

SM-MUSD PTA Full Council Meeting

April 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM by Council President, Rebecca Kennerly, in the Board Room, Board of Education (BOE).

Attending: The Attendance Sheet is attached.

President's Report:

- Rebecca asked for a report from the Leg. Cmte.
 - Laurie Yehia and Colleen O'Beirne Brydon reported that units were e-mailed re: 1) unit adoption of resolutions to oppose the proposed budget, 2) an analysis of the California Budget Project, and 3) the importance of a massive letter-writing campaign. Colleen presented a poster with letter-writing suggestions.
 - There will be "Flunk the Budget" activities/rallies on April 25 (local) and May 16 (downtown LA), which would be a good time to deliver letters.
 - Harry Keiley, SMMCTA president, reported that CTA's strategy with respect to the budget is similar. There is a bus tour across the state as well as radio spots. The Governor hasn't prioritized the cuts yet. CTA is also looking at the revenue side of the budget. The good news is that we have a lot of local support. Any joint efforts re: the budget are appreciated.
 - Susan Giesberg will look into a PTA Council meeting with local legislators.
 - Still need to put pressure on our Legislators. See what others are doing around the state by visiting www.capta.org.
 - The SMM Council of PTA's Resolution in Opposition to the Proposed 2008-09 State Budget was presented (attached). Lynn Leavitt moved to adopt the Resolution, with a second by Laurie Yehia. **ADOPTED.**

PTA Council Discussion on "An Independent Evaluation of the SMMUSD Special Education Program" by Lou Barber & Assoc., and Superintendent Talarico's recommendations in response to the report:

- Supt. Talarico summarized her preliminary response, which incorporated five key areas: 1) creating a culture of inclusion, 2) collaboration and professional development, 3) financial management, 4) modification to existing Spec. Ed. practices, and 5) regular review of district Spec. Ed. programs (attached).
 - The Supt. was thanked by many for her quick response to the audit. A lengthy discussion followed. Most who spoke felt the report was troubling, but healthy in that the district requested the audit. It is now time to move forward with the recommendations.
- Rebecca Kennerly read a self-reflection piece in response to the audit process, emphasizing inclusion and tolerance. She also suggested creating a Council Spec. Ed. Cmte, based on a model used by the Ramona school district. She proposed working with SEDAC to create an exploratory committee to consider the possibility of forming this Council Spec. Ed. Cmte.
- Laurie Yehia made a motion that PTA Council officially support the sentiments Rebecca Kennerly expressed in her letter, and that she be authorized to speak for Council regarding the grassroots efforts needed to create a culture of inclusion, with a second by Sandy Thacker.
 - Discussion included possibly adding a statement about expectations that the District would follow through in efforts to make significant changes.

- Louise Jaffe moved to pass a resolution stating that Council PTA appreciates the District's efforts to implement the recommendations of the Sped. Ed. Independent Study, and we need to be supportive and attentive to these efforts. **TABLED** until the next meeting.
- Harry Keiley stressed that we need: 1) a culture of accountability in a public institution and 2) transparency and openness.
- It was suggested that this issue be carried over and discussed on a month-to-month basis.

Council Business and Reports:

- Approval of Minutes:
 - The Full Council Minutes of 3/4/08 were presented. Miriam Billington moved to approve, with a second by Cheryl Byrne. **APPROVED** as presented.
 - The Executive Council Minutes of 4/1/08 were presented. Laurie Yehia moved to approve, with a second by Elizabeth Stearns. **APPROVED** as corrected. The correction was "...tickets for the May 3," should be May 31.
- **Financial Reports:**
 - **Kim Eyler** presented the March expenditures (attached). Debbie Mulvaney moved to adopt the general fund expenditures, with a second by Cheryl Byrne. **ADOPTED**.
 - Kim Eyler moved to adopt the Summer Adventure expenditures, with a second by Miriam Billington. **ADOPTED**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54PM.

NOTE: Next Full Council meeting will be in the Malibu City Council Chambers.

_____, Recording Secretary
Chris LeGagnoux

Approved: