



SAN MATEO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

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**Minutes of
General Membership/Executive Committee Meeting
May 10, 2017—Skyline College**

EC members present: Leighton Armitage, Eric Brenner, Salumeh Eslamieh, Nina Floro, Katharine Harer, Teeka James, Dan Kaplan, Michelle Kern, Professor David Leitner, Doniella Maher, Monica Malamud, Joaquin Rivera, Paul Rueckhaus, Anne Stafford, Rob Williams

AFT 1493 Members Present: Masao Suzuki (Skyline), Tom Broxholm (Skyline), Filipp Gleyzer (Skyline), Jim Bowsher (Skyline)

Guests present: Zev Kvitky (CFT), Rebecca Chow (Cañada student), Iridian Martinez (Skyline student), Celeni Cano (CSM student)

Facilitator: Dan Kaplan

Meeting called to order at 2:45

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. We introduced ourselves.
2. Statements from AFT (non-EC) members
 - a. There were none.
3. Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Fact finding report
 - a. Joaquin and Monica represented AFT; Kathy Blackwood and Eugene Whitlock represented the District. Zev explained the Fact Finding process to those present. Once the fact finder's report goes to the BOT, the Board will decide what to do. There usually are no more negotiations. We do not get to choose whether or not to accept the Board's contract. Our choice is whether we accept the contract or go on strike. Nothing is final until the Board votes on it. So at this point we are waiting for the fact finder's report. Fact finder has thirty days to write his report.
5. Free speech at Cañada
 - a. There was a protest at Cañada. A white supremacist club has emerged at Cañada: the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF). They have been harassing students whom they perceive to be undocumented. YAF recently hosted Rabbi Daniel Lapin to speak on campus. There was a protest on campus against this speaker. Rebecca, student body VP, was approached by Brian Tupper, the director of public safety at Cañada before the event and accused her of being a proponent of violent protests. Rebecca felt that the public safety was being racist towards her. She filed a student grievance, but nothing came of it. Rebecca and the other protesters went to the event as attendees and brought signs. Some of them were middle college students (so they are minors). Before they entered the event venue, the protesters were being harassed. Photos

were being taken of them. Rebecca saw photos of her on white supremacist websites. The protesters listened for a while and then they started chanting. The faculty advisor, Anna Budd, told the audience to tell the protesters to leave. Rebecca and the other protesters felt swarmed. Rebecca's hair was pulled. Racial slurs were levied at the protesters. Public safety did not intervene; the VPSS was at the event and did not intervene either. Iridian was threatened by Anna Budd (the advisor for the YAF), who spat on protesters. Cañada administration is afraid of being sued by YAF (Rebecca thinks). On May 4, Rebecca had a disciplinary hearing, which was called by public safety. They accused her with inciting violence. They called the event a "classroom" and found her in violation of three board policies. She had to write two apology letters to YAF and Lapin, due Monday, May 8. Rebecca is a middle college student. They said the administration had to approve her letter. She is at risk of expulsion from middle college. Iridian's hearing is coming up soon (Tuesday, May 16). She has been followed on campus by students and she does not feel safe. (MB Grocott—a name online of the man who has been assaulting the students; [it turns out he is a City Council Member for and Vice Mayor of San Carlos].) None of the adults did anything to protect the students. The student protesters were all students of color. Dan Kaplan tried to go to Rebecca's hearing as an observer, but he was denied entry, which was against the college's own policies. We are trying to find an attorney to help the students. The AFT is the only support that the students have received. The students are going to speak at the BOT today. The students are thinking about a hunger strike. Going through the system isn't working. They're in conversation with students at CCSF and SFSU. They are wondering what their next step should be. This would be in response to the possible denial of Rebecca's appeal. They would rally in front of the district office—starting Monday. How can AFT support them, they ask. They might need physical protection. YAF has been very successful in organizing at Cañada.

- b. We are concerned about the precedent that this sets: the District is more afraid of lawsuits than they are concerned about our students' welfare and safety. The District is not walking its talk.

We appointed Doniella, Nina, and Teeka/Anne to the workload committee.

We heard grievance updates.