

Representative Council Meeting September 6, 2011

A motion to approve the minutes dated, August 9, 2011, was made by David Weaver and second by Terry Vernor. Motion carried.

President, Gene Smith introduced guest speaker, Paul Scott, CTA Political Organizer to discuss the upcoming AVHSD School Board Elections. There are 4 candidates running for 2 seats. Emmett Murrell is a strong candidate due to the fact that he paid to have his voter statement published in English and Spanish. The population of Palmdale is over 50% Latino. A large voter turnout is anticipated due to the Mayoral election in Palmdale. Donita Winn, incumbent, has a large support base and name recognition. Jill McGrady is a retired teacher with no leadership experience and has several relatives working in the district. Kermit Franklin is a political newcomer.

A motion was made by Brandon Palmer to approve the Executive Board's recommendation for open endorsements of all four candidates and campaign contributions as follows: Emmett Murrell and Donita Wynn \$3000 and Kermit Franklin and Jill McGrady \$500. Second by Gary Dilbeck. Hand count: 12 for; 20 opposed. Motion defeated.

Dan Shy moved to donate no more than a total of \$6000 giving equal portions to all four candidates. Julie Agnew second. Dan Shy withdrew his motion. No vote.

Robert Walls moved to endorse no candidates at this time. Second by Jennifer James. Hand count 11 for; 14 against. Motion defeated.

A substitute motion to Brandon Palmer's motion by Gary Dilbeck was made to endorse the four candidates with modified contributions of \$2500 each to Emmett Murrell and Donita Wynn and \$1000 each to Kermit Franklin and Jill McGrady. Hand count 18 for; 15 opposed, motion carried.

Stella Konisek and Pat Wyatt were appointed to be site reps at AVHS. AVHS showed improvement on their test scores from last year which may have indicated that drastic changes to faculty and involuntary transfers were unnecessary. The SIG funding was denied after all.

Gene Smith is collecting more data on class size. The district contends that classes are now leveled; AVTA has noted some exceptions. Contact Gene Smith if your class numbers are excessive.

Vice President Political, Gerald Fairman gave a presentation on the 2011 NEA Convention in Chicago. Christine Van Allen also attended. The NEA Representative Assembly ("RA") has more delegates than the Democratic and Republican Conventions combined, 10,000 Delegates representing 3.2 million members. The NEA agenda for school term 2011-12 was established during a solid week of meetings. A few of the high points of the RA were the speech by Vice-President Joe Biden, the re-election of NEA President Dennis VanRoekel, the endorsement of Barack Obama for re-election, speeches by Wisconsin Senate Minority, Leader Mark Miller representing the Wisconsin 14, the Governors of Illinois and Kentucky and the awards for NEA Teacher and ESP of the year. CTA President, Dean Vogel co-chaired the committee on teacher evaluations which was approved by the RA. See all related stories, speeches and videos at the NEA website; www.nea.org/RA.

Vice President Membership, Julie Agnew is organizing the AVTA social which will be at Vince's Pizza mid October.

Grievance Chair Gary Roberts requested support for the S.O.A.R vacancy (grievance #101112) to be approved for arbitration, depending on the District's reply at level 2. The job description has been reposted, but with an altered job description requiring specific AVID and Prometheus training. This has limited the number of qualified applicants. AVTA's position is that if special training is needed to qualify for a position, all teachers should have equal access to

that training. Motion to go to arbitration if necessary by Sue Strom. Second by Ray Hart. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Terry Vernor to move to arbitration (Grievance #151112) that the District offer make-up faculty meetings as per contract, with a second by Sue Strom. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion by Robin Mackey that the District makes a "reasonable effort" to cap classes at the actual number stipulated in the contract. Second by Mike Otnisky. Motion approved unanimously.

Gary Roberts is waiting for a response on a LHS coaching position where a unit member has been denied the position because of no prior varsity experience that was not required in the job description.

Negotiations Chair, Dan Shy reported that AVTA does not want to sacrifice overage pay for health benefits. The fear is that classes will be overcrowded having a negative impact on student achievement. No new teachers will be hired in the future and some may even lose or quit their jobs, when classes are packed beyond capacity.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Otnisky with a second by Robert Walls. Meeting adjourned.