

December 13, 2016 Rep Council Meeting Minutes

3:30-5:00 @ Wood library

Members present – Moira McSweeney, Alyson Brauning, Brenda Hensley, Corey Penrose, Samantha Dubs, Sylvia Aquino, Todd Blanset, Jenny Brown, Tracey Begley, Sofia Calderon, Megan Morris, Mike Ensley, Sharon Riehl, Navjot Kaur, Russ Tucker, Julie McGee, Leslie Losberger, Mark Richardson, Cyndi Marshall, Sylvia Shepard, Becky Wylie, Marcus York, Glen Branaman, Andrew Bower, Jouli Jara, Chris Fickes, Greg Gmahling, Cindy Bray, Lindsay Richardson, Nina Foster, Miranda Merino, Nancy Anderson Louie, Liz Meagor, Jose Bermudez

Members absent – Tammy Parker, Annmarie Woehler, Yvonne DiMichele, Allen May, Carolyn Thomas, Helen Blood, Janel Curtis, Rebecca Pinto, Erin Gordon, Chris Wagner

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

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

Review of Site Rep “To Do” list – was completed by Alyson and feedback on the various issues what shared and discussed with council.

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

Foss Science- Tracy and I discussed excessive amount of prep required for preparing materials for this new curriculum with Ed Services. They seemed amenable to developing a plan to provide teachers with extra time to prepare materials. They suggested it would make more sense to begin this next year, as most teachers have already taught the module for this year. We will continue discussions about what this would look like as well as discussing possible compensation to teachers who already put the time in preparing materials for the module this year.

K site visits/peer observations- It came to our attentions that K teachers were being asked to go on site visits to observe peers, apparently based on test scores. We expressed our concern about this to Ed Services and discussed clarifying/codifying when such site visits/peer observations could be required, as the contract does not specifically address this. We agreed that peer observations could be required only as part of the evaluation process, and we discussed parameters such as consent of the teacher being observed, a limit on the number of observations that could be required, and time built in for sub planning and post observation debriefing. We will work on language around this for a possible MOU. We also shared our philosophical opposition to using test scores to base a comparison/competition between sites and/or teachers.

Elementary Prep MOU- We have begun preliminary discussions about possible changes to the MOU which needs to be renewed at the end of this year. Two areas we have discussed as far as possible changes are duties of the PE prep teachers and additional prep for combo/Spanish Immersion teachers. We have also discussed the

need to clarify/codify K/1 combo prep and preschool prep.

Excusals for IEP Attendance as a Gen Ed representative- Apparently, there was some confusion about whether this could/should be done and other what circumstances. Excusals can be signed in advance with parent consent, and it is in the MOU as an option when legally appropriate when a teacher is attending an IEP meeting for a student who is not on their class roster or mainstreamed in their classroom. Please refer members with questions to the IEP Attendance MOU and let Tammy or Tracy and me know if there are any issues with this at your site.

CTA dues change/ reimbursement- The CTA Board of Directors has decided not to continue the salary strand dues structure. Redwood chapters, including VTA, will be reverting back to the former structure. Redwood members who paid more in dues under the salary strand structure (mainly members 60% or less) will receive reimbursement checks beginning December 21. Redwood members who paid less will not be required to pay back.

And thank you, Moira, for your service!

4) - Treasurer's report – after reviewing the Treasurer's report, and discussing the financials, the Treasurer's report was approved. Our audit is underway and our taxes are in the process of being filed.

5) - Committee/Chair reports

Action – After updating council on our [new YouTube channel](#), and reminding rep council that any site-specific awards are great items to share on our webspace (as VHS has already been doing), Corey made the following motion:

Motion – Rep Council adopt the discussed job action plan– seconded – and unanimously approved!

Bargaining – After reviewing [the latest bargaining report](#), Brenda discussed the anticipated dynamics of the next bargaining session, which is tentatively scheduled for early January. Council is reminded to be sure to seek feedback on the various updates from our members and all of the reports can found at vacateachers.org.

Grievance – Sylvia reminded council that school sites need to develop a plan to compensate members who write many letters of recommendation. Members interested in seeking that compensation should meet with their site administrator. There will be a retirement party on January 26 for Moira, please mark your calendars.

Equity Team – none

Health Care – Moira reported that the 2017 health care rates are now available and can [be found here](#).

Labor Council – Corey reported that he will be attending a regional meeting tomorrow to discuss the political concerns of the labor movement and efforts to coordinate our responses. He finished the report by explain the context of the email recently sent by CTA president Eric Hines regarding organizing during Cal Dem nomination meetings.

Member Engagement – Alyson discussed the most recent mixer at Murillos, pictures can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Congratulations to Connie Hudson for winning the grand prize, a Kindle Fire. The report finished with a reminder that our [wine tour](#) is on January 16th and more details will follow. If you have ideas, please share them with Alyson!

PAC – in addition to attending the regional meeting with the CLC, lobbying efforts with our current board will be starting after the break.

Special Ed – Moira discussed various special education issues around the district. The report focused on language regarding speech pathologists makeup sessions and policies to follow for advocates in IEP meetings. The report finished with the news that Special Education Director, Kerri Mills is on leave, as of December 16th and is not expected to return. Kim Forrest will be the interim point person for Special Education issues. The report finished with a discussion of the recent audit of VUSD's IEP plans.

Leave Bank and Julie Davis Scholarship - none

Membership – if there are any membership issues, please let Alyson know.

6)- Business: No new business

7) - Conference reports - none

8) – Others - none

9) – Raffle – Five hot cocoa and chocolate prizes were won by Lisa Cusi, Julie McGee, Todd Blanset, Navjot Kaur, and Sofia Calderon. Sofia also won a ten dollar target card

10) – Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 5:03.

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose

