

AFT Local 6262 - Executive Board Meeting

Location: Zoom

April 18, 2026

Attendees: Dan Portillo, Aaron Silverman, Kelly Spillman, John Francis, and Anthony Clayton

Absent: Frank de los Reyes and Pete Virgadamo [excused absences]

Guests: 2 adjuncts

Dan Portillo, the president of AFT Local 6262, started the Open Session of our meeting at 12:06 pm. After the agenda was amended and approved, with Frank de los Reyes and Pete Virgadamo abstaining, Dan welcomed our guests.

Dan then talked about the new format adopted for our Open Sessions. He explained he and several other members of the Board, prior to our last AFT meeting, met with leaders of our parent union and discussed several issues, which included this question – do we follow Rober’s Rules of Order in our meetings? We replied “Not yet” and were ordered to strictly follow that format.

Dan stated that the new format would be pretty similar to that of the Board of Trustees meetings in which Board members first give their reports, then the end of the session would be reserved for guests to address the Board.

Guests will be allowed to speak for a full minute but there are several rules to follow – guests cannot direct their comments to an individual Board member and we cannot answer their questions at that time. This restricts dialogue and prohibits any back-and-forth exchanges but would keep the meeting orderly and keep our scheduled time in place. He wrapped up this part of his comments with “Let’s give it a shot.”

Dan proceeded with his report:

- saying that his focus is on the last negotiating session with the District
- we reviewed the concerns of our guest from the previous AFT Board meeting
- and examined the issue word-by-word
- the District explained their interpretation and he was pretty satisfied with it
- and believes it is not likely to have misinterpretations
- it is brand new and we will work on any misunderstandings
- he reminded everyone that the goal of this type of negotiation
- is for both sides to develop a mutual understanding
- it is not a courtroom where one side tries to find loopholes in the contract

- so it is a very different setting from previous negotiations
- Dan then discussed the retro pay, saying the checks have been sent out
- the system worked okay but if there are problems, please feel free to let me know

Aaron Silverman – Vice President of Negotiations

- also discussed the last negotiation meeting held at the end of March
- we spent lots of time of Article 6 and non-credit assignments
- overall, it was a good meeting
- which included representatives from Student Services
- our next meeting will not be until May 1st

Dan added that it is worth mentioning

- COC will be unable to meet with us
- for the whole month of April due to commitments of their chief negotiator Jason Hinkle

Anthony Clayton – Vice President of Membership Action

– deferred his report to Closed Session

Kelly Spillman – Vice President of Grievances

- deferred her report to the Closed Session

John Francis – Vice President of Communication

- gave his report, saying that he refreshed the AFT home page
- the emails are updated and with current information
- he then discussed Constant Contact, saying that we have an ‘open rate’ of 61%/62%
- he will meet with the Constant Contact people to talk about ways to increase engagement
- he started working on another project which is the last Newsletter
- for the semester which he projects to make it most current

Dan noted that at our meeting with people from our parent union:

- they were not fans of Constant Contact
- and they mentioned several alternatives to Constant Contact
- and brought up the issue of outreach

John replied to the concerns about Constant Contact:

- saying that it was a pretty robust and reliable system
- but he was not at that meeting with our parent union and asked
- were there any specific reasons why they did not like it

Kelly, who was at that meeting, added her perspective:

- she was trying to remember why they disliked Constant Contact
- then recalled that they did not back up their criticisms of it
- they said they would send us alternatives but but they never did
- she added that they seemed to be big fans of another system
- that could send text messages
- but she thought that our members do not want emails and texts

John responded by saying that:

- Constant Contact has that same feature
- but the whole text thing has not come up before

Kelly and John then discussed this issue back-and-forth:

- members might find the text messages
- more of a nuisance
- there are free systems that we could use
- John stated that Constant Contact has a separate data base
- which is a nice thing
- and it archives all the old messages
- plus it has the ability to track information for investigative work
- Kelly added that Constant Contact has how many got the message and opened it
- which is a nice aspect of this system
- John concluded with saying that he would be wary of switching to something else
- Anthony Clayton said he will send an email to John and have him contact them
- for an alternate system
- with Dan saying that Jack from the parent union would be a good contact for that

Pete Virgadamo – Secretary

- Pete was absent but sent in a report that Dan read
- the Minutes are complete and updated with John's help
- the Social Event at the new location, Casa Canela
- was quite a success
- the service was excellent, with none of the problems at the previous place
- the food was tasty and with ample portions
- there were 22 people but Pete did not know the cost
- Frank has that information
- there were no complaints about the new place
- and Pete recommended we go back there in the Fall semester

Dan said 'I would agree' and other Board members added their comments:

- Anthony said 'Let's go back there'
- and Kelly noted having a room to ourselves was great
- John agreed with Kelly and added that the location was fine
- Dan concluded with comments that he was pleased with everything
- and noted that the staff had told him that if we had a bigger turnout
- we could use the bigger, open room in the center of the restaurant.

At this point Dan opened the Open Session to our guests:

- he explained that this section of our meeting
- reserves time for them and then reviewed the rules
- guests can address the Board but not individual Board members
- each guest will be allowed to speak for a full minute
- there will be no dialogue and closing statements by Board members
- guests can bring any concern to the attention of the Board
- there were two guests
- Dan then got his stop watch ready and said "Yours for one minute."

Guest # 1- Ruth Rassool spoke on several matters:

- she brought up the question of the anomaly she had mentioned at the last meeting
- and the issue of the scholarship competition and her nominee
- plus she thought Social Event was successful
- although she had an issue with the printed menu
- at that point Dan stated her one minute ended but he would grant her an additional 30 seconds
- in which she criticized Constant Contact as a marketing tool
- and that other platforms are designed for union business
- and union members can reply which they cannot do with Constant Contact
- followed by a quick discussion with the fact that at the Board of Trustee meetings
- guests are allowed 3 minutes to speak

Guest # 2- Stacy

- said she has taught at LACCD for several years
- and started teaching at COC last Fall
- but had to start at the bottom of the steps on COC's pay scale
- plus when she got her retro check for last semester's teaching
- she figured that it came to about \$1 extra per day

Aaron Silverman stated that he could provide answers to her concerns:

- there is no reciprocity between COC and LACCD
- we are a separate district with our own salary schedule
- so regardless of your experience in other districts
- everyone at COC starts at the bottom of the salary schedule
- and it is unfortunate that the COLA for the retro checks
- was only about 1%

Dan reminded everyone that this was not a dialogue and then Anthony replied to Ruth, saying that your nominee was verified on schedule

Dan ended the Open Session of our meeting at 12:38 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at 12 noon.