

San Mateo County
Democratic Central Committee
General Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2019

Prior to Meeting

- At 7:33pm, Chair called order for the Speaker Series speaker. Nancy Magee, San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and Jane Yuster, Superintendent of the Cabrillo Unified School District, gave a talk about K-12 funding issues.
 - Question-Sam Manneh: Is Tony Thurmond doing the work to address this issue of underfunding?
 - Answer-Magee: Yes. He's doing a good job. There is new legislation and it's helping. Tony Thurmond is in Oakland helping with labor negotiations. He's helping and the county superintendents feel that he's doing a good job so far.
 - Question-Greg Loew: What is the cause of this underfunding problem?
 - Answer-Magee: Property taxes are different in terms of values. And some districts are community funded. Some are state funded as "basic need" states.
 - Answer-Yuster: This funding system first came into being because we fund through property tax and that varies from district to district. The state tries to equalize that. A minimum level across all districts. To get that to work, they needed to ensure that the wealthier districts could keep the amount above the minimum. This has created gross disparities. We're 41st in the nation based on the average per pupil.
 - Question-Sandra Lang: Can we do anything to recertify teachers from other states to address the teacher shortage?
 - Answer-Magee: What kinds of career opportunities are there for young people? We don't do a good job giving kids the opportunity to explore their interests. There is a school in Southern California that allows Kindergarteners to explore their professional interests. We also have a lot of barriers to teaching. Student teachers aren't paid. It's one year of unpaid teaching. That's not a good system. We also don't make it easy to get second career teachers. We need to ensure that teachers are well-prepared, but we have to make it easier.
 - Question-Brigid O'Farrell-Can you give us a heads up about the legislation Yuster mentioned?

- Answer-Yuster: There is a lot of information at FullandFairFunding.org.

Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- The call to order occurred at 8:01pm by Committee Chair, Nicole Fernandez.
- The March, 2019 meeting agenda was adopted.
- The February, 2019 meeting minutes were approved with modifications
 - April Vargas will send some minor changes.
- New visitors were asked to speak.
 - Matthew (Mattias) from Germany. Half Moon Bay for 3.5 years. Politically active. Here to observe.
- Please check in on social media.

Executive Board Reports

Chair (Nicole Fernandez):

- No activist fair due to scheduling changes with Rep. Speier.
- At the eboard meeting, we established some norms.
- Email with major dates will come, but some are:
 - SMCDems Lead! Program. People will talk about their campaign experience. April 1 is the beginning. Post on FB page. Sign up. We have some sign ups already. Mark Nagales of South San Francisco and Davina Hurt of Belmont will be speaking. Why they chose to run in those elections, etc.
 - Our next session will feature Charles Stone from Belmont and Giselle Hale from Redwood City and will focused on branding. That's on April 15.
 - Please let me know if you're planning on attending.

Northern Vice Chair (Cliff Robbins):

- No report.

Southern Vice Chair (Karen Maki):

- No report.

Controller (Nancy Yarbrough):

- With the cancellation of the Jackie Speier event, we need to refund the donation she had made until we reschedule.
- Federal: \$88,005.58
- State: \$9,020.61
- Segregated Funds: \$562.34

Recording Secretary (Mitchell Oster):

- Reminder that we're taking attendance. Please make sure to check in on the sign in sheet.

- Also, if you are not able to make it to the meeting, please let the Chair know in advance, if possible.
- If you got the minutes or roster and there was something wrong, please let me know.
- Chair: Please fill roster spots.

