

VTA Representative Council Meeting Agenda

Date 5/20/08

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Murillo's Restaurant on East Monte Vista

In attendance: Nancy Madonna, Ginny Miller, Julie Timmerman, Joanne Baker, Peggy Macaulay, Chris Lindberg, Todd Blanset, Scott Bassett, Bob Blaine, Gregg Gallagher, David Billings, Derenda Faias, Mike Spezzi, Diane Dahl, Tammy Parker, Nancy Hiestand, Margaret Sisson, Tim Sisson, Bill Jacks, Alison Epperson, Tracy Moss, Linda Phelan, Sylvia Aquino, Sharon Riehl, Moira McSweeney, Stan Turrini, Brenda Hensley, Daniel Rodriguez, Dawn Kelly, Suvi Smith, Tim Yearnshaw, Gina Freese, Kent Puddy, Gary Masterson, Corey Penrose, Larry Baker, Christine Williams.

Members Absent: Gary Ballard, Denise Williams, Steve Clark, Katherine Epstein, Chris Minner, Debbie Hennis, Rodney Orosco, John Namisnik.

1. Approval/Corrections to the agenda – the agenda was approved.

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

3. President's Report – Brenda covered 13 items in the president's report. Retiree gifts were distributed and Kent was given the WHO award for his dedicated service over the course of the school year.

4. Other Reports

a. Bargaining- The school board will have the chance to ratify the contract agreement this Thursday and, if they choose to ratify it, we will receive the 4.5% raise and retro pay in our June 30th pay warrant.

Questions arising from the discussion included:

-Why didn't we release a public statement after the contract vote? – A press statement was prepared and sent to the local paper, but they chose not to publish it.

-Should we coordinate an action at the school board? – No, because we've already had our say, the issues now are between the school board and the community.

After a spirited discussion concerning the political ramifications behind the proposed contract ratification:

MOTION – have a member of Exec board read the press release the paper chose not to publish during the school board session. – seconded. After more discussion, the question was called to a vote, where it was voted down.

b. Elections Committee Report – we will plan for this when Exec Board/Action team meets in August to start planning for the next school year.

c. Treasurer – we have spent 80 percent of our budget for this year and we were finally billed for Kent’s release time.

MOTION – accept the treasure’s report – seconded – passed.

d. Grievance – we’ve lost the recent grievance arbitration concerning the Markham four, but there were some interesting issues with came out of the hearing:

-If the district violates the contract, be sure to grieve it right away and immediately start the paper trail.

-If there are any issues with evaluation, be sure to follow up on them right away – **the onus is on unit members to ensure that evaluation procedures are followed.** Most importantly, if the evaluation procedures aren’t followed, be sure to contact your site administrator and thoroughly document your actions.

-There have also been some issues recently with summer school, namely, experienced teachers with many years of summer school experience are not being hired for the 08 session. VTA, unfortunately, doesn’t have much legal recourse because the contract language covering summer school hires says that experienced teachers will only be given “consideration” – not preferential treatment.

Questions arising from this session included:

-When should teachers request their evaluation cycle to be pushed up? - As soon as they return in the fall, be sure, also, to thoroughly document this request!

e. State Council – if there is any feedback on the proposed 20 dollar check off plan, be sure to pass it along to Brenda and Larry.

f. Action Team Report - the action team will meet on June 4th at 2 pm at Vacaville High School.

g. Communications Committee Report – none.

h. Human Rights report - none

i. CTA Staff Report-Doug Appel – none.

5. New Business

a. VTA budget - at the last rep council meeting, Daniel presented the budget for this year, now it's back before rep council for approval.

MOTION – approve the 08-09 budget – seconded.

Questions arising from this session included:

-Why did it take the district so long to bill for Kent's release time? – We don't know.

The budget is approved.

6. Site Concerns:

-Padan had some requests about contract language and teacher assignments which were relayed to the bargaining chair.

-Health insurance has been less than satisfactory this year, both from a cost and customer service perspective. Members with these concerns are urged to file a complaint with calpers, but be sure to cc a copy of the complaint to Brenda so she can start a file documenting the issues unit members have had with their medical coverage.

-Stan gave a speech stressing the importance of unity and service.

7. Raffle – things were won.

8. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Corey Penrose