

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting
March 6, 2008

Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the UTD Executive Board was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Present: Sony Ambroise, Karen Aronowitz, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Linda Cohen, Joyce Cook, Willette Cruse, Joan Cortez, Beverley Dowell, Pablo Gomez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Cassandra Holmes, Valarie Johnson, Paul Moore, Thomas Nunn, Maggie Palmer, David Prince, Chris Radney, Wendi Werther, Sharon Williams.

Absent: Ingrid Robledo (excused) Magda Brooks (excused) Carl Robinson (excused) Shirley Person (unexcused)

Adoption of Agenda: It was moved by Joan Cortez and seconded by Thomas Nunn to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

February 7, 2008: It was moved by Cassandra Holmes and seconded by Willette Cruse to adopt the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

February 21, 2008: It was moved by Willette Cruse and seconded by Joan Cortez to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

Board Members Issues and Concerns

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram shared Michael Molnar's report with the Board on membership stating that Mr. Molnar will be addressing the Board at the April meeting. Mr. Ingram also informed the Board that we would try to answer all questions in a timely fashion.

Board members expressed concerns on several issues and asked questions.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

President Aronowitz announced that Aaron Bethel's daughter had passed away and Ms. Audrey Hilton our Switchboard operator had tendered her resignation in order to open her own business.

UTD 2008-2009 Budget

President Aronowitz reported that the UTD 2008-2009 Proposed Budget is being presented today, and the Board will be asked for adoption of the Budget at the March 20th meeting. President Aronowitz reminded the Board that the next Council of Stewards meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m., and then we will walk to the School District.

President Aronowitz reported that yesterday she attended the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the Chamber is willing to also be part of the dialogue regarding the "white paper". President Aronowitz reminded the Board that we are looking at a short term crisis with long range changes. Dialogue is very important as we discuss the tax policy issues in this state which is affecting teachers, students, and the community.

Legislative Update

President Aronowitz stated that when we talk about health care issues, everything is wrapped into legislative funding – this is where the money comes from. We are going to be facing lay-offs, and the district is not doing this arbitrarily. President Aronowitz reported that we are slated to lose \$10 million this year and there will be cuts in programs, and services. President Aronowitz stated that this funding crisis will probably last another two years, and until the parents and community feel the pain it is an invisible problem. President Aronowitz reported that we are already seeing schools that do not have money for paper, part-time people being laid-off, etc. We may want to start asking parents in a polite way whether they can send a ream of paper along with their students, since they are cutting supplies and in some school there is no paper. President Aronowitz also stated that we are facing real cuts to education and jobs are on the line as a result of the funding crisis.

President Aronowitz stated that UTD's position will be to hold on to the jobs and maximize the benefits we receive.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Operational Budget and Cash Flow 2008-2009

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram stated that he is distributing the Budget to the Board members today, in order for Board members to have ample time to review the Budget and come prepared with a motion at the next Board meeting. Mr. Ingram reported that once we receive the motion to adopt from the Board, and Budget will be mailed to the Stewards in April and they will vote at the May Council of Stewards meeting. Mr. Ingram reminded the Board members that a Budget is a projection.

Mr. Ingram reviewed the proposed 2008-2009 Budget with the Board members indicating this is his fiduciary duty as Secretary/Treasurer. Members who have questions are asked to either contact Ms. Gladys Podnar or Mr. Ingram.

Questions were asked by Board members and answered by Mr. Ingram.

President Aronowitz stated that this is a very lean Budget and we need to continue with membership recruitment.

First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

Health Insurance

First Vice President Leichner explained to the Board members that he has been meeting with Joe Cortese to come up with a variation on a POS. Mr. Leichner stated that he is trying to create a secondary POS which would be based on usage, and it would be pay as you use. Mr. Leichner also stated that if this happens he would be recommending that it would only be used in Florida and explained the plan to the Board members. Mr. Leichner took this opportunity to explain to the Board that the Fraternal Order of Police had the special master hearing and scenario 8 was imposed.

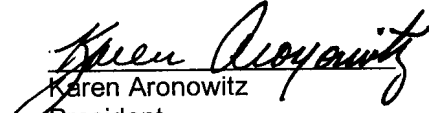
It was moved by Beverley Dowell and seconded by Peter Hill to extend the meeting 15-minutes. After discussion, motion carried.

President Aronowitz stated it is unlikely at the Impasse Hearing the district would find more money, they have the ability to offer something worse, since the ratification vote was no.

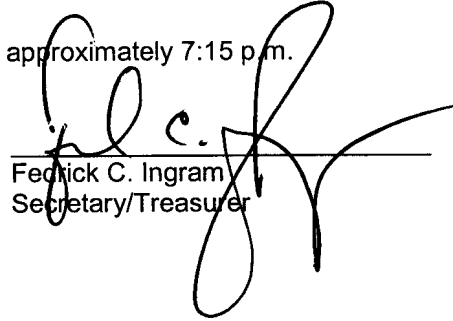
President Aronowitz reminded the Board members that we will be asking for an expedited ruling from the General Master, and then that ruling will go to the School Board.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.



Karen Aronowitz
President



Fredrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer