

Representative Council Meeting April 7, 2009

Terry Vernor moved and Ed Campbell second to approve the minutes of March 3, 2009. Motion passed.

President's Report, Gene Smith

Gene Smith thanked the members for their support of the reduction in force teachers by attending the school board meeting on April 1, 2009, at Lancaster High School. Over 25 of the RIF teachers have been reinstated due to the transfer of 1.6 million dollars in Fund 40 to the general fund, and we think more should be reinstated. Fund 40 was for property acquisition and capital improvements. The district is still holding 240 acres of land worth 1.7 million dollars for future building. The district needs to look at the fact that we are not over-staffed if we have teachers with a 1/6 assignment. The CTA attorney met with all the RIF teachers and the administrative law judge will come up with the rehire list. Some questions will come up with hire dates where some teachers were hired before the start of a school year and some at the start of the school year. Those items will be worked out. The next step is a resolution by the Board on May 12, 2009.

Ed code states that teachers receiving RIF notices have first priority to substitute in the district and when they work 21 days in a month they will receive their regular salary without medical benefits. They are eligible to purchase COBRA insurance for continued coverage at a reduced rate.

Gene stated that the Governor's May revise might not come out until June.

President, Gene Smith hosted a meeting at the CTA office for our members from Eastside High School. The Eastside teachers had some issues regarding school climate they wanted to freely discuss and Gene will bring those issues to Mark Bryant, Assistant Superintendent.

Vice President, Political, Gerald Fairman, announced the AVTA/NEA election results. Gerald Fairman was elected to attend the NEA/RA Assembly in San Diego in July. Gerald also presented a chart with the percentage of voters from each site. It is important to continue to work on voter participation at each site in order to get our candidates elected in regional elections.

No one from AVTA submitted a declaration of candidacy to run for the CTA/Minority at large seat. If any member would like to run, they would need to be a write in candidate. **Update: Victor Guzman is running as a write in candidate.** The election timeline for both the minority at large and site rep election will be as follows: All Declaration of Candidacy forms must be received at the AVTA/CTA Lancaster Office by April 17, 2009 by 4:30 PM. Voting will be held during the period of April 27, 2009 until May 4, 2009. Ballots and voting materials must be returned to the AVTA/CTA Lancaster Office by 4:30 PM on May 5, 2009; and votes will be tallied following the rep council meeting on May 5, 2009. Election results will be announced on May 6, 2009.

Vice President, Membership, Julie Agnew

May 13, 2009, is designated as the Day of the Teacher. Site Captains will pick up cakes at Mirabella Bakery on 20th Street West between J & J-8 @ 6:00 AM for their site. Plates and napkins will be provided by AVTA. Coffee will be provided by the District Office.

Julie will have fliers made for the AVTA Social on May 20, 2009 from 3-6 PM at the Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant on 10th Street West in Palmdale.

Secretary, Christine Van Allen gave an update from the State Council of Education, including State initiatives on the ballot for the May 19, 2009, special election. The initiatives are supported by CTA and Governor Schwarzenegger. Site Captain's responsibilities listed in the AVTA Constitution were read and a copy of Site

Representative Duties will be sent to Site Captains for distribution, in anticipation of the upcoming election. Also let your site know that if they want to purchase additional years of service, they should do it before January 1, 2010, as the rate will increase at that time.

Negotiations Chair, Dan Shy stated that 132 district teachers are without EL (CLAD) credentials. The district office may restrict movement on the salary schedule and restrict transfers for teachers who are not highly qualified. Benchmark tests are here to stay and the district would like to add additional responsibilities to the Department Chair duties. Other issues of discussion were that upper division units must be part of your credential; and they may get rid of personal necessity so bargaining unit members may use their 10 sick days any way they want; teachers with at least 10 years of service could be evaluated every 5 years instead of every other year; and medical insurance for the spouse of a deceased teacher would continue. Additional topics for discussion included teachers getting paid for attending IEP during their prep period, after a certain number of times; attendance required at only one staff meeting per month and requiring administration to schedule meetings in advance.

Treasurer, Beatriz Sztain presented the current balance sheet and budget proposal for the next year. She also stated that according to CTA, non-chargeable are okay if we keep them under 20%. **David Wright moved to spend \$250 on gift certificates for prizes at the end of year party. Winston Parkinson second. Motion approved.** The accountants have submitted a draft of the complete audit, and taxes will be paid. **Gary Roberts moved to approve the balance sheet for April 7, 2009. Ed Campbell second. Motion approved. Gary Roberts moved to approve the budget for 2009-2010 as proposed. Ed Campbell second. Motion approved.**

Grievance Chair, Gary Roberts

We are waiting for reply on a grievance at HHS. Board members, Ira Simonds, Jim Lott and Lee D'Errico should be publicly thanked for supporting using Fund 40 as part of the general fund in order to hire back 25 of the reduction in force teachers.

Mike Otnisky moved to adjourn.