

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Milton Marks Auditorium
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** at 7:08 pm by Vice Chair Alix Rosenthal
Members: Kat Anderson, Joshua Arce, David Campos, Malia Cohen, Petra DeJesus, Kelly Dwyer (7:18 pm), Tom Hsieh (7:13 pm), Hene Kelly, Rafael Mandelman (7:33 pm), Eric Mar (7:33 pm), Trevor McNeil, Carole Migden, Leah Pimentel, Rebecca Prozan, Alix Rosenthal, Francis Tsang, and Scott Wiener (7:56 pm). Ex-Officio Members: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (proxy George Broder); U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (proxy Brian Harris); Attorney General Kamala Harris (proxy Matthew Rothschild); Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma (proxy Cally Wong)(7:30 pm); State Senator Mark Leno (proxy Keith Baraka); Assemblymember Phil Ting (proxy Jason Wong); and Assemblymember David Chiu (proxy Jen Kwart).

Absent with proxy: Mary Jung (Francis Tsang), Matt Dorsey (David Paul Burke), Zoe Dunning (Rebecca Prozan), and Bill Fazio (Leah Pimentel).

Absent excused: Bevan Dufty.

Absent: Meagan Levitan, Arlo Hale Smith. Ex-Officio Member: U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

- 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**
(McNeil/Prozan) Approved by acclamation.
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
Deferred to next meeting.
- 4. Public Comment**
Christine Pelosi, representing the Victory Task Force, discussed how to win elections and improve people's lives.

Dr. Amy Bacharach advocated for immunizations and SB 277, which gives parents a choice. 78% believe all children should be vaccinated. Measles and whooping cough have surged lately.

The following people spoke *in opposition* to SB 277 on the grounds that it removes informed consent and violates human rights by forcing vaccinations:

Ken Bagwell, Darci Kendrick (chiropractor), Kristine Hicks (chiropractor), Dulce Baron (works at a chiropractor office), Kathleen O'Donnell (Coco) of Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants, Adrienne Moore, Cara Cordoni, Daniel Blood, Krissi Lewis (a mother and a pre-school teacher), Rabea Amin (daughter of a medical professor who vaccinated her child), Rani Druda, Nanilea Diamond (seven months pregnant), Julie Duggan, Mark Marthaler (brought a petition signed by hundreds), Angela Ferguson, Andriko Zamdell, Tracey Stone, and Jennifer Woodlief (chiropractor)

Comments included: Dr. William Thompson, a CDC whistle blower, reported increased risk of autism in AA males who got the MMR vaccine before the age of 36. Children have died or suffered from adverse reactions to vaccines. The vaccination program now prevents breast-feeding mothers from passing immunities to their offspring. Those injured by vaccines can only seek recourse from a tribunal. Pharmaceutical companies are motivated by profits, exert corrupt influence and avoid liability. The effectiveness of vaccines can wane over time, like the measles vaccine. Many people should be re-vaccinated. Consumers have no way of knowing about the separate components that comprise a vaccine. There is a missed opportunity for study by forcing people to get vaccinated.

The following people spoke *in favor* of SB 277: Jennie Feldman, Justin Hileman, Renee DiResta, Courtney Murphy (registered nurse), and Liz Ditz.

Comments included: School children need to be protected from diseases, and this is accomplished through high vaccination rates. Vaccines are not a new science, and there are large data sets to show the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Some diseases, like polio, still are not eradicated and can be spread. Vaccines do not cause autism, and they protect the vulnerable.

Public comment closed at 7:51 pm.

Feinstein proxy (George Broder) moved to take Agenda Item 6 out of order to accommodate parents and children in the audience. Accepted by acclamation.

5. Resolution: Belief exemptions for vaccinations.

(Rosenthal, Wiener, Kelly, Pimentel, Dwyer, Prozan, Arce, Cohen, Chiu, Dunning) Resolution that calls for the elimination of the personal belief exemption for vaccinations, and affirms the importance of vaccinations for public health.

Member Rosenthal shared her opinion about the irresponsibility of the personal belief exemption and discussed the public health and safety importance of “herd immunity,” which helps stop/slow the spread of disease. Those with weak immunities benefit from others’ immunization. “You don’t have a right to send a child to school with a loaded gun despite the 2nd amendment.” She thanked Dr. Amy Bacharach for helping to write the resolution in support of SB 277. She also thanked the co-sponsors.

The following were invited to share further information: Board of Education member, Rachel Norton; BART board member Nick Josefowitz; and Dr. Michael Treece of Pediatrics at St. Luke’s Hospital.

Ms. Norton stated that the Board of Education members strongly support SB 277, and she brought letters of support from the California PTA and the national PTA. She noted that the personal belief exemption has doubled over the last 7 years. There are many more un-vaccinated children in SF than any time before. Herd immunity starts to dip after 5-6% go unvaccinated.

Mr. Josefowitz reiterated that vaccinations control and even eradicate disease. Those concerned about transit take note of immunization issues. Measles is a highly contagious disease. Sneezes/coughs can send virus into the air for up to 2 hours.

Dr. Treece commented that the personal belief exemption is for getting into school. Vaccinations happen in the first 4 years of life. Just have to have all vaccines by the time the children start school. Otherwise, home school. Measles, which is in a state of outbreak, is very contagious and can injure a lot of people. This is the moment to take care of this problem. About these “courts,” vaccines are a low margin item. Pharmaceutical companies don’t

make money on the vaccines; they'd rather stop making them. The idea of a measles party frightens him. Also, chicken pox is not as benign as people think. It can kill you and not in a nice way. Google the bad things that can happen due to measles. Ronald Dahl's daughter died of measles. Countries dealing with Ebola are now gearing up to administer the measles vaccine. Measles can kill more people than Ebola.

The vaccination does indeed wane over time. If you were born before 1957, you were exposed and are probably immune. If you were born between 1957 and 1982 and were vaccinated, you probably got one vaccine and need a second. Those born after 1982 received great vaccines.

(Prozan/Cohen moved to vote on the resolution. The motion was ignored.)

Member Kelly, who supports the resolution, reminded the body that she is 73 and was born when there were no vaccines. A nice childhood friend contracted measles and while she survived, her high fever apparently caused brain damage. The friend thereafter became violent and was removed from school.

Member Wiener noted that the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution unanimously supporting SB 277. The Democratic Party is the party of science, and its members support science in public policy decisions. We need to make sure our kids are healthy and the general population is protected.

Member Arce respects the passion on the part of folks on both sides of this issue. He and his wife have a vaccinated son who is 3, and another son who is not vaccinated because he is 3 weeks old. This presents logistical problems when it is time to take the 3 year old to school – the parents' dilemma of how to avoid exposure of the infant to illnesses that might reside at school when there is no safe place to leave the infant while dropping off the toddler. He and his wife discovered that many children at their preschool are unvaccinated – posing a risk to many.

Member Dwyer commented that she has a 4 year old and a 15-month old. The 4 year old has a fever and she will not send him to school so that others won't get sick.

Speier proxy Brian Perkins shared some data from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. From 2006 to 2013 in the US, there were 2.2 billion

doses of vaccine administered. Claims were approximately 3,000. Mr. Perkins has a problem with his heart (including two heart attacks) that was caused by a childhood disease that had no vaccination. One does not turn a blind eye to risks. It is appropriate to take public health and safety measures.

Member Pimentel also has a 3 year old, a mother who is immune-suppressed who cannot go out, and a friend with cancer who cannot risk exposure.

Member McNeil, who is a public school teacher, commented that this issue is about schools – not about personal freedom. To participate in public life requires taking public responsibility. His child is due soon and he worries about exposure to un-vaccinated children.

Member Migden called the question.

(Rothschild/Anderson) M/S/C to approve the resolution by acclamation. One abstention by member Ting.

(Kelly/Rothschild) M/S/C (by acclamation) to amend the resolution as to form to present to the California Democratic Party.

Rosenthal read the deletions to make it so.

Member Migden left at 8:15 pm.

6. Reports

a) Chair (Jung). None.

b) Voter Registration (McNeil). Close to breaking 1,000 voter registrations for the year, which is great in an off-year election. Clubs will be visited to encourage their help with voter registration.

c) Club Chartering (Pimentel). Had a presidents cabinet meeting and discussed the bounty program. All clubs were sent info for the convention. Will do another presidents cabinet meeting before the convention.

d) Finance (Dunning). None.

- e) **Treasurer (Hsieh).** DCCC finances are strong, with at least a 3-month minimum of reserves.
- f) **Executive Director (Medina).** Trying to lock in a speaker and a date for the spring fundraiser. Registered 128 voters today in Oakland.
- g) **CDP Region 6 Update (Kelly).** Club presidents will receive an email to make sure they are chartered and have a correct list of members. This will allow the clubs to vote in the pre-endorsement meetings. 20 members in a club garners a vote. She looks at club rosters and moves people with multiple club memberships around to maximize usable membership in every club.

7. **Presentation and Q&A with District Attorney George Gascon.**

District Attorney Gascon thanked the body for putting public health in the front of the bus. Thanked Supervisors Campos and Wiener for their comments.

Two years ago, Gascon was a proponent of Prop. 36 – a reform of 3 strikes law. People were jailed for up to 25 years for minor offenses. 700 people per 100,000 are incarcerated. In Germany, it is 7.

DA Office filing rate is 50% of all cases and conviction rate is 80%. The drug workload has gone down from 60% to 20%. Other serious crimes have gone up, such as burglary. Working on new initiatives all the time, such as funding for programs to treat people's problems other than through incarceration, and the cell phone kill switch. It's a \$60 billion industry, \$30 billion of it driven by replacements – so there was no incentive for the industry to change. Senator Leno helped with legislation. Once Apple started inserting the kill switch, crime on such phones went down.

Member Hsieh asked about modernizing office equipment and technology. Gascon commented that Harris walked into an office where not everyone had a computer. By the time he arrived, all had computers, but there was not Wi-Fi. He's addressed that. By the end of this year, he would like the office to go paperless and make sure all lawyers have notebooks rather than laptops. Most of the files are paper, so a major fire would be a catastrophe to the criminal justice system.

He was disappointed to hear about racially offensive police texting, which raises questions about tainted police work and police testimony. His office works hard to insure that the criminal justice system is "clean."

[Member DeJesus excused herself on the grounds she should not hear Gascon’s comments due to her commission work. Gascon assured her that he was commenting on what is publicly known. Member DeJesus left at 8:52 pm.]

Member Rothschild asked if there were plans to renovate the Hall of Justice. There are none, and renovations are greatly needed. Yesterday, Gascon experienced a real problem when the electricity went down. Elevators were shut down, windows were impossible to open, and doors on one end of the building would not open when the electricity went down. There are asbestos issues, too. A major earthquake would bring the building down. A conversation about the building is not slated until 2022.

Member Wiener commented that it is a vexing issue. The building should be replaced.

Member Hsieh recalled the year 2000 Laguna Honda hospital bond measure, which passed with one of the highest rates – 74% - even though property taxes were raised.

Member Wiener encouraged everyone to engage in the city’s capital planning process as he suspects a new Hall of Justice will not get as many votes as the hospital.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjournment at 9:04 pm.

(Kelly/Pimentel) M/S/C

Respectfully submitted,

*Kat Anderson
Recording Secretary*