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Chapter 33 Drive Release Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Location: District Office – Board Room

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Members present: Paul Barbosa, Fleeta Rodriguez, Sam Haun, Toni Savage, Chris Phillips, Terence O'Neill, Linda Allen, Martha Menendez, Adolfo Leiva, Dean Drumheller, Steven Cornejo, Maria Huning, Hanns Ullrich, Jan Phemester, Rayna Rodriguez, Rene Renard, Maria Lara-Blanco, Mario Pena, Sharon Himebrook, Martyns Kanu, Carol Ullrich, Medelline Lowe, Lavine Mar, Stephanie Samuelson, Kathy McEachron, Kay Rabb, Rachel Corrales, Katie Beverly, Chuck La Mere, Lani Sevilla, Herb Mintz, Barbara Lamb-Hall, Melanie Berzon, Charles Jones, Linda Herda, John Martinez, Jeanne Stalker, Annette M. Perot, Chris Weidman, Steve DeGracia, John Hall, David McLain, Juanita Celaya, Mario Mehelic

Meeting called to order 12:10pm – Annette Perot

1. EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS – Annette Perot

See attachment.

2. RESIGNATION OF JOB STEWARD

Martyns Kanu submitted his resignation as CSEA Chapter 33 job steward due to travel constraints. The motion carried with all members present unanimously voting “aye”.

3. TRUSTEES KAREN SCHWARZ AND PAT MILJANICH QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR CSEA ENDORSEMENT

Chapter 33 President Annette Perot apologized to both candidates that the questions were not provided to them in advance of this meeting as it was said they would be. Both candidates stated they would answer all questions to the best of their ability, though some might be incomplete since they were unable to do research (if necessary.) Both candidates started with brief introductions about themselves.

Trustee Miljanich: She's 59 years old, and she and Ttee Schwarz met on the campaign road approximately 16 years ago. She is currently Executive Director at CASA of San Mateo, an organization that helps abused and neglected children. She started her professional life as a teacher, and believes in higher education. When she first ran for a seat on the SMCCCD Board of Trustees, she thought she would serve only one term, but was so pleased with the work done by the people on campus, the students could not be served without everyone, – not just faculty – everyone is critical, she wanted to continue her service. She believes that she her years of experience on the board gives her the unique position to help with the difficult challenges that lay ahead.

Trustee Schwarz: She is 66 years old, co-owns a local painting company with her husband, and has been a long-time resident of San Mateo County. She is an open book – please feel free to ask anything of her. She has years of service in education from the time her children were in school, and continues to have a passion for public education, the college and us – this college could not run without the support staff.

Questions submitted by Chapter 33 members, and the answers given by both candidates are attached. At the conclusion of the question and answer session a vote to endorse – or not endorse – each candidate was taken.

Charles Jones: We need to take a vote.

Fleeta Rodriguez: There are several people that had to leave because of work obligations who wanted to vote.

Charles Jones: Regulations require us to take a vote now.

It was moved by John Martinez and seconded by Chris Weidman to take a public majority show of hands to vote to endorse Pat Miljanich. The majority voted “nay” and 3 voted “aye”

It was moved by John Martinez and seconded by Chris Weidman to take a public majority show of hands to vote to endorse Karen Schwarz. The majority voted “aye” and 3 voted “nay”

The motion to endorse Karen Schwarz and not endorse Pat Miljanich carried as voted by a majority show of hands.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Linda Herda

Do to time constraints, there was no verbal Treasurer’s Report, the report was attached to the agenda for members to read.

5. **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Do to time constraints, there was no verbal discussion on the negotiations, the report was attached to the agenda for members to read.

6. **CSEA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON UPDATE**

Do to time constraints, there was no verbal discussion on the Holiday Luncheon, the report was attached to the agenda for members to read.

7. **CPAC REPORT**

Do to time constraints, there was no verbal discussion on CPAC by Charles Jones, the report was attached to the agenda for members to read.

8. **CPRO REPORT**

Do to time constraints, there was no verbal report from CPRO Herb Mintz, the update was attached to the agenda for members to read.

9. President’s Comments – Annette Perot

Thank you for coming

10. Good of the Order

Thank you for coming

Motion to adjournment meeting – Charles Jones/Sam Haun

Meeting adjourned 1:45pm

Question 1: The SMCCCD has received approximately 740 million dollars in bond money in the last 10 years. The result of some construction projects has lead to lawsuits. Since we are an institution that serves the San Mateo Community, what investigation did you do – or ask to have done on these now contended projected to gauge the community’s approval before they were implemented?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: The reality is they have to balance competing interests. Their job is to be on committees and make decision in the best interest of the College and moving the campuses forward. The bottom line is that this is “out property,” and the district staff has bent over backward to mitigate the problems. Unfortunately, things that seemed viable at the beginning of the project, were not so over time. They do the best they can.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: It concerns her that it has gotten to the point of lawsuits. But she agrees with everything that Ttee Miljanich said, adding that they did change the projects to try to satisfy the complainants.

Question 1a: Why do you believe it is necessary for another 564 million dollar bond if the 740 million dollars (207 Million Measure C in 2001 and 468 Million Measure A 2005) that SMCCCD has already received, was spent appropriately?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: According to the Master Plan, there is work remaining that needs to be completed, and it makes sense to complete that work. The state is not providing the funds the college requires to run as they need, and with the Lehman Bros. loss – we were told by the county it was illegal to remove the money as we wanted to do before the collapse – we don’t have the funds necessary without asking for another bond. They hired a company to do a phone survey, and the results were that 75-80% of respondents have benefitted educationally at one of the campuses, so they supported the bond.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: She cringed when she heard the district staff talk about another bond, but with the position that the state is in now, the college is handicapped by funds. There is retrofitting that will have to be put on hold, and ADA compliance requirements that need to be done regardless, if we don’t raise money through the bond then it will have to come out of the general fund, which will affect the entire district.

Question 2: Do you use any alternate sources of information to base our decisions on, or are your decisions based solely on the recommendations from district staff? Can you give us an example of one item that you did additional research on – separate from information provided from District Staff, and do you believe you are given non-partisan information by District Staff?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: She is unable to think of any specific decisions that were controversial off-hand, but they do get calls from the public, and it does make a difference. She does believe that some information they get is biased, but by nature, everyone has opinions and tend to slant what they say. They do like to get information in a timely manner so they have time for a thorough examination.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: She admits that she doesn’t go out as much as she should, but she has on occasion, and she is always open for people to contact her. This is also good for her, and she said that she will try to do better in the future. There are 5 board members, and a long detailed process is gone through before decisions are made. She concedes that oversights might be made, however, they do bring them to the administration when it is brought to light.

Question 3: What issue positions have you taken that benefit the classified staff to warrant our support in your bid for re-election?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: Managed hiring. The classified staff have security in their jobs despite the turmoil that most schools find themselves in. We need to be conscience that we work as a team and protect all jobs in the district. It has been critical to Chancellor Galatolo that we don't lose positions, and it's not good to have employees who are always worried about their jobs - we need to invest in our employees. Also, reminded us that they dug in their heels when the subject of outsourcing the bookstore was introduced, that wasn't their mission to have an out sourced bookstore, they fought that it needed to remain a campus-run operation.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: Added that she has always reminded the board that the district would not survive without the classified staff. When we lose positions, people always pull together and work harder, however, with the state we are in right now, they can't guarantee that positions won't be lost in the future. With that said, she has continually brought up the issue of having classified positions in auxiliary jobs – including questioning why there aren't classified staff in the Fitness Center.

Charles Jones: The classified staff have been told that layoffs will begin next year – can you speak to that?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: The Chancellor is not going in that direction, it's not good for morale.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: There is no direction from the board to go to layoffs.

Question 4: Have newly hired high-level administrators been given their performance reviews with input from their subordinates as stated in district policies and procedures?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: They do have the opportunity to hear them, they are brought to the board, but she's not sure.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: They are given a report – but she's not sure and says it is a good question that needs to be looked into.

Question 5: In the future, if the budget situation continues o deteriorate, what is the Trustee's position on combining the 3 presidents between the three colleges? In the newspapers, cities are eliminating and combining and sharing services. Does the district need three Presidents?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: We need to have a place at each campus where the buck stops. If someone has a viable plan – present it. Just a couple of years ago they were talking about closing Canada, it was hard to think about, but now we are filled to capacity and the University Center is expanding.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: Right now we do need three presidents. She believes in strategic planning and planning ahead, and combining positions is not in her sights, believing we need to keep things the way things are right now, we are community colleges, and 3 presidents are not only running the colleges, but they are out in the community building support for each campus from the community.

Question 5a: Up until 2006, the college has successfully run with only an Executive Vice Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor. Now we have five, which means large salaries and over \$1,500 per month each in stipends. Can you explain why this 3-college district needs so many executive administrators, when LACCCD – the largest community college district in California overseeing 10 colleges has only 4?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: She believes they have cut back a lot on administrators and she doesn't know about LACCCD, maybe they call their Vice Chancellors something different. Having been a board member for so long, she can attest that we are flourishing in a way we never have when she came on board. The district leadership inspires, and strategizes to eek out every single dollar they can. We need people who understand finances because there are proposals out there that quash or ability to run.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: The have done a lot of reorganization in trying to keep jobs. The board has given a message to the chancellor – run the district, and he needs key people to run it and do it well. She says having the title of Vice Chancellor gives them more respect when the go to Sacramento, and the stipend they get is “just a little stipend.” She feels they have a more organized district now, are there specific jobs we are inquiring about?

