

**United Educators of San Francisco  
Executive Board**  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 4:15 p.m.  
**Minutes**

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**Order of Business (Committee of the Whole @ 4:16 p.m.; Quorum declared @ 4:23 p.m.).**

**Approval of Minutes and Financial Report**

1. Roll Call ..... A.J. Frazier, Sergeant at Arms
2. Approval of Minutes M/S/C..... Lisa Gutierrez Guzmán
3. Financial Report..... Lita Blanc for Elaine Merriweather
  - Informational, no vote was taken
  - Sister Blanc, PTA Dinner, 3/2/18

**President's Recommendations for Expenditures** M/S/C ..... Lita Blanc

1. PTA Dinner March 2 ..... 2 Seats@\$50.00 each=\$100.00
2. Childcare Champions ..... 2 Seats@\$125.00 each=\$250.00

**Officers Reports**

1. President's Report (Written Report) ..... Lita Blanc
  - Parcel Tax on the ballot
  - Sign-Up for African-American Honor Roll, 2/20. E-Board invited to attend.
  
2. Executive Vice-President's Report (Written Report).....Susan Solomon

**Resolution**

- Safer Technological Solutions in the SF Unified Classroom..... Sarah Aminoff

WHEREAS there is an increasing exposure to children and staff in schools to Radiofrequency radiation (Wi-Fi, cell phones, iPads, peripherals and cell towers) and research shows that children's brains, eyes and bone marrow absorb three to ten times more radiation than adults—there is concern regarding long-term exposure to cell phone and wireless device use in schools. The "safety" of wireless exposure does not exist and there is a growing science showing increased health risks, especially for children and pregnant women at levels below approved federal exposure standards

WHEREAS safety guidelines for all wireless EMR frequencies are based only on an engineering standard of the heating of tissue--not adverse biological effects that accumulate over time, current EMR standards are inadequate to protect children and public health

WHEREAS, in 2011, the World Health Organization International Agency for the Research of Cancer found wireless radio frequency to be a possible human carcinogen. The \$25 million National Toxicology Program (NTP) in 2016 [i],

showed brain cancer and heart nerve cancer in laboratory animals exposed to the public radiation levels allowed by the FCC. Epidemiological studies find health risks are highest for those who first used a phone under the age of twenty. Young adults (in their twenties) are now experiencing an increasing brain cancer risk. WHO advisors are recommending wireless radiation be reclassified as a known human carcinogen. Longtime World Health Organization advisor [Anthony B. Miller, M.D.](#), confirmed in 2017 radiofrequency (RF) radiation from any source now fully meets the criteria to be classified as a “Group 1 carcinogenic to humans” agent.

WHEREAS the California Department of Public Health issued guidelines (December 13, 2017) for children/adults to reduce exposure to RF from cell phones, CDPH Director, Dr. Smith states, “Children's brains develop through the teenage years and may be more affected by cell phone use.” CDPH adds, “During this time the body may be more easily affected by RF energy and the effect may be more harmful and long lasting. RF energy can reach a larger area of the child’s brain, a child who uses a cell phone will have many more years of exposure of RF energy in his lifetime than an adult. Long-term high use of cell phones may be linked to lower sperm count and inactive or less mobile sperm, headaches and effects on learning and memory, hearing, behavior and sleep. Guidelines include keeping the phone away from the body, reducing cell phone use to stream audio or video, or download/upload large files

WHEREAS manufacturers (Samsung 3G laptop manual) advise to keep a safe distance from pregnant women’s stomach or from the lower stomach of a teenager, manufacturers warn about keeping a separation distance, such as Apple (iPhone).

WHEREAS, SFUSD is part of the Collaborative for High Performing Schools (CHPS): one of the criteria in the 2014 CHPS manual is low EMF exposure (pp. 104-105) and includes low EMF practices for computers and to reduce adverse effects of exposures by using wired computers and having cell phones powered off/on airplane mode.

WHEREAS, Ashland, Massachusetts school district adopted Best Practices for Mobile Devices, to turn off when not in use as the one simple way to begin reducing RF exposure.

WHEREAS, in 2017 Maryland State Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council recommended limiting EMR exposures for schools. Other countries such as Israel, Germany and Switzerland are also going back to wired connections in classrooms, and "Belgium, France, Australia, Russian, the United Kingdom, Canada and the European Union reduce children's exposure to wireless radiation by stricter regulations and/or issuing informative fact sheets." Cyprus has removed Wi-Fi from elementary classrooms in 2017.

BE IT RESOLVED that UESF write a letter to SFUSD urging them to follow CHPS low EMF practices and adopt a resolution for low EMF computer practices to provide low-EMF classroom options specifying low-EMF IT equipment and wired Internet access network technology, and establishing low-EMF user practices, and having cell phones powered off or on airplane mode (with Wi-Fi turned off) in class.

