

AFT Local 6262 - Executive Board Meeting

Location: Zoom

March 14, 2026

Attendees: Dan Portillo, Aaron Silverman, Kelly Spillman, John Francis,
Frank de los Reyes, and Pete Virgadamo

Absent: Frank de los Reyes [excused absence], Kelly Spillman

Guests: 6 adjuncts

Dan Portillo, the president of AFT Local 6262, started the Open Session of our meeting at 1:06 pm. After the agenda was amended and approved with Frank de los Reyes and Kelly Spillman abstaining, Dan welcomed our guests, who did not have any immediate questions.

Dan proceeded with his report:

- saying that the start of the semester was remarkably quiet
- then spoke about an invitation by the department chairs to meet with them
- to better understand the new contract
- this was a good sign and indicated more respect from the administration
- unfortunately he had to cancel it and rescheduled it for March 20th
- he also spoke about the retro checks, which needed approval by the Board of Trustees
- this is a slow process

Aaron Silverman – Vice President of Negotiations

- said that this was due to a new payroll system
- he hoped that COC would start sending them out at the end of next week
- he also spoke about the methods to distribute the retro checks
- either a pick-up date at COC or they will be mailed to you

Aaron then gave his report:

- which started with a general update on negotiations
- there is no word yet from COC and they have not chosen any final dates
- noting that it does “take two to tango”
- the AFT plan is to discuss Article 6, compensation and

health care

Dan - added that he feared that the negotiations

- will be dragged out
- and we will get nothing done this semester

Aaron agreed – saying that COC likes to negotiate

At that point – visitor Linda Beauregard Vasquez from English

- asked about Article 10 [Compensation] also about
- Article 6 and assignments

Aaron replied to her comments about ‘specialty classes’

- saying that there are specific reasons
for exceptions in the pool system

Linda then asked a long question

- that challenged the language in the new
contract
- this resulted in an extensive back-and-forth
- between Linda and Aaron
- she questioned the legal definition
of words in the contract
- and criticized it, saying it was too broad
- that it could be applied to any class

Aaron responded saying that both AFT and COC

- had agreed on the meaning of the words
- that they had a shared understanding
- plus there are bargaining records and transcripts
to confirm this

Linda replied – that she went to an attorney who stated that this definition
could be applied to any class

- Aaron agreed to go over this language in the
upcoming negotiations
- even as Linda continued to express her concerns
- Dan entered the conversation, saying that lawyers
like to nit-pick about words
- but he would review the language

Victoria Leonard – entered the discussion and then deferred to Ruth Rassool

Ruth stated – that the language was problematic

- and talked about it in an Academic Senate meeting
- complaining that there are examples of this
happening in the English Department

- this semester

Aaron replied – that it is the district’s responsibility to implement the contract

- if courses are improperly assigned
- this is the ‘friends and family’ approach on overloads
- he saw lots of excuses, loopholes and misuse

Ruth challenged the ‘friends and family’ allegation

- Aaron noted that in response to the new language
- it was revised to protect the pool system over months of negotiations

Dan added that the #1 cause of grievances

- came in the misuse of specialty classes
- such as in science where classes were not given to lower rank adjuncts
- discussed with Ruth that when adjunct #1 was not given a class
- the chair made excuses
- AFT is happy to address any loopholes

Victoria spoke on several issues

- saying that department chairs had expressed their opinion
- that it is difficult to re-schedule
- she also spoke about the new evaluation tool
- noting rumbles at Senate meeting about the new tool
- including the boxes at the end of the tool
- evaluations are valuable to our growth and go into our personnel files
- can include positive comments
- Aaron and Dan joined the discussion with her
- with Aaron asking the visitors to list the problems
- and noting that problems with evaluations are the second highest source of grievances

Victoria continued with a long discussion about her ‘gripes’

- saying that full-timers gobble up all the winter and summer session classes
- also the issue of overloads and ‘bumping’ adjunct faculty

Aaron replied:

- saying he appreciates her advocacy with adjuncts
- but her issues with full-timers are in the Ed Code

- they are allowed to do it
- it is up to the district to regulate Summer classes and the 'bumping' problem

Linda then entered the conversation:

- saying she advocates for the adjuncts
- and talked about three more issues including 'bumping'
- Anthony Clayton debated with her
- saying that it is the individual's responsibility to update their credentials and inform HR as they do in his Business Department

Dan requested that we move on

- followed by a long and vigorous discussion
- between Linda, Anthony, Dan, Aaron and Victoria
- Carlos said that on the Scheduler there is a place to add comments
- also department retreats to inform chairs
- as well as private conversations with chairs
- you can also file a grievance
- that is the place to let it play out
- Linda concluded by mentioning the case of LBCC
- which paid millions to adjuncts for unpaid work
- Aaron reminded us that a larger lawsuit on this issue has been filed

John Francis – Vice President of Communication

- gave his report
- saying that the website has been updated and so have the Minutes
- he has continued to delete the older Minutes
- in regard to the Social Event, he has already sent out several blasts
- about 20 people have RSVP and more blasts are planned
- reminding people that this is going to be in a new location
- then concluded, saying the 'open rate' on emails is increasing

Pete Virgadamo – Secretary

- gave his report, saying the Minutes have been submitted to John and all are up to date
- he then spoke at length about the upcoming Social Event

- he has contacted the restaurant's staff, who agreed to print the AFT menu
- also he reminded the adjunct faculty to be careful because there are two Casa Canelas in Santa Clarita
- we will be at the one on the Old Road, which is in Stevenson Ranch

During Pete's report:

- Linda added that it is crucial for adjuncts to work together
- new adjuncts don't know the rules
- we need to educate the new adjuncts
- as well as communicate with chairs and deans and HR

Dan agreed, saying that he is all for that

- at Orientation we work to educate the new adjuncts
- and have been getting positive feedback for the past ten years
- Ruth joined in, talking about the Adjunct Advisory Council
- which was formed in 2019 and has been newly revised
- saying that it is a wonderful forum to discuss issues
- such as office hours
- over which there has been lots of distress and confusion
- let's work together openly to all 525 adjuncts
- not just to AFT members

Dan said he appreciated the spirited discussion

- and Anthony added that he respected Linda
- and agreed with most of her points and valued her comments

Pete attempted to conclude his report:

- but was interrupted by Linda
- who said not arguing with us and repeated her previous issues
- such as qualifications for classes
- she suggested a new place to update your skills
- such as those available at other community colleges.

At this point Dan ended the Open Session of our meeting at 2:21 and the Board decided to hold our next meeting on April 18th at 12 noon.