

FEA Representative Council Minutes
January 26, 2005

Present:

Tom Avvakumovits, President Jessica Branco, Vice President
Greg Merrick, Treasurer Jan St. Clair, Secretary

Site presidents: Peggy Kahn, CHS Laurie Turner, FHS
Jan St. Clair, HHS, Mike Williams, LHS Jon Fey, MVHS

Negotiating Team: Jon Stark

Representatives: Kristin Kempe, Jason Heskett, Daurice Graves for Carmen Kinkade, Paula Schineller, Deborah Kumar, Somsack Chaitesipaseut, Sonia Dass, Rich Steffen, Cheryl Vettel, Lisa Ehresman, Debbie Curley, Kathleen Whitney, Erin Ronan, Amanda Day, Jessica Banchieri, Debbie Schmalz, Sheila Altmann, Maria Autran, Travis Hambleton, Ed Puccinelli

Secretary's Report: Jan St. Clair
Minutes of January 26. 2005, approved.

Treasurer's Report: Greg Merrick
Dec. Balance sheet distributed.

Greg will move the Provident account into a different account e.g. Washington Mutual because Provident has made it almost impossible to conduct any sort of official business. For example, it's taken almost two years to change the signature cards on the savings account.

State Council Report: Carl Schmidt

Carl presented the State Council report and an addendum.

NEA is having difficulties making inroads into legislation in Washington. They are working to get more pro-education support.

At the state level, governor is raising a war chest to pay for his initiative campaign.

CTA believes we will need to raise money and that may mean raising CTA dues next year. (possibly \$60 for the year).

Campaigns are getting more difficult with wedges being placed between constituencies. Teacher misconduct is a major target to create anti-teacher feelings.

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State Council Report (cont.)

Carl requested that site presidents place the information in the faculty room for teachers to see.

Gov. is keeping the idea of "merit pay" vague. They are avoiding defining it.

Response/reaction needed with regard to possible increase in CTA dues. There is \$10 million in the CTA warchest. We need as much as \$50 million. The money will have to be raised somehow.

Though the raise is not attractive, Carl does not see any other way of raising the money.

Is CTA effective at campaigning?

The signature process we went through last year was a bitter experience because CTA dropped the legislation before the election.

This would be the 2nd increase in a row that members have had to experience.

Tom will put something in the next ADVOCATE, letting members know that it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Vice President's Report: Jessica Branco

Jessica requested an additional appropriation of \$1300 for FEA socials.

Moved by Carl Schmidt

Seconded

Discussion

Motion passes.

Social will be in the last part of March.

Negotiations Report: Jon Stark

- Team is looking at stipends currently in the CBA.
- PAR teachers are not subject to co-curricular supervision duties. The team will correct an oversight of that being left out of the contract.
- Work Experience - Each school will have their own person to oversee the WE students for \$1,000 a semester. Requires two meetings a month and site visits to the jobs.
- Staff ratio (varies by dept) was increased by 1 student this year with the elimination of 20:1. This was a one-year agreement. For next year, the 20:1 ratio in 9th grade English and 9th grade Algebra I will be reinstated.

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Negotiations Report (cont.)

The district is proposing that the ratio be increased to .5, in order to maintain some flexibility in the staffing process. Except for 8 depts. Throughout the district, everyone is at the old ratio of 28/32.5/40. Hence, having a .5 increase in the ratios will probably have little impact.

Every section we "save" means \$16,000 for the teachers' Protocol.

There will be NO RIFs nor loss of jobs as a result of this.

- Small group discussion ensued on class size proposal

General questions answered following small group discussion.

- Action Item on class size proposal
 Motion by Carl Schmidt to authorize the negotiating team to reach agreement with the district to use contract plus one-half next year and return to contract ratios the year after.
 Seconded
 Discussion
 Motion Passes.

President's Report: Tom Avvakumovits

Tom will send a new ADVOCATE this week.

- Re-registration

There will be no layoffs/RIFS as a result of the re-registration.
 We will be hiring staff for next year.

- District finances

The Parcel Tax will help temporarily. The expenses for next year is more than the \$5.1 million raised from Measure L.

The more courses added to the curriculum means additional course sign-ups, which leads to the need for more staff. Tom recommends that we maintain current courses and strive for additional compensation for teachers.

- District expenses

The District has hired an individual with a software program who maintains records of student addresses and physically checks that the housing does in fact exist. 23 non-existent addresses were discovered by this new district employee. (Each illegal student that is caught saves us an average of \$7,000). The Total cost of this program (software and person) is \$11,000, and it's paid out of developer fees – not protocol dollars.

- Long-range Planning

Tom provided a copy of the LRP report for each rep.

Kate Jamentz reported at the last School board meeting the progress in certain areas. The main focus areas in the field of teaching and learning include:

- Looking at Algebra I
- Examining the notion of meeting A-F requirements (UC/CSU qualifiers)
- Examining the ELD program and how to improve its effectiveness
- Examining post-secondary options for the non-college bound.

- Facilities

Bill Florie and Jeff kiehl will be invited to attend the next Rep Council meeting. Hopefully, this will increase communication between teachers and the district with regard to the process of getting facility issues settled.

- Tom A's view with respect to 20:1 – Having reduced class size should be a significant benefit to the students, and not viewed as a program

designed to solely benefit teachers. Smaller class sizes should translate to more personalization and individual attention that should yield measurable results. We, as teaching professionals, must examine our practices to ensure that the amount of taxpayer money the state is spending on this program is indeed effective in producing the desired improved results. I personally would feel very challenged to have a 20:1 class – because I would feel a great responsibility to prove that this reduced class size made a measurable difference in my students' overall performance. I'm not sure I could deliver the results expected. But with great challenges come great opportunities. I believe we need to look at 20:1 as an opportunity, and challenge ourselves to make reduced-class size programs have measurable positive results. Otherwise, how can we expect the state to continue to fund this program?

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- **Site Reports**

LHS: Mike Williams

Science team took first place in the Science Bowl. They get to go to Washington for more competition.

Mike is going to train for a triathlon for the Leukemia foundation.

MVHS: Jon Fey

Science Team took 2nd and 3rd places in the Science Bowl.

Two students made the top 300 and one student in the top 60 in the Intel contest—Jong-Moon Kim and June-Ho Kim (no relationship). They won money and it was matched for the school. The top student will go to Washington to compete for \$250,000.

MV students will be televised on the “Quiz Kids” cable program. This is an opportunity for any school. See Ed Puccinelli at MV.

April Scott is now recommended to be the “permanent” Principal at MV. She will be confirmed at the Board meeting.

Fred keep will spend part of his day at other schools to assist in staffing ratios.

Girls Soccer Team is in CCS play-offs.

CHS - Peggy Kahn

Boys Choir serenaded on Valentine's Day.

Soccer team is on their way to CCS.

Boys Basketball are co-champions and going to CCS.

FHS: Laurie Turner

Student petition being circulated to object to unfair application of Zero Tolerance due to the CHS soccer player. He was, however, expelled for one semester.

A memorial service will be held for a student who was shot last week.

Students raised \$1600 for an organization that helps children in under-developed countries.

FHS had a very successful 2nd Back to School Night On Feb. 10th.

HHS: Jan St. Clair

Electives Faire was Tues. and Wed. this week. Students have an opportunity to visit teachers of electives prior to registering for next fall.

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HHS (cont.)

Code Red was this afternoon, with all the bells and whistles – Sunnyvale and Cupertino police, fire, and ambulance. Evacuation didn't take place because of the muddy field.

Girls Soccer goes to CCS play-offs.

Boys Soccer is in 1st round of CCS.

880 students were re-registered last Saturday.

Choir position is open since last week.

Upcoming Meetings

Wed., March 9: Exec Bd. Meeting, 3:30 p.m.

Wed., March 23: Rep Council meeting, 3:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Janet W. St. Clair, FEA Secretary