

OCSEA REP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2019

President Marlene Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:14. Secretary Beth Orlik took attendance of Rep Council members and established that a quorum was present. Absent were Richard Berman, Julie Lemonds, and Steve Slack. The meeting minutes from December were approved without correction, and the January minutes were approved with the correction of adding Adriana Clark and Steve Slack as being present for the January meeting.

Vice President Report

Vice President Laurie Martinez announced that this Rep Council meeting was the first to implement the online Zoom platform and encouraged those present to spread the word to other members that this option to participate in Rep Council meetings was now available.

Laurie reported that there are now 191 OCSEA members. One person had dropped their membership in the last month. Laurie said she had learned at State Council that CTA membership was up overall, and that a state report would be forthcoming.

Laurie requested those present to continue to encourage nonmembers to join OCSEA. The procedure to join OCSEA is to fill out an application, email it to Laurie and Marlene, and then send the original application with the wet signature to Laurie through interoffice mail at juvenile hall.

Treasurer Report

The January Treasurer's Report was approved.

President's Report

Marlene reported that she had met with Al Mijares and Renee Hendrick to review concerns mentioned in the letter that Marlene sent to Al six months ago. Mijares said he was interested in working with OCSEA to address our concerns. In regard to the County's announcement about the RIF, Marlene said the County has not shown justification for a RIF and believes it is a scare tactic to force a faster settlement in negotiations, especially since the announcement was sent one day after the bargaining meeting where impasse was declared. In the event the County does a RIF, Marlene will suggest the County consider offering another SERP this year in an effort to offset the number of people affected by a layoff.

General discussion among members present included the belief that the County was not taking several issues into account in proposing a RIF, such as not considering the 64 teachers who had retired and not been replaced last year, retirements that would occur this year and likely not be replaced, the fact that there are currently nine long-term subs working in ACCESS classrooms, and that the reorganization of ACCESS had not yet been completed.

Marlene announced the next solidarity rally that will take place at Kalmus from 3:00 to 6:00 on February 19, which is the next negotiations meeting where a PERB mediator will work with our Bargaining Team and the County in an effort to come to a fair settlement. There will be another press release, and a videographer will be present again. John Hall moved to hire the same videographer who filmed the first rally, and Laurie seconded the motion. All Rep Council members present voted yes.

Marlene said she had discussed our current bargaining issues with about 17 union presidents from our region at the recent Presidents' Summit she attended. Many offered their support, and Marlene will be sending a letter with talking points so that those presidents may pass along the information to their teachers and ask them to join our rally. OCSEA members are asked to encourage others to attend the rally. Children are welcome to attend as well, or babysitting expense will be reimbursed if necessary.

Nominations are requested for the upcoming WHO (We Honor Ours) Awards. The WHO Awards honor union members who have made a significant contribution to education and teacher advocacy in our association. Members are asked to email their nominations to Beth Orlik at borlik@ocde.us.

Diana Freeman offered to bring snacks to the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50

The next OCSEA Rep Council meeting will be Monday, March 11 at the ACCESS Area 3 Admin Office, 621 W. First Street, Tustin.

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