sister Plack participated in an AFT Webinar today about RTTT. States are competing for the money, and they are signing MOUs. In some states, the educator unions are not being consulted. In others, there is a stated need to change collective bargaining agreements.

3. COPE CommitteeKen Tray

The committee met and developed plans for working with school sites to attend school board Budget Committee meetings. At last Tuesday's school board Budget Committee meeting, UESF members from 4 or 5 schools attended and asked questions. School board elections are coming up. The committee will be working to get three candidates whom all of UESF can support. Brother Tray has been attending Jobs with Justice meetings—coalition of labor and community organizations. COPE Committee will be working on scheduling and preparing ongoing site presentations of Fred Glass' tax campaign presentations.

4. Divisional Reports:

a. Child Development Centers Report..... Betty Robinson-Harris

10-20 members meet regularly. Members continue to work in the CDP Task Force on the pilot program. The superintendent circumvented the recommendations made by the Task Force after 3 years of planning.

b. Paraprofessionals..... Carolyn Samoa

Update on Para Retirement Committee: UESF's lawyer found more laws that the District might have violated, and then the District cancelled last week's meeting.

c. SubstitutesLiz Conley

Teachers, please be respectful of substitutes. If there are problems, please bring them to the attention of Sister Conley. Many of the newly-hired substitutes are fully credentialed with CLAD. There is now supposed to be a freeze on substitute hiring.

Staff Representative Eric Hall reported that over 20 people appeared at the unemployment hearings two days this week. The District has chosen a new law firm. David Campos now works there. Brother Hall's argument is similar to a community college employment argument based on enrollment: Since the district has about 1200 subs, but only about 300 teachers are absent on average every day, there is unemployment. Lesson: Members were strongly encouraged to

keep all paperwork given to them by the District. (Ex: If 'temporary hours' in Dream Schools for paraprofessionals are eliminated, paras should apply for UI.). Also, pay attention to recommendations Brother Hall sends out. For 4 years in a row, his arguments have prevailed, and members have received unemployment insurance benefits. This could be precedent-setting.

d. Retired DivisionGerry Meister

A form was again available for people who want to get information on the social security offset. See the SF Educator for more information and sister Meister's email address. Health Service System (HSS): Blue Shield has dropped their proposal by a few percentages. However, no other healthcare insurance carriers are trying to get into HSS.

e. Sergeant at Arms Report Roberto Michel

A total of 54 were in attendance, including: 9 from elementary schools; 3 from K-8 schools; 3 from middle schools; 2 from CDCs; 7 from high schools; 2 from Retired division; 4 from Substitutes Division; 1 from multi-sites; and 2 from Student Support Services.

Good of the Order

Members were encouraged to take free posters about safe and orderly schools. New mediation program: S.F. Community Boards. This program can be used to address problems at sites that cannot necessarily be addressed through the contract. Members were encouraged to consider this free service at their sites, and to contact their staff representatives for more information.

Announcements

The Center for Critical Environmental Global Literacy is a group that provides PD and will be sending a group of educators **Center for Critical Environmental Global Literacy, (CCEGL)**. Our website is <http://www.ccegl.org> to El Salvador. The cost is \$3000-\$4000. Go to www.ccegl.org for more information.

Undocumented youth are being deported from San Francisco. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution, 8-3, to give due process rights to undocumented youth, but Mayor Newsom and City Attorney Herrera plan to disregard this resolution.

There will be a town hall meeting at Mission High School on Friday, December 17, on immigration reform. Nancy Pelosi will be speaking.

Rethinking Schools magazine: UESF's subscription for multiple copies is finally in place. Copies were available at the meeting.

There will be a new labor celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday at ILWU Local 34, 7:30 a.m., January 15. The focus will be on King's impact on labor unions.

On Saturday, December 19, 3:00, there will be a Single Payer Celebration and Annual Potluck at St. Mary's Cathedral. Tom Ammiano and NY Congressman Eric Massa will be in attendance.

S.F. Community students will be participating in a winter Christmas celebration on December 18.

Teachers at Creative Arts Charter School contacted CTA, who referred them to UESF for organizing. Field rep Allan Brill did yeoman's work in his work with them. 80% of the bargaining unit signed union cards.

Adjournment: at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Solomon, Secretary