

**United Educators of San Francisco
Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Official Minutes**

Minutes

Approval of Minutes Susan Solomon
MSC to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2010 Assembly meeting as presented.

Special Order of Business

1. Undocumented YouthDionne Jirachikitti, Asian Law Caucus
The speaker spoke about the problems of deportation and immigrant youth, some of whom get referred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) upon arrest, even before they have contacted a lawyer. It should be that only after juveniles are convicted of a felony that they are reported to ICE, but since 1999, that has not been the case. A brochure, prepared for UESF by the ALC, *Know the Rights of Immigrant Youth*, was available at the meeting. Some children as young as thirteen have been deported. Even a tussle in the schoolyard can result in arrest if it is viewed as an assault. There was an additional brochure written for youth who have been detained. Young people can get free legal assistance through the public defender's office.

Financial ReportElaine Merriweather
MSC to accept the November 30, 2010 Financial Report as presented.

The Budget Committee will have a proposal for the January 2011 Executive Board meeting to address the amount of funding allocated for conferences and conventions.

COPE Financial ReportElaine Merriweather
MSC to accept the November 30, 2010 Financial Report as presented.

COPE Report Ken Tray

Probably the biggest electoral victory was Kamala Harris' razor-thin victory. Overall, it was an extremely expensive election, and UESF is facing the same issues on a local level. Natasha Hoehn, the candidate who came in fifth for school board, spent \$60,000. Michelle Rhee has founded an anti-union organization called "Students First," and is raising lots of money for it. Brother Tray encouraged members to join UESF's Committee on Political Education (COPE), so that UESF can have sufficient funds for political campaigns. (It is unlawful for unions to use dues funds for political activities.) He encouraged members to arrange for Brother Tray to visit their schools.

The Dream Act passed the House. Members were urged to contact their senators, and more importantly, people in other states, about voting for the Dream Act.

The Hilton boycott campaign is continuing, while there has been a 12% increase in compensation for Hilton board members. Thanks were given to Ken Tray and Dennis Kelly for writing a very strong letter to STRS, urging consideration of divestment from Blackstone Group, Hilton's parent company.

School psychologist Adan Luevano and the psychologists' UBC raised concerns about the five-day National Association of School Psychology conference to be held at the Hilton. They have written a letter, requesting that the conference be moved so that they do not have to cross a picket line to attend.

Local 2, UniteHERE.....Feng Kung and Riddhi Mehta
Kung and Mehta provided the Assembly with additional details about the current hotel boycotts.

The Commission on Adult Basic Education and the National Science Teachers conferences are also coming to San Francisco, and are currently booked at the Hilton.

Presentations by Candidates for California Federation of Teachers Offices

1. Secretary Treasurer
 - Jeff Freitas
 - Dennis Smith
2. President
 - Mary Alice Callahan
 - Joshua Pechthalt

Mary Alice Callahan and Dennis Smith are running as a slate, as are Josh Pechthalt and Jeff Freitas.

Each candidate was given 15 minutes to speak, including a question and answer portion if they chose.

Election Committee Report.....Michelle Irwin

The nomination forms for the 2011 CFT convention and the NEA Representative Assembly were available at the meeting. They will also be mailed out. Members were urged to take copies to their sites. Nomination forms are due in the UESF office or at the Executive Board meeting at Civic Center Secondary School by Wednesday, January 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Resolutions

1. C, as amended: UESF Response to Education Budget Cuts. Dennis Kelly, et. al.
Whereas UESF has sent observers to the October 2009 and 2010 mobilizing conferences “In Defense of Public Education and Public Services,” and

Whereas UESF is outraged about increases in fees for higher education, and

Whereas UESF is currently unaware of a rising of unions, particularly CFT and CTA, to support a March 2nd action or strike, and

Whereas a demonstration simply to have a demonstration achieves nothing, and

Whereas it would not be prudent or responsible to endorse an amorphous and unstructured body that would bind us to actions our members may or may not support.

Therefore Be It Resolved that UESF continues to monitor the call and organization of March actions and preserves its consideration of endorsement of those actions when they are fully developed, and

Be it Further Resolved that UESF urges all school sites to begin discussions on how we as public education stakeholders are to respond as individuals, as a union, and as state organizations to the devastating cuts facing public education and all public services in California, and

Be It Further Resolved that UESF endorse a March 2 Day of Action; and will urge the SFLC, the CFT, and CTA to also endorse a March 2 Day of Action with the aim of building the strongest possible regional and statewide response to the budget cuts coming in the spring of 2011, and

Be it Finally Resolved that UESF will work within CFT, CTA, and the California Federation of Labor to promote a powerful, progressive and working peoples' response to the devastating budget cuts facing public education and all public services in California.

MSC Amendment **as amended**: Be It Resolved that UESF endorse the March 2 Day of Action; and will urge the SFLC, the CFT, and CTA to also endorse the March 2 Day of Action with the aim of building the strongest possible regional and statewide response to the budget cuts coming in the spring of 2011.

MSC amendment: Substitute the word "a" two times: "Be It Resolved that UESF endorse **a** March 2 Day of Action....will urge the SFLC, the CFT, and CTA to also endorse **a** March 2..."

2. CU: Ongoing Support for Local Two Contract Campaign.....Patty Golumb, et al.
Whereas there is a strong alliance between the sisters and brothers of HERE Local 2 and UESF; and

Whereas many children of Local 2 members attend San Francisco public schools; and

Whereas UESF members walk picket lines, lobby, attend rallies and go to jail with Local 2 members in their ongoing fight for economic justice; and

Whereas Local 2 workers are in a fight for a just contract including decent wages and benefits with good and affordable health care for their families; and

Whereas UESF joined Local 2 on Thursday, November 5 to insist that the State Teachers Retirement Fund Board (STRS) use the power of its \$1.8 billion Investment of educators money with Hilton Hotel owners The Blackstone Group to pressure them to reach a quick and equitable resolution to the contract dispute with Local 2;and

Whereas according to Ian Lewis, Local 2 organizer, Chris Ailman, CalSTRS chief investment officer then sent "the most strongly written letter seen to come out of a public pension fund." to The Blackstone Group as a result of the Local 2/UESF presentation.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that UESF continue to do everything it can to support Local 2 in its contract fight with Hilton Hotel and other multinational hotels; and

Be It Finally Resolved that express our appreciation to CalSTRS Board for their strong letter to The Blackstone Group and remind them that San Francisco educators expect that our retirement investments be used in a manner consistent with the high ethical and social standards established by CalSTRS 21 Risk Factors.

MSF amendment: delete "to do everything it can" from the first resolved.

Reports

1. President's Report.....Dennis Kelly
 - a) The District has suggested "clumping" the furlough days into one of two clumps, either at the end of winter break or the end of the school year. UESF will be soliciting opinions from members before making a recommendation to the District.

- b) The teachers in La Habra, in southern California, went on strike for two days. CTA and School Services worked out a settlement so that educators could go back to work, but the principals locked them out the day they were to return to work.
- c) The Mount Diablo school district is moving to impose furlough days on school workers.

2. Vice-President’s Report Linda Plack

- a) Sister Plack, Sister Samoa, and Brother Kelly succeeded in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a settlement for moving paraprofessionals from PARS into Social Security. Ballots will go out to paras this week so they can vote on approval, and must be returned by January 3, 2011. There should be April implementation, which will mean one more quarter than the District initially proposed. The MOU will be on the UESF website. UESF is looking into suing PARS, and is requesting monetary support to do so from its affiliates. There were several questions asked and answered.
- b) Pilar Barton spoke about the last Preschool for All meeting that she and Betty Robinson-Harris attended. Providers wanted to cut bonuses teachers receive for college credits and work experience. This did not happen.

The organizing effort in which Sister Barton is involved includes working with teachers and parents.

3. Divisional Reports

a. Charter School Report Dana Rivers

Five Keys Charter School is six years old. The students are incarcerated. About half of their ADA funding comes from the prison system; the other half comes from Walden House and other organizations. There are thirty-eight bargaining unit members. Sister Rivers spoke movingly about their mission as educators. Contract negotiations began 18 months ago. The Five Keys Board of Directors just voted to accept the contract a few weeks ago. Sister Rivers talked about how the presence of the union allowed a teacher who was disciplined to resign rather than being fired, a positive outcome for this member.

b. Middle School Committee ReportRebecca Hensler

The good news about the Committee’s meeting with Assistant Superintendent Jeannie Pon: The Union has moved forward successfully with getting the District to comply with the requirement to use the Student Behavior History Report form. Pon has arranged for new Student Support Services Department Director Claudia Anderson to meet with the Committee. Pon agreed to talk with all middle school site administrators to comply with transmitting any information they have regarding students’ behavior history to the teachers. Anderson agreed that schools would transmit information from one school to another when a student transfers. Sister Hensler will attend the next SFUSD Counselors meeting to train them on what the expectations are of them, keeping in mind that administrators are ultimately responsible.

The bad news: The Superintendent’s Zones are not supervised by Pon, but by two other administrators, Patricia Gray (the Bayview) and Guadalupe Guerrero (the Mission). Pon agreed to have them at the meeting, and they were not there. The Committee had gotten an agreement that Everett would not continue to be a “dumping ground” for challenging students. There is also an issue with RSP teachers. Brother Kelly said he and Linda Plack will follow up with Guerrero.

c. Paraprofessional IssuesCarolyn Samoa

- Para Pension Report (see above)

d. Sergeant At Arms Report..... Roberto Michel

Delegates present: members from two Child Development Centers and 12 elementary, three K-8, four middle, and seven high schools; four from the Substitutes Division and two from Retired Division; one from Visual and Performing Arts and two from Student Support Services; six guests; and staff and officers, for a total of 54 in attendance.

Good of the Order Francisca Sanchez, Associate Superintendent of Academics and Professional Development, will be leaving her position immediately.

Paraprofessional Anthony Singleton was granted Unemployment Insurance (UI) on appeal. He urged paraprofessionals to apply and appeal. UESF Senior Staff Representative Eric Hall has won cases on behalf of 45 members. He has become an expert on UI. The union is not required to do this kind of representation. UESF is probably the only educators' union to do so.

Adjournment at 7:00 p.m. in memory of nurse Susan Kitchell's sister Goldie, and member Lloyd Schein and his wife.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Solomon, Secretary