

***Rep Council Meeting Minutes  
Nov. 8, 2011-- 3:30-5:50  
Vaca Pena Library***

***Members present – Moira McSweeney, Sylvia!, Brenda Hensley, Corey Penrose, Alyson Brauning, Aja Cook, Todd Blanset, Ginny Miller, Cathy Dacanay, Linda Phelan, Marisa Emlen, Tammy Parker, Sharon Riehl, Diane Dahl, Mark Richardson, Gary Masterson, Chelsea Seltz, Linda Covey, Kathleen Steiert, Russ Tucker, Julie McGee, Stacie Smith, Carolyn Thomas, Erin Gardner, Terresa Cook, Roxanne Lynch-Burns, Helen Mann, Katherine Epstein, Marsha Rucker, Laurie Savage, Chris Fickess, Judith MacDonald, Tricia Cowen, Glenn Branaman, Suzi Morgan, Bob Blaine, Ken Durham, Joy Holleran, Miranda Merino***

***Members absent – Christine Williams, Bonnie Coldiron, Tom Kutz, David Fickes, Rodney Orosco***

**1 - Group discussions/site concerns -** After a ten minute discussion, the following issues were discussed:

**K-6**

**Conducting bargaining/calendar surveys during report cards** – while the president acknowledges that this will be a distraction, the timing of this process is, regrettably, unavoidable.

**Break in service for The Standard** – was an issue with a unit member who is advised to contact CTA member services at 800.522.0406.

**Collaborative meeting issues** – have been ongoing. If site administrators aren't being collaborative and seeking member input for Wednesday collaborative meetings, please let the collaborative meeting committee and/or Moira know.

**Rep council members serving in quasi-administrative roles** – will be revisited later in this meeting.

**Jr. High**

**The concept of an alternative schedule** - is being discussed with each Junior High, but no consensus has been reached.

**High School**

Is doing just fine.

**2) - Approval of the minutes** – was done.

**3) - Approval of the agenda** – was done.

#### **4) – New Business-**

**Calendar Survey (Todd Blanset)-** was reviewed and discussed. There are two different colors, one for K-6, the other for 7-12. Ambiguous sorts of questions were discussed and rep council member were directed to get their surveys completed prior to the start of Thanksgiving break. Todd will also send out a global email letting membership know when he'll be visiting schools to collect completed surveys.

Questions from this report included:

Is there any movement on the idea of a countrywide school calendar? – *No*.

**By Laws Revisions ( Brenda Hensley)-** the proposed revisions were reviewed and discussed.

While a complete copy of the propose revisions can be found at [www.vacateachers.org](http://www.vacateachers.org), the proposed changes include the following general concepts:

- The only category of VTA membership is an active member
- Development of language defining the roles/responsibilities of the standing PAC committee
- Rep council is explicitly defined as the policy-making body of VTA
- Rep council meeting attendees are clearly defined
- Site rep terms will be changed from a one-year to a two-year term
- Site reps working at two different sites will serve at the school where they spend the greater percentage of their time.
- Officers will start their terms on June 15<sup>th</sup> instead of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- General Membership meeting language cleanup.
- Nominations for positions language cleanup.
- Clarification on the non-existent protections of agency fee payers

Hard copies of the proposed changes were also distributed for review at each school site. Site representatives are reminded that the proposed changes will be approved and/or modified at the December rep council meeting.

#### **5) - President's report (Moirra McSweeney)**

**Handouts for the meeting –** concerning the paycheck deception proposition and reimbursement specifics were discussed.

**Wednesday meeting collaborative forms –** were also reviewed and discussed.

**K-3 CSR efforts** – the history behind this process was reviewed, as well as the five options originally developed by VUSD district administration. Those options were as follows:

- Option 1 provides a three hour teacher that would provide direct instruction (during core ELA plus another 30 minutes) to students at the grade levels where the average class size is greater than thirty. For example, a grade level that has three classes with the following enrollment (32, 31, and 30) would now have four teachers for the three hour block, thus reducing the class sizes during that time (24, 23, 23, and 23).
- Option 2 provides a three hour paraprofessional for classes with enrollments greater than thirty.
- Option 3 is a combination of the first two.
- Option 4 is a combination of the core teacher solution (option 1) plus the addition of learning support teachers at five sites. The learning support teachers would be utilized based on the need of the specific site.
- Option 5 is similar to option 4 except that the paraprofessional support is substituted for the core teacher support.

Ultimately, the VUSD board rejected all of these proposals and chose to support a process which included the following concepts developed by VTA.

- “Learning support professionals” for students requiring additional support.
- Basing the distribution of LSP’s on the number of students on a school site.
- Developing a hiring ratio for hiring LSP’s.
- Developing a site-based plan for the use of LSP’s.

An MOU containing these concepts will be signed by VTA and VUSD leadership will be signed as soon as possible.

Questions arising from this report included:

Can these part-time jobs be combined into a full-time position? – *No, these will be part-time positions.*

How will these positions be funded, how long will they last and how much money will be spend? – *These positions will be funded by the remainder of the Federal*

*Jobs monies, funding which will, probably, not be available next year. Cost for these positions will be approximately 600k.*

**6) - Treasurer's report (Brenda Hensley)**

After reviewing the treasurer's report, the following report was made:

**Motion - approve the budget - seconded and approved.**

**7) - Committee/Chair reports**

**- Action (Corey Penrose and Aja Cook)-**

- **External Organizing** – The screening for American Teacher was successful and the proceeds have been split between the filmmakers and VPEF. The money donated to VPEP will be targeted, specifically, for the next round of teacher mini-grants. Pictures from the event can be found at [www.vacateachers.org](http://www.vacateachers.org)
- For the spring project, the action team will be organizing a Support the Arts fundraiser. The grant application is nearly done and we will, hopefully, have a proposal for Rep Council to review at the next meeting.
- **Internal Organizing** – As per the president's directive, an email list for site representatives is being developed. Site members are, therefore, asked to share a non-VUSD email address on the sign-in sheet for the evening.

**-Bargaining (Brenda Hensley)-** Brenda reported that the bargaining team had met to develop a survey which will be presented to rep council on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Ideally, we will have some model calendars to pair with the survey when it's finally distributed to members.

**-Grievance (Sylvia Aquino)-** Sylvia reported on the following issues:

**Both Markham representatives** – have resigned their positions. Those positions have been filled by Roxann Lynch-Burns and Helen Mann.

**Disciplinary meetings with teachers** – if you're called to advocate for a member facing disciplinary action, please call Sylvia at (707) 999-1657.

**Site rep eligibility** – was referenced in the presidents report. Site reps are urged to consider potential by-law language concerning eligible site reps and bring it to the next rep council meeting.

**VUSD administrator diversity letter** – the following motions were made concerning this issue:

**Direct the pres and vice president bring this issues directly VUSD administration in a one-on-one prior to sending it the board--seconded**

**Motion to close debate on this issue - seconded - passed**

The vote fails

**Motion - reconsider the motion to send this letter to the school board - seconded - the motion carries**

**Motion - do not send the letter to the school board - seconded**

**Motion - move to close debate on this issue - seconded approved.**

The motion carries

**-Human Rights (Alyson Brauning)--**

**GLBT conference** – was attended by Aja Cook, Trisha Cowen and Alyson Brauning. This was a great conference and Alyson distributed a flier gleaned from said conference talking about the newest anti-bullying legislation.

**Professional development series** – was reviewed. There will be a survey to determine the needs of membership and, ideally, professional growth hours will be awarded for participants.

**Motion - approve the professional development series as outlined in the proposition and allocate 750 dollars for food and other incidentals - seconded and approved.**

**-PAC (Dawn Kelly)-** Dawn would like to thank everyone for their help during this election cycle and would like to remind everyone to be sure to vote.

**-Special Ed (Tammy Parker)-** There was another meeting of this standing committee and progress is being made on some issues.

**8) - Other--**

**Motion - move rep council meetings back to cooper - seconded**

**Motion to close debate on this issue- seconded - approved**

The motion fails.

Feedback on the dynamics of this meeting space has been noted by the president and will be addressed during the next meeting.

As per the request of a representative, the salary schedules for our bargaining unit members can be found here -- <http://www.vacateachers.org/salarieschedules.html>

**9) - Raffle --** the following items were won

A 25 dollars at Michaels was won by Kathleen Steiert

**10) - Adjournment-** meeting was adjourned at 5:50

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose