

Montebello Teachers Association
Representative Council Meeting
November 19, 2013
MTA Conference Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:43 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Lorraine Richards

1. The council is following Robert's Rules of Order. Vice-President Margie Granado will write down the names of the members who wish to speak. All members who wish to speak, speak through the chair to have the floor. Everyone is also respectfully recognized when having conversations of pro and con. If there are any pressing issues, council members can speak directly to or email L. Richards, K. Schlotz, go to the MTA website or they can address any of the MTA Directors.
2. The 2013 MTA Fall Leadership was productive and outstanding. A slideshow was created of all attendees and MTA presented the attendees with information on electronic voting.
3. Alyssa Lok, an aspiring teacher and daughter of MTA member Gary Lok, received a \$5,000 CTA Dependent Scholarship. She sent MTA a thank you note.
4. The CTA Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Education Awards Program is sponsoring a scholarship for the teacher and the student they sponsor. M. Granado is on the committee to review the scholarship applications. Lorraine stated that interested applicants should be cognizant of scholarship directions.
5. Lorraine explained the MUSD Married Couples Election Form. Effective January 2014, an MTA member who is married to a full time CSEA member with benefits and enrolls in a district sponsored medical plan as a primary subscriber will pay the 2 party rate for family coverage. If the spouse is opting out of the insurance, the other gets the rate deduction.
6. On November 18, 2013, Lorraine had breakfast with MUSD Board President Mr. Chacon, the last one before the reorganization. The last board meeting with the current board members will be on December 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
7. At the Superintendents' meeting on November 12, the topic of discussion was the elementary school progress reports' strikeouts due to standards that are no longer covered in the CA Common Core Standards. The District is looking for interested teachers who would like to work on updating the elementary school progress reports and perhaps make them web-based. If anyone is interested, they should contact Lorraine. Meetings begin in January 2014 and teachers would get release time.
8. On Sunday, November 17, 2013, Lorraine attended an MTA co-hosted fundraising event for Tony Mendoza who is running for Senate for the 32nd District. Endorsed by MTA, MTA is contributing to his June Primary election in order for him to be on the November 2014 ballot. MTA will support him with precinct walking as well. Congresswoman Janice Hahn and Sate Controller John Chiang were in attendance.

9. Lorraine and teachers: David Navar (WGE), Kathy Reyes (BGE), Pamela Valdry (SUI) and Angelica Paz (LMI) attended the QEIA Schools Symposium in Sacramento, CA. The symposium held workshops on School Structure Success, and Changing Classroom Practices. Panels included administrators, teachers, counselors, and parents from different schools across the state.
10. The New Teacher Orientation meeting was held on October 21, 2013. K. Schlotz and L. Richards presented on behalf of MTA and provided attendees with packets.
11. Four MTA teachers signed up to receive a scholarship to attend a CTA conference. They are Socorro Perez-Ramirez (LME) for the Good Teaching Conference, Aura Rodriguez (MPE) did not specify, Laura Rios (MHS) for the Equity and Human Rights Conference, and Pamela Valdry (SUI). Carlos Uribe (ATC) asked if he was eligible to attend.
12. The council recognized Kathy Schlotz on November 1st 2013 for her 20 years of service as MTA Executive Director. She was presented with a sapphire and diamond star pendant necklace that represents truth, sincerity and consistency.

REVENUE AND EXPENSE OPEN HEARING-F. Arrizmendi

F. Arrizmendi presented a video by Dr. Robert B. Reich, Professor of Public Policy at U.C. Berkley, Secretary of Labor during the Clinton Administration and union supporter. The video highlights the reason why the American economy is not progressing. Since 1980, the American economy has doubled in size but wages have barely increased. The top 1% of the super-rich take in more than 20% of the total income and have 40% of the nation's entire wealth. More money equals more political power, this in turn has helped them lower their tax rates. Since tax revenues are down to less than 15% of the total economy, public services, overcrowded classrooms, roads, bridges and safety nets are all being sacrificed. There is a continued high unemployment rate and people are competing with each other for jobs. The middle class, unable to borrow, no longer has the purchasing power to improve the economy, and a strong middle class equals a strong economy.

The topics of discussion were the Local Control Funding Formula, Class Size Reduction, and the Common Core Standards. Before, the money came through categorical funds, now it's coming through LCFF. MUSD is estimating that 83% of our students qualify for extra funding because they are participants of free and reduced lunch. LCFF funding amounts will be released in January.

The MUSD Head Start will now be receiving funds directly from the federal government instead of receiving it from the federal government through LACOE.

In the next 8 years, the State will require k-3 to reduce class size to 24 to 1. The state will progressively fund the class size reduction each year by reducing classes by 1 or 2 students each year.

The district enrollment has declined by 958 students. This school year, kindergarten and first grade class sizes are smaller while the high school senior classes are larger.

Dr. Bob Geiger reassured the committee that internet access will be ready in the spring for the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium computer based testing.

WAE two-story building will be completed in May. SHS will be provided with plans for a new synthetic football field, track and bleachers.

The District had an energy savings of \$1.25 million in the 2012-2013 school year. The savings occurred in spring and in August.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

The following alternates were seated: Leticia Ornelas for Lilita Daproza (LME) and Kristin Ishi-Kawaharada for Gabriela Casillas (RPS).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA-ADDITIONS

The following additional items were added to the agenda:

- c. School Board Election Editorial
- d. School Site Xerox Copy Limit

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were read as printed by Julian De La Torre (CDS), Anita Martinez (WGE) and Tony Richards (MHS). Motion was made and carried to approve the minutes for the October 15 Council meeting.

REPORTS, DISCUSSION, OR ACTIONS

a. Budget Report-G. Sandoval

The MTA dues are the same. There was a question on the floor regarding retiree dues. The report reflects the timing thus there will be adjustments to the figures, i.e. leadership training bills are paid. Highlights of the report are: CTA scholarships are available and were utilized to save money on representation. Slightly more was spent on office operations due to campaign activity but less was spent on personnel due to K. Schlotz having furloughs on Mondays.

b. Political Action Recognition-E. Guzman & L. Richards

L. Richards thanked Julian De La Torre for working on the campaign timeline last school year, and thanked the members for phone banking and precinct walking. Lorraine also thanked Chris Kakimi (CIS), Kathy Arriola (WAE) and retired teachers Frank and Karen van der Baan.

Ed Guzman thanked the Political Action Committee Gil Gomez (MHS), Victoria Landeros (FRE), and Chris Kakimi (CIS). He also thanked Lorraine, Kathy, and Alonso. Jim Schlotz was thanked for putting the slideshow together. Jim Vega (who is not a teacher), and Luz P. Cruz (JGE) did the most phone banking.

Newly elected board members Lani Cupchoy and Edgar Cisneros thanked the council for their support and volunteerism in the campaign. Cupchoy stated that 38% more voters went out to vote in this election.

Certificates and raffles for gift cards were presented to the members who phone banked the most.

c. Board Election Editorial-J. De La Torre

Past President Julian De La Torre commented on the importance of this school board election. He also commented on the need to have only one Superintendent instead of two, the need to fill the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Special Education positions that were left vacant, and the need to conduct evaluations on administrators, too.

d. School Site Xerox Copy Limit

Four schools have come forward regarding the Xerox copy paper limit at the sites. Superintendent Pell should address this in writing. Every site needs to look at their school budget and how they are allocating their funds.

e. **State Council Report-State Council Delegates**

CTA Fall State Council held the CTA Gala on October 26. There was 11,000 people in attendance, including past CTA Presidents and Governor Brown. The Strategic Planning Group Report was released at the CTA Fall State Council meeting. Margie Granado serves in the Community Outreach Committee. Through telephone town hall meetings, CTA is gathering input to meet the needs of CTA members.

Margie Granado stated that CTA is making many reductions and will be reducing the CTA Board of Directors by one. Alma Orta stated that the Early Childhood Education Committee is sponsoring legislation for mandatory kindergarten. Ed Guzman spoke on the alternatives to suspension and expulsion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Winter Holiday New Member Meeting Tuesday, December 10 at Tamayo Restaurant. Dinner reservations are due December 3. New MTA members are encouraged to attend.
- b. CTA Statewide Education Survey on Special Education
The survey was the result of hearing issues across the state. Lorraine stated that if members have special education students in their classrooms and they have to adjust their instruction then members should fill out the survey. The survey has space to annotate and type responses.
- c. BOE Reorganization Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Alma Orta
Alma Orta, Secretary

Pamela Valdry JUI
Michael Orta MOJ
Ma E. Loh SUE