

Approved

**OEA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 20, 2003**

Board Members present: Visnick, Gorham, Swayne (6:00), Miele, Rendon, Mandel, Balderston (5:10), Mordecai, Ellis, Traylor, Griffin, Turner, Wong
Absent: Quintana, Ough, Allen
Members present: Janice Lord-Walker, Bonnita Solberg

Call to Order 4:50pm

Motion to adopt agenda as amended approved.

Executive Session and Crisis Report placed before Officers' Reports.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Raleigh McLemore urged the Board to boycott Doctors Medical Center. Judi Hirsch presented a proposal to add the Village of Deir Ibzi'a in Palestine to Oakland's other sister city relationship with Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the Village in Israel, which was approved at the November 4th Rep Council. Jonah Zern reported a successful Valentines Day rally and presented the War Times paper. He also mentioned a March 17th rally in Sacramento will focus on no cuts to education.

Executive Session entered 5:15pm (Objections to entering Bargaining Update session – Mandel, Rendon). Returned from Executive Session at 6:45pm. Janice Lord-Walker presented the current bargaining report and personnel matters were debated. The below motions were also made.

Motion A (*Mordecai/Traylor*)

?? **That the OEA Executive Board hire a professional commercial real estate agent to handle the downstairs rental of the OEA Center.**

The Motion failed.

Yes – Mordecai, Abstain – Gorham, Miele

Motion B (*Balderston/Turner*)

?? **That we authorize John Grace to negotiate with Dr. Dang, LIFETIME, or any other prospective rentee, with proposals to be brought back to the OEA Executive Board for consideration.**

The Motion passed unanimously.

Motion C (*Swayne/Griffin*)

?? **That Ara Prigian be informed that he is not to be involved with proposals and/or agreements to rent/lease the OEA's facilities now or in the future.**

The Motion passed with two abstentions (Gorham, Ellis).

CRISIS REPORT

A draft notice from the Bargaining Team was presented reemphasizing our message to OUSD to take health care caps off the table and settle the contract. A draft of the OEA Teacher-Family Connection notice was presented.

Ben Visnick presented a letter from a parent of two Oakland students urging teachers to support the efforts to retain local control, the School Board, and the Superintendent. Ben then stated that we'd have better luck with BAYCES than with OCO. Another memo from a community member was also presented detailing plans to rally against Don Perata and Sheila Quintana because of their opposition to the Chaconas administration.

A memo was then presented detailing a meeting of 2/19/03, where Shugaa Mjasiri presented to Ben Visnick and Relena Ellis a proposal for a charter school called Accelerated Learning Academy, a middle school targeting under-performing students.

A memo to all brothers and sisters from Sheila Quintana was then presented. In the memo Quintana highlighted the successful meeting of 2/6/03 between the OEA Executive Board and all the OUSD unions. She also urged solidarity in the upcoming rally of February 26.

Ben Visnick then reemphasized the need to contact clusters and mobilize in great numbers to the Feb. 26 School Board meeting.

Rally Logistics

CTA message – No Education Recession and Keep Cuts Away from Direct Services to Students.

A draft proposal that was submitted to the OEA Rep Council on Feb. 18th was presented listing measures that could save OPS millions of dollars.

The following rally strategies were then listed:

Start with and end with No Caps on Health Benefits/Settle Contract + Importance for balanced presentations: No confidence in School Board, Superintendent, and Administration, Oppose state takeover + Invite other unions: Joint Press Conference at 4:30pm, rally at 5pm + Taxation of Corporate Wealth Rally targeted for March 12 + Talk it up! + Invite people on Feb. 26th to make signs at 3:30pm + Trish Gorham will draft a Press Release + The message from the union is exclusively No Caps on Health Benefits and Settle the Contract + Single payer health care + Transportation and parking issues need to be worked out as well as a possible police shutdown of Second Ave. Parking encouraged at Kaiser and Laney College + Apples + Choose speakers from sites + Benefits handout + All City Student Council + Picketing.

Motion D (Gorham/Ellis)

?? **That the Bargaining Message of “No Caps on Benefits and Settle the Contract” be the only message presented with OEA logo at the Contract Rally on 2/26/03.**

An amendment was made to the above motion (*Mandel/Rendon*).

?? That the leaflet for the rally will include an announcement that per Rep Council vote, the next official OEA action will be a march on Oakland corporations to demand redistribution of corporate wealth.

The main motion passed.

Yes - Gorham, Swayne, Mordecai, Ellis, Traylor, Turner, Wong

No – Rendon, Mandel

Abstain – Visnick, Miele, Balderston, Griffin

The amendment failed.

Yes – Rendon, Mandel

No – Gorham, Swayne, Mordecai, Ellis, Traylor, Griffin, Turner, Wong

Abstain – Visnick, Miele, Balderston

1st VP

Ben Visnick presented a letter expressing his concerns resulting from the CTA Budget Hearing of 2/1/03. Visnick's concern was in regards to increases and complications in the collection of dues for substitute teachers, mostly in urban locals, who are either CTA members or agency fee payers.

Ben then presented a copy of a letter from Ara Prigian to Lewis Cohen informing Cohen that Prigian will be the contact for probationary layoffs due to financial needs, RIF layoffs, and temporary releases related to the May 15th deadline.

2nd VP

Trish Gorham presented a draft OEA Calendar for March.

Trish also presented a draft document detailing procedures for the upcoming elections process.

Secretary

Executive Board minutes of Thursday, February 6, 2003 approved.

Treasurer

The need for another Fiscal Oversight Committee meeting to focus on the OEA budget, in order to report to the Rep Council, was expressed and a tentative date was set.

Renee Swayne then presented copies of OEA's Cash Disbursement, Check Detail, and Credit Card records.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion to table Motions 6 and 7 from the Executive Board meeting of 2/6/03 to the next Executive Board meeting passed. (Balderston/Mordecai)

NEW BUSINESS

Traylor, Turner, and Wong were not present for the following NB votes.

Motion 1 (*Mordecai/Ellis*)

?? That the OEA resolves to join other Bay Area Labor Unions and encourage its members to boycott Doctors Medical Center.

The Motion passed with one abstention (Swayne).

Motion 2 (*Mandel/Rendon*)

?? That OEA joins in the Amici Curiae (Friend of the Court) Brief filed on behalf of ILWU 10; N.A.L.C. Golden Gate Branch #214; National Union of Journalists (U.K.); International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422; Independent Local Unions "Zahyst" and "Uspih" (Ukraine) on Appeal from the Order of the Pennsylvania County Court of Common Pleas (Dec. 11, 2001) (Dembe, J.) denying relief under the Post-Conviction Relief Act, the Common Law, the Pennsylvania Constitution, and the US Constitution. The evidence to be presented at the denied hearing establishes Mumia Abu-Jamal's actual innocence.

A motion to postpone above motion to the next OEA Executive Board meeting passed. (Balderston/Visnick)

Motion 3A (*Mandel/Rendon*)

?? That the OEA encourage teachers to continue to educate their students about the effects of funding for militarism and prisons on the Oakland community, about the war on Iraq, and about how civil disobedience, such as the student walkout on March 5, have been significant parts of movements to challenge unjust policy, including the student-teacher walkout in Selma, Alabama.

The Motion failed.

Yes – Rendon, Mandel, Balderston

No – Gorham, Miele, Swayne, Mordecai, Griffin

Abstain – Visnick, Ellis

Motion 3B (*Mandel/Rendon*)

?? That the OEA discourage teachers and administrators from taking disciplinary action against those who choose to participate in student-led walkouts on March 5.

The Motion passed.

Yes – Visnick, Gorham, Miele, Rendon, Mandel, Balderston, Ellis, Griffin

No – Mordecai

Abstain – Swayne

Motion 3C (Mandel/Rendon)

?? That the OEA endorse and encourage teachers and students to attend, as field trips, the Monday, March 17 rally from 11am to 2pm at the Capitol Building in Sacramento calling for funding for education, called for by California's Community Colleges and the Education Not Incarceration Coalition. Further, we call upon CTA to provide full backing for the mobilization as a form of significant support for colleagues in the Community Colleges.

The Motion passed with one abstention (Swayne).

Adjournment 9:15pm

Minutes

Tony Miele, Secretary ^{OEAA}