

OCSEA MINUTES

September 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Ames at 3:45 PM. Lonnie Howerton led the Council members in the pledge to the flag. Secretary Loren Myhill took attendance of Rep. Council members present. Absent were: Mary Burton, Lewis Lester, Marlene Simmons, and Diana Freeman. The late start of the meeting was due to the lateness of some members whose presence is required for a quorum. No gift cards were given for first time attendees, but Peggy M. won the drawing at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was held at the Fountain Valley Ed. Center, which is the location for the 2017-2018 year.

Approval of the Minutes : Copies of the June 15, 2017 meeting were available for everyone and time for review was provided. There were no corrections or additions and the minutes were approved as presented. The April minutes were approved at the June meeting; however, there are no May minutes due to the fact that not enough Rep. Council members attended to establish a quorum.

Vice-President Report: Allison Carey shared that since there are no dues paid by members for July and August the Department will not issue their report till the end of September. Thus, an accurate report of the number of members should be available at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Liz Wilson presented the treasurer's report. Copies were available for membership review. There were no corrections or additions and the reports were approved as presented.

President's Report: Julie welcomed all new Rep. Council members and Loren reviewed the meeting rules of conduct that are to be followed by all present at meetings. Julie reviewed all the committees and asked people to sign up after the meeting. Committees are open to everyone. Just contact Julie to be added to the new list.

Social Committee: Peggy, Chris, Julie L.,

Elections Committee: Chris, John, Lonnie

Membership: Chris O., Adriana C.,

Special Ed.: Chris

Grievance: Marlene, Loren, John, Dana, Richard

ADA: Dana, Beth, alternates Loren and Richard

Sp. Schools Case Load: Mary Burton, Adriana C.,

Safety: Loren

HBRC: Julie A., Mary Jane, Loren, alternate Richard

By-Laws: John

Calendar: Beth

PAC: Jacky Kristky, Marcia, Loren

Chris Off, membership chair, reviewed the membership packets and benefits of CTA membership. Rep. Council members were asked to choose one benefit and become an expert on it so they could share out at future meetings and be the contact person for the future. The entire cost of your union dues can be offset by your savings if you chose to use the offered benefits of CTA membership.

Roger U. shared that our new website, ocseateachers.org is operational but still in development. Ideas are welcome. Julie and Roger are presently the contact people for the new site.

Robert Grand shared about the NEA-RA week he attended as our representative. He stressed the importance of engaging in conversation about the importance of public education.

Allison reviewed the new policies for conferences and the new reimbursement forms we are adopting for qualifying expenses.

Julie posted and reviewed the new listings for Rep. Council members representing each AU for 2017-2018. She stressed the importance of all members knowing who they can contact as their union representative.

John Wells moved, and Richard Berman seconded, that we amend our By-Laws to state that minutes are kept at all executive board meetings. Voting on this motion will take place following discussion at the next Rep. Council meeting.

Julie shared that there are rumors now about the possibility of the Department offering financial incentive for employment separation from OCDE for the purpose of avoiding a RIF, and that the Union has consistently encouraged them to save money in this manner for many years. Loren shared that the fact that there are now rumors is at least a positive development, but that it is entirely an administrative decision and we will share any information they may release.

Marcia Garten shared concerns about salary increases that have taken place for Administrators over the past year, the expansion of the number of administrative positions while student and teacher numbers steadily decline, and finally what happened to the FIRE program with all those students and teachers?

Amber Hughes expressed her concern regarding seniority and permanent status for councilors in our bargaining unit. Julie and Roger are looking into this and will report back when they learn more.

Julie ended the meeting by expressing her sincere desire for transparency and open communication regarding all union issues. The Union is here to serve everyone and all are requested to keep Julie informed of all that is happening in their AU and what they are hearing so she can stay on top of Union related matters as they develop.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Next meeting will be October 9th, and held at the Fountain Valley site.

Phone: (Association's cell-Julie): (714) 495-9996