John Martinez: An example of concerns we have is such as the multiple positions in security. Why do we need a Director of Security, and three Chiefs of Security?

Answer both Ttees: Not sure, that is a good question and it will have to be looked into.

Question 6: Given the recent increases (ranging from 8.75% to 46%) in the supervisory salary schedule; and given the fact that CSEA has not asked for a COLA in three years, how will the board ensure parity and equality between Management, AFT, CSEA and AFSCME? Follow-up: Recent statistics for the Bay Area state that the cost of living has increased 18% in the last 3 years. Given this fact and the recent increases in supervisor salaries, would you support CSEA in their request for a salary schedule adjustment this year?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: She believes the decision to give the Supervisory Salary schedule increase was fair and equitable, the decision was about equality and parity. As far as the other bargaining units, they each negotiate their own contract, and bargaining makes a difference.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: The board and district has gone out of their way to ensure parity. They did a study, and they are satisfied that they supervisory salary schedule increases were not raises but were salary compensation. No one has received a COLA in years.

Chris Weidman: As the board meeting, Charles read a letter from the classified staff opposing the salary increases at this time, and believes that at the board meeting the trustees were not given complete truthful answers.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: She would never vote on something if her questions were not answered.

Answer Ttee Miljanich: She says that on their board, if issues come up that are not on the agenda, they do get discussed in closed session. We should feel comfortable asking questions at board as long as they are done in a respectful manner.

Question 6a: Given the current state budget situation and continued talk from the District Staff about possible layoffs in the future, what is your position on starting layoffs from the top first?

Answer Ttee Schwarz: There are no sacred positions, and they will look at cutting from every level if the need arises in the future.

Question 7: One of your competitors for a seat on the Board of Trustees is running specifically because he is against the sale of KCSM-TV, believing that if SMCCCD is asking SM County to support the college with more bond money, then they should be able to save the station, rather than “let part of the county’s identity be lost.” How do you respond?

Answer Ttee Miljanich: It’s painful to talk about – it’s not what the board wants to see happen. The station has been given every opportunity to turn the situation around, but KCSM-TV is in a complicated arena when competing with other stations such as KQED. They need to look at how many students are benefiting from the TV station – and is that enough to justify keeping the station given the deficit it carries.

Answer Ttee Schwarz: For years they’ve talked about KCSM’s deficit. The General Manager has tried to keep and find new revenue sources, but it never happened. They are trying a deal with Pen-TV and Warren Slocum, but it doesn’t look good. She has even had people call her (Claire Mack) saying they’re mad at her, but they can’t continue to carry that sort of deficit in these tough economic times.

Question 7a: What justification can you give the taxpayer’s of San Mateo County for the approximate 5 million that was invested in KCSM-TV, only to sell it off?

Both Trustees: At the time, we were hopeful that the station could overcome its financial problems.

Questions 7b: If the station is going to be sold – and we’ve been told the sale is anticipated to happen before the close of this fiscal year, why then was the General Manager’s contract renewed as it was, rather than revised to reflect the fact that the job would only be half of what it currently is?

Both Trustees: We had no choice, the station hasn’t been sold yet.

Questions 7c: It has been rumored that the administration is interested in selling KCSM Radio. This seems to follow the steady stream across the country of universities nationwide selling or transferring their FM licenses. What is your position on the future of KCSM-FM.

Both Trustees: As long as the radio station is in the black, there has been no discussion of a sale, it isn’t on the table.

Question 8: The district administration is proposing to modify policy 8.33, Auxiliary Operations to support the ongoing outsourcing of classified work to be “operated by an outside management firm” (in the case of CSM, the company is Medifit) by adding the following language:

4. Fitness Center

a. Fitness centers may be operated by an outside management firm and will operate primarily as a service to students, faculty, staff and the community.

b. A single quarterly financial summary covering the operations of the fitness center(s) shall be presented to the Board.

How do you as a board member feel about this, and the possibility of more contracting out if a mini-SMAC at Canada opens?

Answer Ttee Schwarz: She has continually asked – and will continue to ask why there aren’t classified staff employed in the Fitness Center, as she believes there should be. They will have a discussion when it comes to them for a vote in November. There is a competing interest in keeping it at the highest income possible.

Closing words:

Trustee Schwarz: Thank you for having her, she learned a lot and she believes the only way a board member can educate themselves is to listen to everyone. This past 15 year relationship is one she treasures and hopes to continue.

Trustee Miljanich: The classified staff are the support and rock that hold the campuses together. Thank you for having her, we (Miljanich, Schwarz & Mandlekern) are running as a team to share the financial cost and hopes we choose to support them.