Corresponding Secretary (Alexis Lewis):

- NAACP Awards dinner. We placed an ad in the program. Thanks to John Woodell who designed the ad.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance:

- Nancy Yarbrough: Committee met. Used the template from the last month's report. What we spent and raised in the last two years. We met and created a balanced budget. Stressed a conservative estimate of income and were liberal on expenses. We wanted to be realistic. It's balanced. Because we're a political organization, it's not possible to know exactly what we'll be making. We're going to create events to make sure we raise enough. Smaller events. One big event in the fall. Expanded in some areas and added slate mailer expansion to reach more people. The slate mailer will be changing to include bigger and smaller districts. Candidates will need to pay different amounts. We can't easily predict those income totals. Expenses, \$15K. \$8 for rent/utilities. Won't likely be doing a Candidates and Cocktails event. Probably no BBQ. Events Committee will be meeting. Paid the rent for this building for the year. When we do offsite events, we have to pay insurance. \$200. We try to get the insurance to cover multiple events. These expenses add up. One of the other things we're doing is to add a stipend for the State Executive Board members. It's costly. We think that should be offset. \$2K to be split between the 3 members who attend. If we don't do it, we won't get people to participate. All of the other expenses are in line with our historical data. We will probably get secondary source funding. But we can't know what that amount is. When we get it, that's bonus. We don't have control over it. For the rest of the budget, if we need more money, we will fundraise. Membership dues will be the same. Will try to add more Associate Members. Alternate members pay dues. That's lost potential revenue. Questions?
- John Woodell: You can't pay anyone's dues. We had kicked around the idea of appointing associates into alternate spots.
- Sandra Lang: Under "Operating Expenses" what's included? Certain expectations?
- Yarbrough: Rent, insurance, printing monthly paper, mailbox rental, storage locker, technology.
- Lang: What are the "Other"?

- Chair: This is entirely in flux. Fluid and it will change.
- Yarbrough: "Other" includes things like the canopy. When we have a headquarters, there are weird expenses. Rat traps, plumbing, etc.
- Next month I will be incorporating our budget into the monthly report. TJ Glauthier has been a big help for this. He has tremendous experience. He has helped make a document that's readable to both accountants and regular folk.
- Chair: We'll be voting on these changes next month. We've met a bunch of times. This is our first step to a more transparent budget.

Endorsements:

- Chair: Before we get into the report, I want to make sure March 27 is on your calendar. Next Wednesday, public meeting on our endorsements process. Woodside Rd. Methodist Church. 6:30. You received an email, but please come.
- Karen Maki: March 7 we met. Covered a lot of topics including: 1. Recusal from endorsements, 2. The arrest issue that was discussed last fall. The question that asks if you've been charged with a crime. 3. Registered Dem timing, meaning, we need a way to verify when a person has registered as a Democrat. And 4. Process to rescind. We need to have a process.
- We're going to come up a process for all four of these. Please come to the meeting to discuss. Brigid has arranged a facilitator. Coastside Dem has used her. Ann Adams is the one who is coming. Long career. Organizational career working with large corporations and nonprofits. She volunteered. We're going to meet to get familiar with our process and what's involved. Comments we'd like to see in the process. She will basically be someone who is neutral. She'll keep it flowing so that everyone has a chance to have input. Looking forward to having her.
- After March 27 meeting, the committee will meet and make recommendations in the form of a white paper or something similar. Report will be presented on May meeting.
- Brigid O'Farrell: We've looked at other DCCs to see what they do. No decisions will be made. This is just to get input.
- John Woodell: I think we had some discussion with the CDP consultant, Four Rivers. We should be cautious to put things in the bylaws. But the chair has the right to put things into action.
- Woodell: Was recently my birthday, went to get a new ID, had to do a new voter registration, careful to make sure to maintain as a Democrat. I'll track my process and report on any issues.
- Reddy: If the endorsement committee makes a recommendation to bylaws, those changes will or won't make changes without a full vote?
- Robbins: I'll go ahead and make my report now. We need to make clean up changes. Small things. Reaching out to the CDP. Taking recommendations from endorsements. I don't expect that the white paper will include specific language. Maybe. Bylaws will take input and consider how to fit it into bylaws. That

committee can make recommendation to the whole committee. But there is a process for that. 2/3 of the entire committee.

- Sandra Lang: After the committees talk, does the bylaws committee drive the decision to changes in the bylaws? Does the endorsement committee have the opportunity to drive that? Or is it bylaws committee that decides?
- Robbins: Results from the endorsement committee will inform bylaws changes. Some will result in bylaws changes, but some are not. The endorsement document and process isn't really a bylaws process.
- Chair: We want to have a Welcome to the Dems 101 document and event. Labor does something like that. Why we do what we do. Welcome candidates in.
- Thank you to the endorsement committee, Booker, Tom Mohr, Brigid O'Farrell, Karen Maki, Cliff Robbins, Diana Reddy. Thank you for your dedication to this process.