BE IT RESOLVED that UESF urge its members to begin by following Ashland, Massachusetts/ Best Practices for “Mobile Devices and the Maryland State Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council’s recommendations for limiting exposures to minimize health risk. Keep phones on airplane mode or turned off and Wi-Fi turned off with a wired local area network (LAN).

BE IT RESOLVED to have UESF write a letter to SFUSD urging them to have students and staff choose corded connections whenever possible using Ethernet connection, via adaptors, not Wi-Fi, and to reinstate wired computer labs at all schools. Corded connections such as Ethernet provide access to the same Internet, but without wireless radiation and with far higher bandwidth. Adapters can be made available to connect Ethernet cords to smaller devices for students.

BE IT RESOLVED to have UESF urge its members to follow CDPH recommendations, and write a letter to SFUSD urging them to caution students about carrying phones against their body. Recommendation that all students will be issued informative fact sheets regarding these safer technology precautions.

*Respectfully submitted to the February 7, 2018 meeting of the  
UESF Executive Board by Sarah Aminoff*

- Moved by maker of motion
- The body approved Sister Aminoff’s invitation to allow L. Lloyd Morgan, Sr. Research Fellow, to give additional background info.

Moved to table until April E-Board meeting Yes: 16, No: 3, Abstentions: 2

DEBATE AND DISCUSSION: More info should be sent to E-Board members in interim, process of educating members

***Executive Session @ 4:46 p.m.***

1. Grievance Appeal Presentation
2. Grievance Appeal Vote: Moved to uphold previous Executive Board decision (Yes: 14; No: 8; Abstentions: 9)

3. Personnel Report (not given due to time restraints)

MOTION TO MOVE INTO COPE @ 5:30 p.m.:

- Sister Ibañez explained the process for mayoral candidate presentations (15 minutes: 5 for statements, 10 for Q & A).
- Motion on “Process Proposal from the UESF Leadership” PASSED
- Jane Kim, Angela Alioto, London Breed and Amy Farah Weiss spoke re: their qualifications as candidates for mayor.

DEBATE AND DISCUSSION: Questions raised re: candidates’ positions on issues.

PROCEDURAL MOTION: Address resolution re: Rafael Mandelman (Passed)

**COPE Report/Endorsement M/S/C** ..... Anabel Ibañez/Ken Tray

In Support of Rafael Mandelman for District 8 Supervisor

Whereas, Rafael Mandelman has earned UESF support for his leadership in the fight to win full accreditation for City college of San Francisco; and

Whereas, on the Board of Supervisors he will be a strong advocate to fully fund Free City College programs; and

Whereas, Rafael Mandelman pledges to continue his support for UESF and our efforts on behalf of our students, members and school-sites in the face of mounting campaign money and pressure from the Charter School Association and its supporters into landscape of San Francisco politics; and

Whereas, he is committed to maintaining San Francisco as a strong Sanctuary City; and

Whereas, he has pledged to advocate for a fair resolution of current contract negotiations between AFT 2121 and City College and that pledge includes his commitment to ensure the new contract will not create divisions between part-time and full-time faculty; and

Whereas, his support for affordable housing and tenants’ rights has earned him endorsement by the San Francisco Tenants Union; and

Whereas, California Nurses Association, National Union of Healthcare Workers and Sierra Club endorse Mandelman; and

Whereas, Tom Ammiano, Aaron Peskin, Hillary Ronen, Jane Kim, Sandra Fewer, Mark Leno and Art Agnos endorse Rafael Mandelman; and

Whereas, we cannot ignore that real estate and landlord interests are among the earliest supporters of his opponent.

Therefore, Be it Resolved that UESF endorse Rafael Mandelman for District 8 Supervisor in the June Primary; and

Be it Further Resolved that UESF-COPE Candidate PAC contribute \$500 to the Mandelman for Supervisor campaign.

*Respectfully submitted to the February 7, 2018 meeting of the*

*UESF Executive Board by*

*Lita Blanc, Carolyn Samoa, Susan Solomon, Anabel Ibanez, and Ken Tray*

Moved by maker of the motion

DEBATE AND DISCUSSION: Merits/history of candidates, endorsement of Mark Leno, process, prior relationship with candidates, Housing for All and "Poison Pill"

SHOULD UESF ENDORSE THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES:

Angela Alioto: Yes: 0; No: Overwhelming

London Breed: Yes: 14; No: 11; Abstentions: 3

Jane Kim: Yes: 19; No: 1; Abstentions: 9

Amy Farah Weiss: Yes: 0; No: 25; Abstention: 1

SHOULD UESF RANK OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES (Leno, Breed and Kim):

Yes 16, No: 0

Breed: Yes: 0 ; No: 19

Kim: Yes: 2, No: 15, Abstentions: 7

Leno: Yes: 17; No: 1; Abstentions: 7

**• Mark Leno will be the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked out of our three endorsees; Jane Kim, second; and London Breed, third.**

**Sergeant at Arms Report**.....A.J. Frazier

37 present from various divisions, one excused, three unexcused

**Adjournment @ 7:50 p.m. after COPE Report and Presentations**

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