

**Montebello Teachers Association
Representative Council Meeting
September 18, 2012
MTA Conference Center**

CALL TO ORDER

September's Rep Council meeting was called to order a 3:44pm

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

No alternates were seated.

UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY RACES – Edwin Chau & Cristina Garcia

1. Mr. Chau shared with council about his campaign and support for proposition 30 and no on proposition 32. He spoke about the last 49 days to the election for his campaign and the importance of his election to defeat his opponent. Mr. Chau thanked council for the continued support.
2. Ms. Garcia shared with council a brief biography and explained how she got involved with the community of Bell Gardens. She continued to explain her involvement with the City of Bell. Recently her community asked her to consider to run for office - 58th district, and she decided to go forth. Ms. Garcia explained her commitment to education and expressed her position - yes on proposition 30 and no on proposition 32.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was adopted with an added item: Superintendent Concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were read by Thran Le - MHS, Chris Kakimi - CIS, and Tony Richards - MHS. Motion made and carried to accept the June 2012 Representative Council minutes.

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, OR ACTIONS

A. Town Hall Meetings (Insurance Update) – RoseElla Kerns & Mark Lowenthal

RoseElla shared information regarding open enrollment September 9 - October 5, 2012 for health benefits. Gilbert shared the dates for the town hall meetings regarding insurance that will be held for the various groups. Active members 9/19 3:30 - 5:00pm at SUI; 9/25 3:30-5:00p at MTA CC; Retirees under age 67 9/28 9:00-10:00am at MTA CC; Retirees age 67 and over 9/28 10:30-11:30am at MTA CC. She also explained that the Flexible Spending Account is also up for enrollment and to go on the MUSD website for enrollment. Mark began explaining that with health insurance we have lived off a balance from the insurance pool. Therefore the rates have been absorbed, but the family coverage have exceeded the rates and as a result we need to compensate from our personal pockets. He went over the options available to choose a plan from a financial perspective and the other items to consider such as the doctors or hospitals that one uses may be on the HMO list. Each employee needs to consider their needs to make their choice. He also reviewed the Flexible Spending Account that is a pre-tax amount that can help to offset the expenses of insurance such as co-pays or prescriptions.

B. AD 58 Endorsement – G. Gomez

The Executive Committee moves Cristina Garcia be the endorsed candidate by the Montebello Teachers Association for the 58th Assembly District. Margie Granado asked specifics on Ms. Garcia's educational political agenda. It was postponed to clarify Ms. Garcia's position, Margie

called her to define her platform on education, it was a concern if she was involved with Democrats for Educational Reform (DFER). Ms. Garcia stated per a phone call with Margie that she represents teachers and was not part of the DFER. Motion made by Executive Committee carried by council.

C. Political Action - J. De La Torre

Julian reported that 26 school sites had 100% participation in the Member Identification Project. Each site with 100% was recognized and given gift cards for their site to be raffled. Sites that achieved 100 percent participation in the Member Identification Project. Elementary Director Alma Orta greeted Cesar Chavez Elementary, Montebello Park Elementary, Suva Elementary, and Suva Intermediate. High School Director Carmen Patlan could not be at the meeting, Alma remained at the front to greet Bella Vista Elementary, Macy Intermediate, Schurr High School, and Wilcox Elementary. Adult Education Director Fili Arrizmendi approached the front and met Montebello Adult School sites, all met their 100% goal. High School Director Gilbert Gomez presented to the representatives of ATC – Applied Technology Center, Montebello High School, and Vail High School with their gift cards. Treasurer Guillermo Sandoval is working full time for the campaign with CTA and was not present. Therefore, Gilbert Gomez presented to Bandini Elementary, Bell Gardens Elementary, and Rosewood Park Elementary their gift cards. Intermediate Director Linda Camacho had gift cards for Greenwood Elementary, La Merced Elementary, and La Merced Intermediate. Secretary Lorraine Richards recognized Winter Gardens Elementary. Elementary Director Rita Galvan continued with Community Day School Contract Independent Study, Eastmont Intermediate, and Potrero Heights Elementary. Support Staff Director Sandra Morales greeted District Office with their gift card. Lastly, Julian De La Torre presented the gift cards to Garfield Elementary and Montebello Gardens Elementary. Julian reported 88% of our membership participated and 1,210 names have been entered into the drawing. The drawing at the meeting took place for two \$25 gift cards to Target: 1) Gabriela Dominguez - BGI 2) Angelica Munoz - GWE. One iPad 1) Yolanda Armienta-Coto - WAE

D. Fall Leadership Conference – K. Schlotz

Kathy shared the theme for Fall Leadership, "Taking of Business" as stated by Elvis. The topics include: Valuing Unionism: Why Unions Matter; how to respond to Allegations; planning groups by assignment. She reminded Council who may attend conference: building reps, alternates, and emerging leaders. Kathy encouraged electronic RSVP through the website to be completed by September 28th.

E. Class Size Issues – K. Schlotz

Kathy restated to council the language in the contract that covers a Class Size Stipend Overage and referenced the handout that was available at the meeting. She also covered the Special Education Teacher portion of the contract regarding a reasonable class size, which was also included on the handout.

F. MTA Election Report – September 18, 2012

Elections Report: Ratification & CTA State Council Run-Off – C. Low

1. A run-off is required for the CTA State Council seat per the CTA election standing rules. The ballots were returned May 15, 2012. The results were Alma Orta 219; Guillermo Sandoval 146; and Ed Guzman 137. Majority of votes cast was 250. No candidate received 250 votes. A run-off will be held November 13-27, 2012 (Thanksgiving break is Nov 19-23) Alma Orta and Guillermo Sandoval will be on the ballot. Ballots will be due to the November 27, 2012 Council meeting.
2. The Contract was ratified. A Ratification Meeting was held Tuesday, June 12, 2012. Ballots were due Monday, June 18th. The result were 649 "yes" and 61 "no". The Contract Re-Openers were ratified with 91% approval.

G. NEA RA Reports – NEA RA Delegates

Delegates present: Julian DeLaTorre, Ed Guzman, Alma Orta, and Lorraine Richards reported to council about their experience at NEA RA.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Julian De La Torre

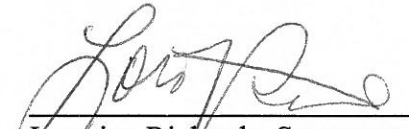
- A. Julian reminded the members the issues that are being brought upon education and it is important to keep supporting and educating family and friends about the issues that effect education. This item was an addition to the agenda and addressed in the President's report - Superintendent Concerns: Superintendent placement over the summer has grown a concern regarding Associate Superintendent of Accountability & Compliance. The process for the superintendent search generated Susana Contreras-Smith, Associate Superintendent of Accountability and Compliance. Kathy explained that Mr. Henke will be retiring December 31, 2012 and Mr. Pell's contract will expire June 30, 2013. Julian shared that this has been a topic of conversation with the Mr. Pell and Mr. Henke.
- B. Julian addressed the RTTT (Race to the Top) issue that has been brought to his attention. Andy Shinn also shared his concern regarding RTTT and expressed the concerns of members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed Guzman - MOI: Chicago teachers ended the strike about an hour.

ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 5:47p.m.

Submitted by,


Lorraine Richards, Secretary

