

SANTA CRUZ METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL Open Session Minutes- Board of Directors

September 30, 2005

A SPECIAL Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District met on Friday, September 30, 2005 at the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Chair Keogh called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

SECTION 1: OPEN SESSION

1. ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Jan Beautz
Dene Bustichi
Michelle Hinkle
Mike Keogh
Emily Reilly
Mike Rotkin
Pat Spence
Mark Stone
Marcela Tavantzis

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Stephanie Harlan
Dale Skillicorn
Ex Officio Wes Scott

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Dorfman, Assistant General Manager
Margaret Gallagher, District Counsel
Steve Paulson, Paratransit Administrator
Elisabeth Ross, Finance Manager

Robyn Slater, Human Resources Manager
Tom Stickel, Maintenance Manager
Les White, General Manager

EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO VOLUNTARILY INDICATED THEY WERE PRESENT

Ellen Aldridge, Avery & Associates
Kate Flanagan, UCSC Student
George Felder, UTU
Tony Herrera, UTU
Paul Johnston, MBCLC

David Lucier, UTU Retiree
Bonnie Morr, UTU
Robert Norse, SCFR Broadcaster
Lisa Saunders, wife of METRO bus driver

2. REVIEW OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION: District Counsel

Margaret Gallagher reported that there would be a discussion with METRO's Labor Negotiator regarding labor negotiations with UTU.

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Bonnie Morr, UTU, said that UTU has submitted a 3-year proposal along with a summary of General Leave. Ms. Morr said UTU is taking this very seriously and would rather be working, but has very little faith at this point, and wants a 3-year contract.

Robert Norse, Santa Cruz Free Radio Broadcaster, said there will be a call-in radio show on the strike controversy at 11:00 on Sunday on 101.1 FM and invited the Board, union members and the public to call 427-FRSC (3772) to participate.

Bonnie Morr added that during the first year of the contract proposed by UTU, there is basically no change from what the District has offered, except for the PERS. UTU is looking for parity with the rest of METRO in the 2nd and 3rd years. Ms. Morr said UTU would not be staying for Closed Session today and requested a phone call as soon as possible at 588-1857 on her cell phone or at 429-6707.

David Lucier, UTU Retiree, spoke about the transaction tax passed in 1978 that has been serving the District ever since. Mr. Lucier said that because of the weakness of the drivers, they decided to join the union, which helped the drivers, and management and created continuity. He urged the Board to think of the contract as a vehicle that has evolved over thirty years before they change it and degrade the working conditions of the drivers.

Kate Flanigan, UCSC student, said she holds the City Council responsible for the strike and hopes they end the strike as soon as possible and treat working people with respect.

Paul Johnston, MBCLC, said he expressed his concern about a month ago that METRO thinks it would be a good idea to have a strike to save money. Mr. Johnston said he believes the strike was deliberately provoked and urged the Board and Management to change course, treat the drivers with respect and end the strike.

Lisa Saunders, wife of a METRO driver and daughter of a retiree, said the overwhelming love and support of the community she witnessed while driving from picket line to picket line is what is keeping the drivers going.

Tony Herrera, UTU, commented entirely in Spanish, then said in English, "This strike was provoked and it is an unfair labor strike. Thank you."

George Felder, UTU, said a person came up to a picket line recently and gave them a \$100 bill, showing community support.

SECTION II: CLOSED SESSION

Chair Keogh adjourned to SPECIAL Closed Session and reconvened to SPECIAL Open Session afterwards.

SECTION III: RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

4. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

Margaret Gallagher had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Keogh adjourned the SPECIAL meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

CINDI THOMAS
Administrative Services Coordinator