

Representative Council Meeting November 4, 2008

Motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2008, was made by Terry Vernor, with a second by Robert Walls. Motion passed.

President's Report, Gene Smith

Gene presented a draft of the benchmark testing document for comment. The district is considering using benchmark testing results as part of core class overall grades. The draft also mandates that students who do not pass the benchmark tests, would not receive credit for the class, regardless of the grade they would have earned. This is in violation of the California Ed Code that gives the teacher sole authority to determine a student's grade. Serious concerns were expressed by council members. Gene Smith advised that he will take the council's concerns back to the school board meeting on November 5, 2008.

Gene stated that teachers who have been hired in on interim credentials and then get their preliminary credentials should be given tenure credit if they have completed at least 75% of a school year.

The 403b update is that 3 companies are being interviewed to take on oversight of the 403b accounts. There will be a review of the company plans tomorrow. Teachers with 403b retirement accounts should be able to keep their present accounts.

Vice President Political, Gerald Fairman Gerald reminded members to go to the polls and vote and to keep in mind candidates' positions on educational issues.

Vice President Membership, Julie Agnew

Julie gave a membership update and explained that all certificated employees are eligible to join the catastrophic leave bank. Membership cards are still being distributed. The cost of the AVTA social on October 17 was \$6,331.98. Over 230 members attended with 400 guests. Suggestions were offered for future socials including having no guests or 1 guest and possible changing the venue.

Treasurer, Beatriz Sztain

The CTA dues check for \$11,032.00 was received. Membership has gone down.

Beatriz Sztain submitted the financial report. Gary Robert moved to accept the financial report and Dan Shy second. Motion carried. A certificate of deposit for \$20,474.88 is maturing and Gary Roberts moved and Sue Strom seconded the motion to move it into the WAMU checking account. Motion passed.

Julie Agnew moved that we take \$25,000 from the WAMU checking account when our funds allow and move it to the Edwards Credit Union. Ray Hart seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The High Desert conference is coming up and Beatriz reminded those participating to save all receipts. Justification sheets must be turned in for reimbursement.

Grievance Chair, Gary Roberts

A motion was made by Terry Vernor on the Level 2 for Phoenix High School Special Education teachers to go to arbitration. Chuck Berch second. Motion passed.

Gary Roberts asked if site captains would ask their principals if they have an Administrative Intern program at their school and to let him know via email.

Bargaining Chair, Dan Shy

The Governor is calling a meeting of the legislature after election day on the California budget crisis and to discuss mid year budget cuts. Medical benefits should remain unchanged as Blue Cross costs have gone down and we are well within the cap for medical benefits. Negotiations are ongoing.

Mike Otnisky moved to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 PM