

Representative Council Meeting December 2, 2008

Motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2008, by Dave Weaver and second by Mike Otnisky Motion approved.

President's Report, Gene Smith

The 2008-09 contract language was passed out to the members. We are in declining enrollment, and with no COLA there was no money to be identified on the salary schedule.

Dan Shy, Negotiations Chair, explained that we were able to get some class size identification per period for Special Education, which could result in overage pay since July. New employees will now get Blue Cross instead of Kaiser. Personal necessity leave has a new form and should be used. Catastrophic leave bank will be limited to 100 days per event or 182 days per 5 year period. Also retired teachers may contribute up to 5 days to the bank. Columbus Day was added to the calendar as an extra day to replace Memorial Day.

A motion was made to accept the contract and bring it to the general membership for a vote with a recommendation from Rep Council for approval, by Sue Strom and second by Chuck Berch. Motion approved unanimously.

Two general membership informational meetings will take place on December 8 and 12 at 3:30 P.M. at the CTA Office. All members are encouraged to attend.

The district has contracted with a third party, PenServ Plan Services, Inc, to assist in record keeping and administration of the 403 (b) plans, according to the Internal Revenue Service mandate. Gene will send out more information to members as it becomes available.

Vice President Political, Gerald Fairman

There is a dispute in the California legislature as to how to resolve the 11.2 billion budget shortfall. The governor wants to raise the sales tax for the next 3 years. There is one proposal to tax oil that is taken from within the state. Gerald read the statistics of California school funding.

Vice President Membership, Julie Agnew handed out membership packets to the site captains in order to get the remainder of our teachers signed up as members.

Treasurer, Beatriz Sztain

A motion to pay \$876.42 to pay for the scanning of all AVTA documents was moved by Gary Roberts and second by Mike Otnisky. Motion approved. Shredding estimate to dispose of all the old AVTA documents that were scanned on to disks is approximately \$200.00.

There is a charge for \$109.05 from the attorneys for the retirees. A suggestion was made to notify the retirees not to email the attorneys as this incurs charges. The High Desert Conference was attended by 15 members. A transfer of \$20,522.17 was made to the AVTA checking account.

A motion was made to approve the financial report of December 2, 2008, by Gary Roberts and second by Dr.Dave Eiser. Motion approved.

Grievance Chair, Gary Roberts

Two grievances are in arbitration and we are trying to mediate a settlement regarding the Admin Interns and the Phoenix SPED.

Gene spoke to Michael Vierra and the district is going forward on the benchmarks proposal in the Credit Grades Manual to require each student to pass the bench mark exams in core subjects. Students will be given “no credit” to if they do not pass with a score of proficient or above. Please contact Gene Smith with your views on this topic. The district also directed that teachers will have the option of putting plus and minus on grades next year. The plus and minus attached to a grade will not impact a student’s athletic eligibility.

We are looking into whether the absence of an ELL Authorization can be a reason to use as a skip or possibly let go. If teachers have been asked to sign a letter on an EL waiver they are urged to get their certification.

Additional Topics Discussed:

There was discussion on topics covered at the Leadership Training conference regarding the attorney’s notes on teachers being careful with home email accounts, Face Book, My Space etc. These types of communication where students have access are not advisable. Also, Students have been baiting teachers into potentially embarrassing classroom behavior so that they can use their cell phones or digital cameras to record the event for the purpose of posting pictures on YouTube.com. Teachers are being advised that district computers should not be used to log into personal email accounts or websites and that by doing so, the district can access that information and possibly your passwords.

STRS Retirement disbursements can be locked in at age 55 to provide benefits for your heirs in a lump sum or in increments. For those retiring this year it is recommended that they not teach summer school as that pay will be figured into the total for the following year and used as one of the three years averaged to determine benefits.

Department chair voting, if a person is nominated who does not want to be a department chair, they should decline.

The School Site Council has a say in how the Title I money is spent at each site.

Mike Otnisky moved to adjourn at 4:37 PM.