Events:

- Chair: April's General Meeting Speaker Series guest is State Senator Scott Wiener.
- In May, we'll have Kimberly Ellis.
- I asked Rusty Hicks. Hopefully he can also be here in April.

Bylaws:

- No report.

Resolutions:

- David Burruto: Two resolutions. First was introduced by Karen Maki. She has requested urgency. Requires 60% to pass. Does everyone have a copy? Background provided by sponsor.
- Karen Maki: The resolution is essentially the same as what was emailed earlier. Thanks to David Burruto for help with formatting advice.
- Maki: PUC is taking comments on plans. PGE has been increasing their vegetation removal. We need to move on this quickly. PGE is cutting all trees in the utility right of way. Lots of trees in the county have been removed. They are doing this work in Belmont, Portola Valley, San Mateo, Redwood City, Half Moon Bay, and others.
- Maki: Instead of removing trees, they could cover their lines with protection and it's much safer. They also need to upgrade their equipment. With global climate change, we have more and stronger winds.
- Maki: CPUC hearing talked about Southern California Edison, talked about how effective the new covered conductors are. Also, they could also put their lines underground. Over the state, that's going to amount to over 100M trees saved.
- Chair gave 2 minutes for the committee to read the resolution.
- Motion to endorse: Ashleigh Evans. Second: Sam Manneh. Resolution passed unanimously (all ayes, no nays).

- Steven Booker, Jason Galisatus (for Mullin), & Mitchell Oster (for Berman) abstained.
- John Woodell: It seems we have a lot of emergency resolutions. It's nice to have time to read in advance.
- Burruto: Resolution introduced as a first reading by Ashleigh Evans regarding Reform of Law Enforcement and Increased Safety for San Mateo County Residents. She discussed it briefly.
- Evans: 5.5 hour meeting at the Board of Supervisors in February regarding this issue. The TASER manufacturer came and showed their power point that they use to sell their products. Sheriff spoke in favor of the tasers. The ACLU, Bar Assoc. of SF, Cardiology dept of UCSF, and many concerned citizens spoke. A lot of the facts that we learned are in the resolution. Reuters has been keeping a tally. There have been 1,081 deaths since tasers have first been sold. Website with every taser death. It's pretty shocking. We're in this resolution, going a little further. The Board of Supervisors has very little control over the Sheriff Dept. They can withhold funding. In this resolution we're calling on the Board of Supervisors to amend the county charter to create a citizen oversight commission.
- Woodell: How many more would have died if they didn't use tasers?
- Burruto: We're not able to take questions on the resolution since it's the first reading. We can discuss those issues next month.
- Evans: 64% of TASER deaths are against black men.

Election Integrity:

- No report.

Voter Registration:

- April: Great news that we confirmed that the CDP Bounty program is still going and we're a part of it. It means a good amount of money for us.

Welcoming Committee:

- Sharrie Kriger: Thank you to Districts 5 and 1 for snacks tonight.
- Committee meeting coming up. How we welcome and also how we orient people. Thinking about how visitors might be able to understand the acronyms and groups that we discuss at every meeting.
- Davina Hurt is a member of the committee. Looked for a phone number for her on the Belmont website. It's very friendly. "I want to..." feature allows people to choose things they can do. It leads things people can do. We could adapt that idea.
- Mitchell Oster: Can I be invited as a guest to the next meeting where website ideas are being discussed?
- Kriger: Yes!

Communication & Technology:

- Microphone and speaker system research has begun. I'd like to ask the Chair for a budget. Do I need a motion for that?
- Unfortunately, did not schedule a meeting with my committee this month. No excuses, but the new job has been a bear this month. I'd like to ask the members who are here tonight if we could meet for 5 minutes after the meeting to discuss a time/place. There are many important issues we're facing.

Leadership Development

- Chair: The SMCDems LEAD! Program is coming up. "Why I chose to run" is the topic.

Clubs Liaison

- Chair: Chelsea Bonini is heading this up. Pre-endorsement process in September. Important for clubs to get involved in this so they have a vote.
- Hene Kelly: The only time that grassroots members can have a say in who we endorse for state offices is at the pre-endorsement meetings. You only vote for your AD Reps and Senator at Convention. Depending on how many clubs you have, it can make a difference.
- Chair: If you're a member of a club, please reach out to me or have club president reach out.
- John Woodell: Every 20 people in your club, you get a representative. The treasurer needs to make sure that the people have paid their dues.
- Kelly: You have to define in your bylaws what a "member in good standing" is and it should be someone who can vote and has paid dues. That's important. If you don't define a member and stand by it, that's a problem. They must be in good standing by June 1. You also have to have in bylaws how you choose your delegates. There are lots of ways to do it. But it has to be in your bylaws. That means the bylaws have to be in good order. The chair or treasurer has to sign off on all that.
- Chair: I will reach out to clubs.
- Sandra Lang: Does info go out to Chair or Hene?
- Kelly: Both.
- Ashleigh Evans: Roster needs to be sent in earlier. Our bylaws have timing.
- Chair: These are two different processes. Not rechartering.
- Evans: Ok, so you only need roster.
- Woodell: If the club members paid, we have to make sure they are counted in voting.
- Chair: May 1 is the deadline.

New Business

- None.

Regional Director, Legislative, and Clubs Reports

Region 6 Director:

- Hene Kelly: Really important to me for all to attend the state convention. It's so close. We have two conventions this year. We have to be as active as we can. This Sunday I'm having a meeting for AD19 and AD17 to go over the convention. AD22 had a training. It's important for us to know what our duties are and what we can do to help.
- Send me your club rosters. And we'll calculate delegate totals. Some people are in more than one club. We make sure to maximize the delegates.
- At convention, get your friends to volunteer. We have 200 volunteers now, but we need about 500 to make it work. A volunteer only has to do 1 2-hour shift. Then they can go to caucus meetings and general meetings. No voting. But involved. Helps get people excited about the party.
- Chair: Please share with PYD.
- Chair: Our Convention Luncheon. Much more cost effective than the official convention luncheon.
- Nancy Yarbrough: We've been checking out locations.
- Sam Manneh: The convention luncheon is typically bad. Ours is good. We're working on it. It will be between 50-60 bucks. Noon. June 1.
- Kelly: One more thing. Due date for resolutions to the state convention. I will be having a bylaws or rules resolution to make ADEMs easier and fairer. I'll provide more info later.
- Chair: Hene will be up for re-election as regional director.
- Brigid O'Farrell: May 1 deadline? Chair: Yes.
- Chair: Hotel block open if you're going to get a room.
- Chair: If you're not going to attend, please make sure you get a proxy to go in your place.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-14):

- No report.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (CA-18):

- No report.

State Senator Scott Wiener (SD-11):

- No report.

State Senator Jerry Hill (SD-13):

- Erin Chazer: AB39, bill regarding education. Coauthored by Sen. Hill. Jerry is a vocal critic of PG&E. He's put out three bills to protect rate payers. Help ensure safety.

Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19):

- No report.

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (AD-22):

- No report.

Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24):

- No report.

Coastside Democratic Club:

- No report.

Hillsborough Democratic Club:

- No report.

North Peninsula Democratic Club:

- Sandra Lang:

Pacifica-Daly City Democrats:

- No report.

Peninsula Democratic Coalition:

- No report.

Peninsula Young Democrats:

- Alexander Melendrez: 7 PYD members are here tonight. To be a Young Dem, under 36, South of San Francisco, North of San Jose. Attend three meetings, pay dues to Peninsula Democratic Coalition (PDC).
- Next meeting. Talking about SB 50. Palo Alto Vice Mayor Adrian Fine will be discussing the Scott Wiener housing bill. Voting on endorsing it. ACA 4 and ACA 8. Lower voting age to 17 endorsed.

San Mateo County Democracy for America:

- Ashleigh Evans: Next meeting, Wednesday, April 3, with the topic: Immigrants Enrich Our Community. Speaker is Adrianna Guzman, from Faith in Action Bay Area.

Lightning Round (one-minute announcements/remarks)

- April Vargas: Announcement that Presidential Candidate Julian Castro will be here in San Jose and Atherton. Interested? Come see me. I will give you links. He's been here before. He's what America needs. Want to know more, check his website.

- Alexis Lewis: “We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.” This is one of the forgotten parts of Dr. Martin Luther King’s 1963 "I Have A Dream" speech. Today we are still fighting police brutality and police murders. Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Walter Scott, Eric Harris, Tony Robinson, John Crawford, 12 year old Tamir Rice, 17 year old Trayvon Martin, 17 year old Jordan Davis and 17 year old Laquan McDonald, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Oscar Grant, Stephon Clark, Chinedu Okobi and many others who were murdered after encounters with the police. These boys and men were not given the chance to go home to their loves ones or grow old. Unlike the others, Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis were killed by gun packing racists who believe they have a right to confront and kill a boy sitting in his car listening to music or a boy one walking home from the convenient store. No lives will ever matter until Black Lives Matter!
- Ashleigh Evans: Gonna host a get together, a meet-and-greet for Sally Lieber, candidate for State Senate. It will be on Saturday, April 28 at my house 2pm-4 pm. She’ll be telling stories about her time spent on the island of Lesbos—when she was helping to rescue refugees going from Turkey to Greece. She will share her vision for the future of California. Not a fundraiser. Just come to meet Sally. Flyers on table.
- Mike Dunham: Hi Everyone -- My name is Mike Dunham; I'm one of the elected ADEM delegates for AD-22. I spoke last month about the Peninsula Health Care District's plans for 8 acres of public land here in Burlingame, where they want to build private medical office buildings and 300-400 units of mostly market-rate senior housing. A variety of community groups are concerned about this project and want to see public land used to build affordable housing, which is desperately needed for low-income seniors in our community. There's another chance to engage on this project and learn more at the health care district's townhall this Monday, March 25th at 7 pm at the Burlingame Public Library, downstairs in the Lane Room. The developers will be presenting about the project, so you can learn more and ask questions. If you're interested in senior issues, housing issues, or health care in the area, your presence would be really valuable. This Monday, March 25th at 7 pm at the Burlingame Public Library. Thank you!
- Karen Maki: Thank you for passing the PG&E resolution. There’s one more way to participate. Closing comments are on March 27. Send to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
- Sam Manneh: Great job, our Chair. I am an AD19 ADEM Rep. We really are stoked about the state convention being in SF. Will have a location in the next few weeks for our SMC Dems Convention Luncheon. Presidential candidates, there are about 100 of them. Old Man Senator Sanders is at Ft. Mason this Sunday. Free event. 11am, doors open. 12:30 the program begins. If still in love with Uncle Sanders, come on down. I’d like to ask that we adjourn in honor of the victims of the terrible Christchurch, New Zealand terrorist attacks.

- Nancy Magee: Reminder that I brought books with data about SMC schools. We have a great team with collaboration. We want to revive the One Book, One County event. "March" is the title of the book about John Lewis, the graphic novel. Wednesday, April 17 at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City, the co-creators will be there. I brought a couple of flyers. Check the SMCOE website for more info. Pick up a book and read.
- Harini Krishnan: 2 events. National Finance Committee for Kamala Harris, she's coming to the Bay Area. Tony Thurmond hosting. On the 30th, there is an event at home in Atherton. See me for details. Honored to be part of a visit to Washington D.C. to see 18 Representatives from California. We saw Jackie Speier there. She recorded a story for us. Our group asked for \$165M for NEA and NEH Arts Education funding. Every Representative we spoke with, including Nancy Pelosi, supported.

Adjournment

- Chair: Thank you to East Palo Alto Councilmember Larry Moody and Burlingame Councilmember Emily Beach for attending.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:22pm in honor of the victims of terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand.