

Summary, AOEC Meeting January 20, 2006

UTLA NEA Vice President Lois Bradford spoke on the voting process for the recent contract ratification. A primary issue for UTLA is Antonio Villaraigosa's plan for mayoral control of the district, which is opposed by UTLA. While UTLA may not object to Villaraigosa, there is concern about who comes after him.

Committee Chair Ernest Kettenring reported on the most recent manifestation of DACE retaliation, suspension of the tenure process. DACE also ceased meeting with UTLA in Article 30 meetings, although they have backed off that issue after questions were raised. Clearly, both are further evidence of retaliation.

The wage and hours lawsuit was discussed. The Chair detailed efforts over the years, including a grievance last year, to discuss this issue with the administration. The primary goal of the grievance was to bring the district into compliance with state law. The district response was to stonewall, refuse to discuss the matter, and pretend that the law does not apply to them. As a last resort, a lawsuit has now been filed in Superior Court. This is possibly the first lawsuit of its kind in the public sector in California. If the district continues its strategy of stonewalling, a jury verdict on back wages could reach \$200 million when liquidated damages are added. Ernest opined that the longer the district hides its head in the sand on this, the greater the cost of settlement. All DACE teachers will be covered by the action if the court certifies class status. It was pointed out that UTLA is not a party to this action.

Budget blunders by the Assistant Superintendent were detailed. In addition to the \$30 million misspent over the past two years, it seems DACE has again over-budgeted for this year by as much as \$16 million more. It was again pointed out that administrative mismanagement results in blame being put on the teachers.

Information was presented about how San Francisco Community College runs their adult ed program. On the same revenue limit that DACE receives, adult ed teachers there are making as much as \$74 per hour. Their budgetary priorities are clearly different – in 1990, they conducted a study of their program and decided to eliminate 75% of the administrative positions. Unlike DACE, teachers there are treated as professionals, and teachers make most of the decisions regarding the instructional program. We will be studying this model in greater detail later this year.

An analysis of school Organization Charts reveals that schools are spending 10-25% or more of their teacher budget on out of classroom positions. Many of these positions do administrative work. This is on top of administrator salaries.

The work of the Negotiations Task Force was presented. Our goals are to address three areas: 1) Placement on the salary schedule; 2) Seniority; 3) Job Security. We will post the complete issues following the March 10 meeting.

In the Director's report, Marc Wutschke reminded teachers of the CTA Adult Ed Caucus meeting at LAX January 27, and the importance of supporting CTA to advance adult ed issues. The Board of Directors is considering endorsement for Jose Huizar's school board seat, but no decision has yet been made. Marc also spoke of the need for Chapter Chair training. However, our focus for now will be preparation for contract negotiations.

We are making an effort to get adult ed issues more regularly in the United Teacher.