

VTA Representative Council Meeting Agenda

Date 4/22/08

3:45 pm – 5:30 pm

Jepson Library

In attendance: Moira McSweeney, Allison Epperson, Julie Timmerman, Sharon Riehl, Nancy Madonna, Ginny Miller, Tracy Moss, Gina Freese, Diane Dahl, Linda Phelan, Katherine Epstein, Marisa Emlen, Janice Ferrer, Suvi Smith, Tim Sisson, Bob Blaine, Margaret Sisson, Sylvia Aquino, Bill Jacks, Doug Appel, Peggy Maccaulay, Tammy Parker, Denise Williams, Dawn Kelly, Nancy Hiestand, Christine Williams, Chris Lindberg, David Billings, Derenda Faias, Gregg Gallagher, Todd Blanesett, Stan Turrini, Joanne Baker, Gary Masterson, Daniel Rodriguez, Brenda Hensley, Larry Baker, Mike Spezzi, Corey Penrose

Members Absent: Gary Ballard, Rodney Orosco, Chris Minner, Debbie Hennis, Steve Clark, John Namisnik, Scott Bassett.

Called to order at 3:47

1. Approval/Corrections to the agenda – Stan has some new business.

2. Approval/Corrections to the minutes – The minutes were approved.

3. President's Report – in her report, the president reviewed the following information:

-Budget cuts - All sites are urged to fill out the CTA-sponsored petitions regarding the proposed budget cuts to education. Additional forms are available at www.cta.org.

-CTA reverse dues proposal – An additional 20 dollars per year will be used to fund scholarships, disaster relief moneys, and the PAC. If teachers want to opt of this program, they are able to do so.

-Vaca High tutorial and right to bargain – Since the proposed tutorial at Vaca High presents contractual issues, the association is demanding the right to bargain the specifics in order to ensure that the contract is being followed.

-Job freeze – The VTA has requested a job freeze on outside applicants. Any open jobs should be filled by association members who haven't yet accepted positions at various schools. The list of displaced teachers should be ready by June 1st.

-CTA summer institute – Is coming in the first week of August at UCLA. Any interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact Daniel Rodriguez, VTA treasurer, and inform him of your desire to attend.

-CTA bus/budget tour – is currently underway. The status of the tour can be found at the www.cta.org.

-The day of the teacher – is also scheduled for Wednesday May 14th from 3-5 pm at Chevy's in Vacaville.

4. Other Reports

a. Treasurer – the budget is looking good. Any CTA conference attendees are encouraged to keep track of their receipts so they can be reimbursed as quickly as possible.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report – seconded and passed.

b. Bargaining – the next bargaining session is scheduled for 4/25. At this point, we're at a breaking point; we could either go into impasse or arrive at a settlement. Nothing new has come into the process at this point, namely, the issues of calendar, discipline, district rights, salary restructuring and in-district service – and the district's proposed 4.5 percent raise. Questions arising from this session included:

-Did both sides agree to continue? – Yes, but negotiations are one day at a time, at this point in the process.

-Have the specifics of the removal of the drop-in salary language been hammered out yet? – No

-Will the district's discipline language go away if an impasse is declared? – Yes, but the process isn't necessarily going to be favorable to our interests.

-Will the calendar issue go away if we go to impasse? – No. The district can impose whatever single calendar they'd like, if we should happen to arrive in an impasse. The district has stated, over and over again, that they want us on a single calendar.

-Would an impasse pressure the district? – Probably not.

-Are there any specifics available for next year's calendar? – No, it's still being determined.

-Is there a precedent for the proposed discipline language in other districts? – Yes, some schools have allowed this sort of language, some haven't. Classified employees in this district have allowed a discipline clause to be put into their contracts.

-Could the discipline language come back next year and is there anything we can do to prevent that? – Yes, and yes. Bargaining team will do everything possible to prevent this.

-Will the retro check go away if we don't settle soon? - No, we'll receive our retro money, regardless of how long it takes to settle the contract.

-Can we do a calendar vote for this year? – No, it's too late in the process.

-Is reducing elementary school prep time still on the table? – No, that language has been pulled from their proposal.

c. Grievance – Sylvia's cell phone is currently in Costa Rica, but it will be back in Vacaville. She will also be defending the Markham four soon.

d. State Council- A report was sent via e-mail.

Questions arising from this report included:

-How much will it cost to administrate the reverse-dues program proposed by the CTA? – We don't know, but Brenda and Larry will find out.

e. Action Team Report – Will meet tomorrow at 3:45 at Vaca high.

f. Communications Committee Report – The spring newsletter is ready to go, David just needs direction on what is necessary to print it.

Membership is also encouraged to participate – simply contact David Billings or Brenda.

g. CTA Staff Report-Doug Appel- The CTA is focusing on addressing the upcoming budget crisis and trying to keep them as far away from the schools as possible. Member are, therefore, encouraged to:

-Fill out the distributed postcards and mail them to your elected representatives.

-Contact the CTA budget hotline to your elected representatives and urge them to keep school funding intact.

-Fill out the CTA petitions urging no budget cuts to public schools.

h. VTA 08-09 Budget- In early March, Daniel and Brenda met to review/revise the 08-09 budget. Exec board has already reviewed, and approved it, so it's now being presented to rep council so input from every shareholder can be taken into consideration before the budget is finalized.

Dues for next year **will not increase**, but some monies used to fight against the governor's failed anti-labor ballot propositions will now be used at the local level to fund our unit-specific programs. Specifics of the budget are covered in the spreadsheet distributed by Daniel, but some issues to consider (long-term and otherwise) are:

-Currently, we don't charge enough monthly dues for the CTA to cover our arbitration fees, so we must keep enough money in our bank accounts to cover these potential costs. If we raise our fees to a certain level, the CTA will cover the arbitration costs for our chapter – is this something we want to pursue?

-Higher member dues will also allow for a full-time release president – something both Fairfield and Travis have implemented. A full-time release position would also create a position which could be more easily filled by an elementary person.

-There will also be more money spent next year for members to attend CTA conferences. Would you like to attend one?

-More money will also be spent next year on grievances.

-Money will also be used to offer informational site luncheons at every school across the district. What would you like to see included at these informational luncheons?

Please use these questions to discuss the budget with your site members and ask the question - what would you like to see implemented next year?

5. New Business

-Stan proposed moving the last rep council meeting of the year to an establishment which serves a broader range of beverages. Exec board will look into this.

-The district recently put up a list of proposed program reductions on their website, ostensibly seeking input from any interested shareholders. Members are strongly encouraged to fill out the form and return it to the district office.

6. Site Concerns-

Questions arising from this session included:

-Is there a new deadline for a voluntary transfer because of a senate bill? – Yes. After April first, school districts can't give preference to interdistrict transfers – they can hire whomever they choose.

-Is elementary prep going to be reduced? – No. Prep time will change, but the amount of prep time for elementary school will NOT change.

*-Are teachers required, **by law**, to be given 504 information?* – Yes.

7. Raffle—Prizes were won.

8. Adjournment -The meeting was adjured at 5:35

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose