

October 18, 2016 Rep Council Meeting Minutes

3:30-5:00 @ Jepson library

Members present – Moria McSweeney, Alyson Brauning, Corey Penrose, Sylvia Aquino, Todd Blanset, Jenny Brown, Tracy Begley, Sofia Calderon, Joanne Monson, Megan Morris, Mike Ensley, Tammy Parker, Sharon Riehl, Navjot Kaur, Yvonne DiMichele, Russ Tucker, Julie McGee, Leslie Losberger, Mark Richardson, Kathy Steiert, Myisha Cherry, Carolyn Thomas, Cindi Marshall, Jose Bermudez, Sylvia Shepard, Becky Wylie, Lisa Cusi, Marcus York, Glen Branaman, Andrew Bower, Jouli Jara, Chris Fickes, Cindy Bray, Lindsay Richardson, Nancy Anderson-Louie, Liz Meagor, Erin Gordon

Members absent – Brenda Hensley, Samantha Dubs, AnnMarie Woehler, Allen May, Helen Blood, Janel Curtis, Rebecca Pinto, Greg Gmahling, Nina Foster, Miranda Merino, Chris Wagner

1)- Approval of the minutes – the minutes were approved.

2) - Approval of the agenda – the agenda was approved.

Review of August “Site Rep To Do” list– was reviewed and completed by Alyson. Reps were reminded to be sure to send pictures of their VTA bulletin boards to Corey Penrose and to follow up on the other items discussed in the September Rep Council Meeting.

3) - President’s report – Moira reported on the following:

Phone banking for tonight – rep council is urged to stick around for some phone banking in support of prop 55. Prop 55 polling support has dropped from 80% to 65%, so please take a moment to ensure that our schools continue to be adequately funded. Our phone banking will be on October 24th from 4-7 at Pietro’s #2, please come out to help.

CTA 403b issues – have been resolved with the administration, Mid-America. If there are any other issues with this, please let Moira know.

Walk-throughs for probationary members – Moira reported that she had spoken with Superintendent Shamieh about making sure probationary teachers are aware visits “walk-throughs” from Cabinet members will be happening, having Cabinet members observing in classrooms introduce themselves and possibly having them leave a note of some kind. Discussion followed about how to make these difficult observations less intimidating for new teachers. Moira suggested Reps let teachers know they have the right and responsibility to ask the identity of a person who enters their classroom.

4) - Treasurer’s report – none.

5) - Committee/Chair reports:

Action - Corey discussed the recent traffic spike to vacateachers.org after bargaining report was released. For a chart of the traffic spike, [go here](#). Members are reminded that, if they want information posted on the website/social media, to be sure to contact Corey. If you’ve noticed any website outages, they should now be fixed. Finally, rep council was reminded to be sure to fill out the job action survey which can be found [here](#).

Bargaining –Bargaining report #14, [can be found here](#). The report finished with a discussion of MOU’s.

Grievance – Sylvia discussed some ongoing HR issues in the district and reminded rep council of successful techniques to resolve conflict between members. The report finished with a discussion of grievance timeline and contract violation guidelines.

Equity Team – Alyson reported on the multi-cultural calendar.

Health Care – Moira reported that we have four members on the VUSD health care committee and the first meeting is scheduled for October 25th. Section 125 plans are being launched soon and members are urged to be sure to sign up and use the tax benefits from their medical expenses.

Labor Council – Corey reminded rep council that activities to elect labor-friendly candidates will be going until Election Day and that participating from educators is always welcome. A complete list can be found [here](#). Please share the flyers in on your tables in your lunch rooms, NOT member mailboxes.

Member Engagement – Alyson reminded rep council that the next member engagement is scheduled for October 27th at Pure Grain from 4-5:30. Pictures from our last mixer [can be found here](#).

PAC – Rep council was reminded that the local school board race will not be appearing on the ballot because it will not be contested. The focus, instead, will be on working with the labor council to help elect labor-friendly candidates in Solano County and on passing prop 55. To help with that, [here are some local member-to-member activities](#) for prop 55. State Council will be doing a massive drive, this weekend, to help as well. Finally, members are urged to stick around today to help phone bank for prop 55.

Motion – VTA-PAC donate \$382 to the Chris Fickes campaign, FPPC # 400695930 - seconded and approved.

Special Ed – Tammy discussed ongoing special education issues in the Vacaville Unified School District and empathized the importance of equality in grading. The report finished with a discussion of the special education safety committee.

Leave Bank and Julie Davis Scholarship – Sofia reported on procedures for updating donations to both of these programs. Members are urged to follow-up with payroll and ensure that the deductions from their paychecks are accurate.

Membership – Alyson reported that membership cards are being processed in a timely fashion – and is nearly done in October! Thanks for Miranda and Alyson for their hard work.

6)- Business- none

7) - Conference reports – Alyson reported out on the Redwood Scholarships available for CTA conferences. VTA members were urged to apply. The report finished with a reminder of the Redwood Conference on April 21-23 and members were urged to attend!

8) – Other – our next two rep council meetings will be held at the WCW library in November and December. Member outreach forms were distributed and techniques for one-on-ones were modeled for rep council.

9) – Raffle – a pair of ten dollar Starbucks cards was won by Erin Gordon and Glen Branaman

10) – Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 4:53.

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose

