

San Mateo Elementary Teachers' Association
GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2009

Minutes

Call to Order @4:05pm
Minutes: 10/07 approved as written
Treasurer's Report: 2009-10 Budget -approved as written
Correspondence: Fall Festival Thank-yous
Announcements: Move 2.1 to 1.8 No objections

President's Report

- School Board Meeting Updates
- Labor/Management Task Force
- Member Benefits – Paul Brunetta, CTA Disability & Life Insurance
- Member Benefits – Conferences, Scholarships

Nov. 18 – Governing Council (4:00 p.m. @ R.R.C.)
19 – School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ District Office)
26,27 – Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec. 2 - Executive Board (4:00 p.m. @ SMETA Office)
9 - Governing Council (4:00 p.m. @ R.R.C.)
10 - School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m. @ District Office)
21-31 - Winter Break

I. Reports

1.1 President's Report -- See side bar-

- Thank you to Christy and Erin for organizing activities for Election
- School Board Meeting Updates: 187 respondents interested in reduced-cost housing, 74% of responses interested in housing on College Park campus; Study Session on Sept. 29 looked at district-wide data on Student Achievement; 74 certificated staff were moved to permanent status
- Labor/Management Task Force: Met on Oct. 21; planned IBB training on Nov. 6, 7, and 11
- Member Benefits-CTA Disability & Life Insurance: Open Enrollment may be a possibility in April or May, if 60 members sign up, then members don't have to answer any medical questions to enroll
- Member Benefits-Conferences, Scholarships:
 - Good Teachers' Conference in January in Burlingame-SMETA will pay up to 10-12 members to attend;
 - CTA Scholarships: for CTA Members' children, and members if they want to go back to school;
 - Cesar Chavez Art and Writing Contest

1.2 CTA Executive Director's Report – Halimah

- Halimah will offer a 30 minute "Dos & Don'ts" training at sites to teach staff about their rights and responsibilities. Sites will be able to sign up after school or during lunch;
- Do not sign Fritz Initiative petitions for changes to pension benefits
- Phyllis and Halimah are going to meet with Joan to clarify the process for temps to move up in status; Halimah will meet with temporary teachers in Jan or Feb regarding status

1.3 Political Action Committee – Christy

- New School Board Members are Julie Chan, Ellen Ulrich and Lory Lawson (incumbent). Jack Coyne’s and Cathy Rincon’s last meeting is Oct. 19, new school board members’ first meeting in November; thanked participants for campaign support through post-card writing, precinct walking and phone banking during Election

1.4 Organizing – Erin

- Helped with School Board Election;
- Samaritan Volunteering is unknown, but we are on their list, give contact info to Erin if interested;
- Executive Board approved our brochure which is in its final edit;
- Will help with Parcel Tax, Next meeting is Dec. 3 at SMETA office

1.5 State Council Report – Carole – No Report

1.6 Bargaining – Christy

- Bargaining Team Members were introduced;
- Memo of Understanding (MOU) between district & SMETA to extend contract for the current year is going to the Board at the Nov. 19 meeting;
- For 2010-2011 Negotiations, Bargaining Team is surveying members about past or new concerns; explain concerns; Surveys need to be in SMETA office by Dec. 1st;
- Bargaining Team members will meet to debrief IBB training on Nov. 23rd and will make a recommendation to Executive Board regarding bargaining style

1.7 SCOPE – Carole

- SMETA has been invited to participate in the No. Central San Mateo Community-Based Transportation Plan Stakeholder Committee which is convening in order to look at ways to improve mobility to residents

1.8 Parcel Tax – Phyllis

- Through the Parcel Tax, San Mateo residents fund about \$3 million to the district budget. It expires June 2010. School Board directed the district to establish an independent Campaign Committee to set up for a Feb. 23 Mail-ballot campaign;
- If tax doesn’t pass then district would lose \$3 million and would probably result in drastic cuts in staffing and/or programs;
- Concerns were voiced on language of Parcel Tax Measure - e.g. where the money is actually going - we need to bargain carefully to make sure it goes to the students; Bowditch teachers do not want to support ballot measure because of how district has spent money in the past, e.g. GLAD Training; Buffy mentioned that she thinks we should support measure because we can bargain where the money goes; more support from Reps because we and our students have benefited from class-size reduction;
- Motion made “to direct PAC to assist the Parcel Tax Committee with the ballot measure” - passed with 29 yes votes, 2 no votes, and 2 abstentions

1.9 Facilities Advisory Committee – Christy - Table report

1.10 Communications – Buffy

- Made and distributed SMETA bookmarks to Reps to give to members

1.11 Professional Development Team – Rebekah/Jim

- No new information

1.12 Curriculum & Instruction –No new information

1.13 Grievance – Jim

- Thanked schools that sent in info; still need Grievance Rep info. from some sites-send to Jim

1.14 Social – Carole

- No report

II. Old Business

2.1 Parcel Tax (Action item) - Phyllis – Look at 1.8

III. New Business

3.1 Middle School Professional Development Day – Buffy

- Currently Middle School staff meet during professional development opportunities on their sites only; Middle School teachers are not given opportunities to discuss work, curriculum, etc. with other Middle School teachers,
- SMETA needs to discuss ways this event can happen

3.2 Elementary Report Cards – Laurie

- Elementary Teachers continue to have some concerns about the current Report Card; however, no current forum in which to share suggestions for change/improvement;
- Due to budgetary constraints, district is not able to pay teachers for participating in meetings to have these conversations;
- If district is interested in reconvening Report Card Committee Meeting, are teachers willing to attend meeting on volunteer basis? Reps should check willingness of site members to meet gratis;
- Teachers can go to Pendery's Chats to tell concerns on any issues;
- Phyllis mentioned that members can communicate concerns to district administration, make sure that you tell concerns to Phyllis to keep SMETA in the loop, though

IV. Adjournment @5:45pm

THANK YOU LAUREL & SUNNYBRAE FOR PROVIDING TREATS