

Rep Council Meeting Minutes

Vaca Pena Library

December 13th 2011 - 3:30-5:45

Members present – Miranda Merino, Bob Blaine, Helen Mann, Joy Holleran, Cathy Valdez, Gary Masterson, Laurie Savage, Chris Fickes, Mark Richardson, Aja Cook, Judy MacDonald, Roxann Lynch-Burns, Chelsea Seltz, Brenda Hensley, Glenn Branaman, Alyson Brauning, Teresa Cook, Ginny Miller, Suzi Morgan, Erin Gardner, Carolyn Thomas, Kathleen Steiert, Tammy Parker, Marsha Rucker, Diane Dahl, Linda Covey, Bonnie Coldiron, Julie McGee, Russ Tucker, Sharon Riehl, Katherine Epstein, Marisa Emlen, Linda Phelan, Moira McSweeney, Corey Penrose, Larry Baker, Dawn Kelly, Julie Timmerman, Sylvia Aquino

Members absent – Richard Tietze, Stacie Smith, Tom Kutz, David Fickes, Tricia Cowen, Rodney Orosco, Ken Durham

1) - Group discussions/site concerns – during the discussion, the following issues were raised:

Elementary:

Calendar survey feedback - some general questions about the calendar survey structure/format. As always, feedback is welcome, and encouraged, from all VTA members.

Explicit direct instruction training– has created some inequities which will lead to a grievance, if the remedies VTA-VUSD have agreed upon aren't successfully implemented.

Jr High:

Non-cumulative grading – has created some issues which will be resolved at the site level.

High School:

Equity in budget cuts – specifically, the idea of spreading potential budget cuts across the entire bargaining unit, instead of cutting coaches schedule K-supplied salaries, was discussed. While there were valid arguments on both sides of the issue, most reps felt, since VPEF has been able to raise money in recent years to supplement schedule K reductions, and membership has expressed strong reservations with the idea of raising medical premiums and/or imposing additional furlough days in lieu of protecting schedule K stipends, the current reductions under the 2.5% column of the contract were the most acceptable option.

Where does the CTA stand on Governor Brown's proposed budget revisions? –

A position statement can be found here:

<http://www.cta.org/Issues-and-Action/Talking-Points/Governors-Legislative-Pension-Proposal.aspx>

2) - Approval of the minutes - the minutes were approved.

3) - Approval of the agenda - the agenda was approved.

4) – Old Business:

Calendar Survey - calendar survey results were shared with rep council and some questions were answered.

By Laws Revisions vote – After a quick review of the parliamentary procedures necessary to pass the revisions, the following motion was made:

Motion - approve the bylaws - seconded with the following amendments:

-Revise section 6k changing the terms of site reps from two years to one and remove the off-year election cycles process.

-Revise PAC language to include the phrase "in writing."

-Revise section 9e to specify that replacements for vacant exec board must be filled within two meeting cycles

-Revise section 15 with language specifying the election of a parliamentarian to ensure the smooth running of rep council meetings.

The motion carries.

VP Nominations-

Larry Baker and Tom Kutz were both nominated to fill the vacant position of vice-president. Both will have to submit a 25 word biography and ballots will be distributed on January 10th to membership.

Secondary director for Markham and Callison – nominations will be taken over email by December 21st.

5) - President's report (Maira McSweeney)

Moira reported on the following items:

Budget advisory committee – is starting back up. Julie Timmerman will represent the High Schools, Brenda Hensley will represent the Junior Highs and we need an elementary person to represent grades K-6.

PAR – is also starting back up. As of right now, there are four people participating in the program, but VUSD will start advertising for consulting teacher positions in August.

Transitional Kindergarten – is another developing program, but it's coming along slowly.

Anal injections for seizures – as per the mandate from the state of California, this program will be phased in, once the logistics are determined.

403b and 457 plans – which are managed by VUSD, will have a new company managing these investments. Affected parties should receive information/specifics soon, but, if VUSD is slow in dispersing this information, we will be distributing information via vacateachers.org.

Wednesday collaboration time issues – have been ongoing. A form/checklist is being developed for distribution to each school site. This form will ensure easy adherence to standardized, manageable, procedures for collaborative Wednesdays.

6) - Treasurer's report (Brenda Hensley)

Brenda reported that dues payments have been coming in from CTA, expenses have been going out for a new computer for the storage and tabulation of our financial records and that community outreach reimbursement from the CTA should be coming...soon.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report - seconded - approved.

7) - Committee/Chair reports

Action (Corey Penrose and Aja Cook)—After seeking feedback on the effectiveness of the online newsletter and other ongoing internal communications projects, and reporting that we've been working with the local media to dispel the myth of "underpaid teachers," the following questions were asked and answered:

-How many people have registered for our email newsletter? – 100

-Is vacateachers.org a good source for up-to-the date information about current issues in education?- *No, but, if you'd like to have such a source,*

please friend Vacaville Teachers Association on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/vacateachers>.

Bargaining (Brenda Hensley)—After collecting the last of the bargaining surveys, Brenda reported that the first bargaining session has been scheduled for January 11th and that the budget triggers have been pulled by the state of California. At the local level however, the cuts, which amount to 54 dollars per student, will be absorbed by VUSD – and we will not receive any furlough days for the 11-12 school year.

Grievance (Sylvia Aquino)—Sylvia reported on the following issues:

Meeting with VUSD HR regarding a current VUSD site administrator – who has been creating a hostile work environment has, hopefully, produced an immediate resolution. If this administrator doesn't change their problematic behaviors immediately, we will file a grievance or a complaint against said administrator.

Anonymously submitted information – is largely unusable. Sylvia went on to emphasize how, when issues are brought to the attention of the grievance committee, the focus is on the resolution of the problem and NOT on the involved parties. Reporting parties WILL be protected.

Human Rights (Alyson Brauning)—Alyson reported that VUSD district administrators are very supportive of the staff development program and offered the use of VUSD building for the training. She finished her report with information on available scholarships through CTA – for more information, please visit:

<http://www.cta.org/About-CTA/CTA-Foundation/Scholarships/index.aspx>

Women's' Issues (Tricia Cowen)--none

PAC (Dawn Kelly)--Dawn shared how the last school board election was a complete success and that PAC had spent roughly ten thousand dollars of the PAC budget to elect all four of our endorsed school board candidates.

Special Ed (Tammy Parker)—reported that meetings regarding improved communication regarding special ed students are still ongoing and that the VTA-sponsored special ed training is scheduled for December 15th from 4:30 to 6:00 has nearly 40 registered participants.

8) – Others

CTA State council – meets in January. Our delegates are Larry Baker and Brenda Hensley, so, if you have issues you'd like for them to pursue with state-level CTA, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of them.

Letter to the school board – after reviewing parliamentary procedures, the following motion was made:

Motion to reconsider the letter to the school board about equality with the hiring of VUSD administrators - seconded – the motion fails.

9) - Raffle - Helen Mann won a 25 dollar target gift card.

10) - Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 5:45

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose