**United Educators of San Francisco**

**Assembly Meeting**

Wednesday November 13

**Final Minutes**

***Call to Order 4:27pm***

***Minutes and Financial Report***

1. M/S/C Approval of Minutes Katie Waller-O’Connor
2. M/S/C Financial Report VanCedric Williams

Reports

1. Substitute Division Report Earl Lene de Santiago
2. President for Retired Division Report Rudi Faltus
3. Early Education Committee Report Betty Robinson-Harris
* Concerns around the District’s document regarding touch/hugging/kids on laps, etc. because touch important for young kids.
* Evaluations being required for all employees even if they are in an off cycle evaluation year.
* Mayor added 30 million dollars for Early Education and ParaEducator stipends.
* Thanks for 7 hour PD that took place on November 2nd.
1. ParaEducator Committee Report Carolyn Samoa
* PD Early Ed/ParaEducators 7 hour PD 60 Paras attended.
* Reminder - next week is the ParaEducator division meeting.
* ParaEducators are entitled to floating holidays, that each member gets to choose when to use
1. Special Education Committee Report Brittny Roeland
2. Middle School Committee Report Lisa-Beth Watkins

Division Chair: Lisa-Beth Watkins, VVMS

School Represented at this meeting:

Vis Valley MS (2)

Lawton K-8

Denman MS (2)

Everett MS (2)

APG MS

Claire Lilienthal K-8

Willie Brown MS

Presidio MS

Lick MS (2)

Hoover MS (on phone)

Agenda Items

1. LCAP Update (Rorie)
* Note: Service center training will occur before December
* RA will send out a doodle to MS Division UBC leaders; in the Spring, would like to open it up to more members to attend
1. Crisis Food/Water at school sites
* APG UBC brought concerns on supplies for a crisis to administrators, who said that PTA should coordinate that
* Permission from parents to release children to parents' friends
* Request at Assistant Superintendent meeting:
* At Presidio there are backpacks for each staff member, portable toilet in each room, and they are working hard to come up with an evac. plan
* What food and water have been secured throughout the school district? Where are they stored? Who can access it? What is the protocol for accessing the supplies?
1. Review Notes from Meeting with Assistant Superintendents on 10/08/19 Evaluations

Principal's Expectations

* District has reported that 1500 evaluations were done incorrectly last SY
* Many schools, including Lick, Bessie Carmichael, and VVMS have reported that admin is using long form evaluations for every evaluation
* The meeting with Assistant Supes included HR, who reported that they had provided administrators with trainings this school year so they understand the contract requirements
* UESF pointed out that in order to build trust among admin and UBC, especially during evaluations, there must be some flexibility on the application of the contract language
* Assistant Supes provided link to all the middle school Principal's Expectations There was recognition that at times, they are too far reaching.
* Vis Valley MS reported that their UBC had everyone on cycle request a short form eval, and each of them was denied. The UBC has elected to file a grievance.
* UESF Staff Reps met with Chief Academic Officer and followed up with HR and Assistant Supes. We plan to give this issue continuity for the rest of the SY.
* HR reported that Nikki Ford-Morthel, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, is now overseeing the development of evaluation procedures with administrators.
* It is anticipated that either District or UESF will address some of the
* limitations of the contract language on evaluations during bargaining. The Division must be ready to weigh in should proposals develop.
* Jason Hannon, K-8 Assistant Superintendent, proposed that a template be developed for all schools.
* Both SFUSD and UESF can revisit this in the Spring to ensure we
* have templates for the beginning of next school year.
* The link to all the Principal's expectations will be sent to the Division. A couple of people have volunteered to review all of the documents and identify current potential Ed Code or contract violations. The Division will present their findings to the Assistant Supes.
1. Middle Grades Initiate Wonder Task Force.
* The Task Force had its first meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. All middle schools were represented by at least one person, and there was one K-8 school present: SFC
* Members of the Task Force were asked to give their impressions.
* Many questions were raised and left unanswered.
* There was a general sense of confusion about the desired outcome from this meeting.
* Participants were asked to provide responses to a survey in order to shape the next session
* Proposal was made to take continuing concerns over the redesign to the School Board. At the moment, numerous schools said they would like to attempt to reach a resolution through the Task Force
* Continuity to questions raised will be given at the next meeting with the assistant Supes.
* We will ask that the question generated in the first session be answered before or by the January meeting.
* We will request that EPC attend the next meeting with the Asst Supes.

Additional notes:

The meeting with the Assistant Superintendents is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4 2, 2019 from 4:30 to 6pm, at 555 Franklin, 3rd floor.

Lisa-Beth Watkins and Alma Soto will prepare the agenda for the Assistant Supes based on the notes from this meeting. Please let us know if you plan to attend. Depending on the number of participants, we may need to request a bigger room to accommodate everyone.

Please note that after reviewing all of the files, we are missing Lick MS and Willie Brown MS. If you are a UBC Rep from that site, please send those to Alma Soto at asoto@uesf.org so we can add them to the drive.

1. Early Education Committee Report Betty Robinson-Harris
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COPE Report - Election Update Anabel Ibañez

Officers’ Reports

1. Executive Vice-President’s Report Elaine Merriweather

STATE COUNCIL

Fourteen UESF members attended the CTA State Council from October 25th – 27th in Los Angeles, CA. Each of us served on different committees. Some of the committees were Assessment & Testing, Communications, Curriculum & Instruction, Early Childhood, Financing Public Education, School Safety / School Management, Special Education, and Language Acquisition. If you are interested in any of these topics please let me know and I can connect you with the individual who sits on that committee. The NEA President, Lily Eskelsen García addressed State Council on Sunday. She shared the Strong Public Schools website and how important it is for us to stay woke for the 2020 Presidential Election. There was also a kick off campaign for Schools & Communities First. This initiative will reclaim 12 billion every year to ensure that our schools and communities have resources to educate all of our students. We are in the process of collecting signatures to qualify for the November 2020 ballot. Please take some of the petitions back to your school to get signatures from other educators and parents.

LOCAL NEWS

We still have a lot of Certificated and Classified contracts available for you to pick up. Please stop by and pick some up for your school site. I would like to thank everyone who made our 100th year celebration a success. If you weren’t able to make it to the celebration, we still have a few programs and custom-made pins at the UESF office. There is special edition 100th year anniversary t-shirts on sale now, get them while supplies last.

CTA CONFERENCE GRANTS

The 2019-20 CTA grant applications are quick and easy, you only need to fill out one application for all conferences you would like to attend. The Equity and Human Rights Conference deadline is January 6, 2020. The Conference is February 28th – March 1st. You can apply now, just visit the website: [www.CTAGO.org/grants](http://www.CTAGO.org/grants).

1. Schools & Communities First petition drive for reforming Prop 13 CTA Political Director
2. President’s Report Susan Solomon
* Bargaining survey: organizing, outreach, distribution, collection
* Discussion about organizing plans for upcoming spring contract negotiations
* Discussion of UESF/SFUSD agreement on Mayor's $10 million contribution to SFUSD for educator retention at High Potential Focus Schools

Resolutions

1. United Educators of San Francisco Cell Tower Resolution Sara Aminoff

M/S/C Substitute Motion Printed (opposed 1, abstention 1)

M/S/C (1 opposed, 2 abstentions) Amendment to the Substitute add “to inform the Board of Supervisors of UESF’s position on this issue”

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our students, staff and administrators are fundamental concerns of the San Francisco Unified School District; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in July 2019 passed a wireless cell tower ordinance 190-19 with accompanying "guidelines" which allows four wireless 4G and 5G "facilities" per pole, with a minimum setback of only six feet from a school or residence; and

**WHEREAS, several schools in San Francisco Unified (Lowell HS, George Washington HS, June Jordan School of Equity, Mission HS, Galileo HS) have wireless cell tower “facilities” adjacent to schools (Galileo HS**has two within a few feet of school gym), and

WHEREAS, concerns are being raised regarding the radiofrequency radiation (RFR) from cell tower "facilities" next to and near schools because the developing skulls, brains and bodies of children and adolescents absorb proportionately more radiation than adults (on whom the 1996 FCC radiation emission limits were set), and;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Labor has set forth Job Accommodations for people with electro sensitivity to magnetic fields as defined by environmental health and medical communities to include fatigue, weakness, neurological issues, immunological issues, gastrointestinal issues, increased irritability, lack of ability to think clearly and quickly, sleep disturbance, overall malaise, and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, Peer reviewed scientific research shows adolescents' memory and sleep are affected by these emission exposures from wireless radiofrequency radiation (1); and

WHEREAS, this technology was brought to market with no safety testing to attempt to establish *if* a safe level of RFR exposure exists; and

WHEREAS, research has found that people living within 1,500 feet of wireless cell tower installations suffer higher incidence of headaches, insomnia, neurological problems, high blood sugar levels (2) and cardiac disturbances, and research shows that higher radiofrequency radiation exposures are statistically significantly associated with differences in the blood of people living closer to the cellular antennas with higher frequency of micronuclei and a rise in lipid peroxidation in their blood. These changes are considered biomarkers predictive of cancer; and (3)

WHEREAS, high exposure to RF produced by mobile phone base station towers was associated with delayed fine and gross motor skills, spatial working memory, and attention in school adolescents compared to students who were exposed to low RF-EMF (4); and

WHEREAS, According to Dr. Robert Block, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), children are disproportionately impacted by all environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. In fact, according to the International Agency for the Research on Cancer, when used by children, the average RF (radiofrequency) energy deposition is two times higher in the brain and 10 times higher in the bone marrow of the skull, compared with mobile phone use by adults, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics also states regarding cell towers that,” In recent years, concern has increased about exposure... an Egyptian study confirmed concerns that living nearby mobile phone base stations increased the risk for developing headaches, memory problems, dizziness, depression and sleep problems,” and

WHEREAS, current research shows long-term exposure to cell towers may impact human health, and the FCC safety guidelines are outdated and (as previously stated by the AAP) they do NOT take into account children’s impact by all environmental exposure, it could be decades before full health and environmental consequences are known, and

WHEREAS In 2011, the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) listed radiofrequency radiation (RFR) as a Class 2B Possible Carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, after 4 students and 3 teachers were diagnosed with cancer within a 3-year period, Sprint finally removed a cell tower at a Ripon, California school, and

WHEREAS, Germany and other countries have placed strict limits on the distance between schools and cell towers; and England has documented cancer clusters near cell towers and British citizens are pushing to ban them near schools, and

WHEREAS, Palo Alto and Chatsworth school districts banned cell towers at schools, and 2019 New York State Bill A07173, an act to amend education law, prohibits cell towers on school property, and gives 180 days for an existing cell tower or antenna to be removed (5), and

WHEREAS Los Angeles City Board of Education banned cell towers on schools in 2000 (6), LAUSD 2009 resolution condemned cell towers NEAR schools and recommends cautionary RFR exposure limits (10,000 lower than FCC limits, and United Teachers Los Angeles in 2013 passed a resolution to ensure safety from EMF emissions. (7) (8); and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Oregon passed legislation requiring Oregon Health Authority Review of Scientific Studies showing Risk of Harm from exposure to wireless in schools;

WHEREAS, California PTA resolution (2001) supports local municipal zoning setback rules at 1000 feet or more from a wireless transmitter at a school or residential area, and CA PTA resolution (2005) insists PTA educate and inform its districts, councils and units about the potential hazards of EMFs and encourage schools to develop risk reduction policies (9) (10)

WHEREAS. California firefighters have complained of myriad symptoms following activation of cell towers on or adjacent to their stations, and Los Angeles firefighters in 2014 wrote letters over health concerns with long term exposure to towers and antenna, **and Firefighters have gotten an exemption from cell towers on or adjacent to their fire stations with CA AB57 (11), and**

**WHEREAS, The San Francisco Black Firefighter’s Association (all 11 districts) have signed a petition to demand the Board of Supervisors to rescind, research and replace Ordinance 190-19, as well as, Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods representing:**

Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association

         Cole Valley Improvement Association

         Cow Hollow Association

         Diamond Heights Community Association

         Dolores Heights Improvement

         East Mission Improvement Association

         Excelsior District Improvement Association--District 11

         Forest Knolls Neighborhood Association--District 7

         Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association--District 7

Jordan Park Improvement Association

         Laurel Heights Improvement Association

         Marina Community Association

         Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association

         Oceanview/Merced Heights/Ingleside – Neighbors in Action

         Pacific Heights Residents Association

         Parkmerced Action Coalition

         Rincon Point Neighborhood Association

         Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People

Sunset-Parkside Education and Action Committee

Telegraph Hill Dwellers**,**

The Lower Haight Merchant + Neighbor Association District 5**, Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, C**ole Valley Improvement Association--District 5**, Dolores Heights Improvement Club** District 8**, Cow** Hollow Association--District 2**, D**iamond Heights Community Association-- District 8**;**

**THEREFORE be it RESOLVED**, THAT UESF take a position to advocate against wireless "facilities" next to or near any schools in San Francisco, and request that any cell towers/wireless facilities already put next to or near schools should be taken down within 180 days;

**and be it FURTHER RESOLVED**, THAT UESF to write a letter to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors requesting them rescind the cell tower installation ordinance 190-19 passed July 2019 and signed by Mayor London Breed with accompanying "guidelines", and ensure that cell towers/wireless facilities are at least 1,500 feet from both public and private schools in San Francisco; and send an email blast to UESF members,

**and be it FURTHER  RESOLVED**, THAT UESF bring a resolution addressed to the SF Board of Supervisors as well as all school districts in California to CTA and CFT for them to advocate at the state level regarding banning cell tower installations next to and near schools and request legislation similar to New York State Bill A07173 that exempts cell towers on or adjacent to school property with the provision that “facilities” already present be taken down within 180 days.

M/S/C Call the question (2 opposed)

New Business/Good of the Order and Adjournment

Adjournment in memory of the Mother in Law of Eva Tellez

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