Rep Council Minutes March 17, 2026

I. Call to Order

A. Mandy DeGroote called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

II. Minutes and Agenda

A. The minutes and agenda stand as distributed.

III. President's Report - Mandy De Groote - 15 min

A. RIFs:
   a. RIFs sent out right before Ski Week. Presently, 4 RIF'd teachers, with an additional 8 being notified of the potential. Probationary as well as permanent members on the list.
   b. Part of the RIF conversation is a discussion on the Master Schedule at secondary.
   c. The district might send out a list of positions available for teachers who may want to transfer.

B. Retirements:
   a. Please ask members to fill the survey if they plan on retiring.

C. HR Updates:
   a. FSA is a big problem. Ward Services is leaving as of June, American Fidelity doesn't want to service the FSA until their contract starts in August. Some members are not able to access thousands of dollars that were in their FSA accounts that didn't roll over. Preliminary Open Enrollment in August. Will meet with every single member.
   b. Nurses: Demand to bargain, District is refusing to meet.
   c. Meeting with District about the Elementary Report Cards and a demand to bargain about changes made to report card reporting.
   d. Classroom Suspensions - SVEA notified the district
   e. Los Alisos - The District doesn't know what is happening and is not clear on the transition details.
   f. Gates - Discussing the needs of DLI teachers, possibility of many combo classes. SVEA is looking into this.

D. Nurses PERB update:
   a. Rationale from District submitted to PERB judge.

E. Prop 55 Extension - Signature Gathering
   a. Petition distribution - Please get members to sign so we can get up to 85% of members sign. Need to focus on the high schools and intermediate schools. Mandy handed out Prop 55 signature sheets to reps, with a list of who hasn't signed yet. Please go door to door to get signatures. Need to collect handouts by 3/27. Mandy will come to sites to pick up signatures.
   b. Thank yous - to those who have over 80% participation. Pick up a SVEA hoodie on your way out.

F. Scholarships & committee members:

   a. Time for the Bill Bailey and Patsy Barry Scholarships. Need some members to be on the committee. Jill Synder, Joyanne Goodfellow, Jeff Tescher, and Steve Blohm will be on the committee.

G. Shadow Program:
   a. SVUSD has proposed a "SVEA Shadow Program" to get a firsthand look at what is happening in our classrooms. To ensure our members can show this honest reality without fear, **SVEA has a signed MOU to protect educators from any evaluative processes during the shadow.** Showing our collective power means being transparent about our working conditions while knowing our rights are secured. Participation is strictly voluntary, non-evaluative, and confidential, with no recording or documentation tied to members. If you are willing to pull back the curtain and show the district the honest reality of our schools, please let us know.

H. Walkthroughs:
   a. are disruptive and being used to do non reelect evaluations. Arbitration on the Walkthroughs is starting in May. Please send an email to Beth or Mandy.

IV. Vice President's Report - Beth Anderson - 5 minutes

A. Reminder to wear any SVEA shirt tomorrow.
B. Beth thanked reps who filled out the forms and did everything that Beth asked. Please hold off on PTA meetings if you haven't done it yet because of mediation.
C. Please create an SVEA bulletin board at your school site.

V. Treasurer's Report - Toni Fields - 5 mins

A. Toni Fields shared that the Profit and Loss and Budget to Actual sheets are balanced. SVEA has used 41.6% of the budget for the fiscal year. FTE 1069, PTE 39

VI. Bargaining Update - Andi Suter - 10 mins

A. Observation deadline was March 6th for temps, probationary, and doesn't meet standards. Everyone else, observations should be done by April 17th and evaluations due by May 6th.
B. Shadow teaching MOU signed
C. Still trying to hammer out the Music/PLC time MOU.
D. Back at mediation tomorrow and reminded reps that they are not allowed to discuss mediation proceedings. Don't know how long this process will take until we may go into fact finding.
E. Survey filled out by members for the next negotiation cycle. Many members wanted a salary increase, class size and caseloads, elementary report cards, leaves language. TK teachers want to create a TK article in the contract to have everything in one place.
F. Please email Andi with TK concerns.

VII. PAC Chair - Juli Stowers - 5 mins

A. Looking for candidates for SVUSD School Board positions. Dan Walsh was not given friendly incumbent status and will need to sit down with SVEA for an interview. A third person has thrown their name in for Barbara Shulman's seat. Edgar Montes is his name. Hoping to bring recommendations to the April council meeting.

VII. Elections - Mike Bartetzko - 5 mins

A. Ballots from Big Pulse went out, please double check that members get the email to vote. Vote closes on Friday 3/20 at 4pm.

VIII. PCS / CTA Update - Frank Oppedisano - 5 mins (if attending)

A. Not in attendance

IX. Other - *5 mins*

A. None.

X. Adjourn - 5:16 pm : Next Rep Council: April 21, 2026

* We will have a guest during our meeting, the CTA Region IV Political Organizer Shay Franco-Claussen

Members not in attendance: Kirk Brown, Jen Gibbs, Robyn Maynard, Kia Pacek, Tiffany Voss

Respectfully submitted by,
Erin Maguire

SADDLEBACK VALLEY EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

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