

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting
August 7, 2008

Official Minutes

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

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

Absent: Magda Brooks (excused) Joyce Cook (excused) Pablo Gomez (excused) Paul Moore (unexcused) Shirley Person (unexcused) Carl Robinson (unexcused) Ingrid Robledo (excused)

Minutes:

May 1, 2008: It was moved by Maggie Palmer and seconded by Sharon Williams to approve the minutes of May 1, 2008 as presented. Motion adopted.

May 8, 2008: It was moved by Maggie Palmer and seconded by Thomas Nunn to approve the minutes of May 8, 2008 as presented. Motion adopted.

May 14, 2008: It was moved by Willette Cruse and seconded by Beverley Dowell to approve the minutes of May 14, 2008 as presented. Motion adopted.

May 22, 2008: It was moved by Beverley Dowell and seconded by Peter Hill to approve the minutes of May 22nd, 2008 as presented. Motion adopted.

June 12, 2008: It was moved by Maggie Palmer and seconded by Chris Radney to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion adopted.

Agenda

President Aronowitz introduced Ms. Nancy Morales, Representative with AFT who will be working at UTD during the political campaigns and other organizing plans; and Dr. Erhabor Ighopbao who is a candidate for District 1 and UTD endorsing.

Dr. Ighobaro thanked UTD for the support he is receiving in his campaign and thanked all of the Board members.

Mr. Michael Molnar introduced two new Organizers to the Board, Ms. Freida Griffith, teacher and former Steward from Jan Mann and Ms. Shawnie Tonwyell, teacher from Lakeview Elementary school.

Board Members Issues and Concerns:

It was voiced by several Board members that what is recommended at Board meetings should be done and accomplished. Ms. Green reported that she would like to see that it means to "work to the contract" in the UTD Website. Mr. Radney stated that the Constitutional Revision Commission had not met and this should be done. Mr. Ingram responded that we originally tried to schedule this meeting during the summer but our General Counsel was not available.

President Aronowitz stated that we will try to convene the initial committee and then establish the parameters.

It was recommended that we give members only access to the UTD Web site.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

President Aronowitz reported that Mr. Karp had voted against A-2 at the last School Board meeting which dealt with the issue of RIF's, but cautioned that the Board will have another meeting in September and we will see what they bring back.

President Aronowitz reported that everyone should be working for the School Board candidates that UTD endorsed, we have phone banking at the building every day.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that we have been targeting the members in the candidate's district to come and volunteer to help. This is a very important election and it is # 1 priority.

Surplus Issues: Randy Biro/Joe Minor

Dr. Randy Biro addressed the Board regarding all surplus issues stating that we are still involved with meetings at M-DCPS and things changed by the hour. Therefore, Board members are asked not to make any statements unless they first check with UTD. Both Randy and Joe Minor reported on all of the meetings held to date regarding surplus and both stated that M-DCPS staff anticipates going back to the School Board with some type of Reduction in Force at the September meeting.

Mr. Minor stated that teachers who are surplus and have not been placed are to report to their work site. We are trying to keep as many people employed as possible. If Board members have any questions, or problems, they are asked to contact either Joe or Randy.

Question/Answer session followed.

Several Board members recommended that we place the information regarding the surplus issues and all other issues that we are dealing with on the Web site. Dr. Biro responded that due to information changing by the hour, it is not possible to put the information regarding surplus issues on the site.

Opening of Schools/Organizing Plan

Mr. Michael Molnar reported that since there is no NTO this year, UTD is working with Nancy Morales from AFT on developing a new organizing plan. The draft plan has been reviewed by about 40 UTD members and we are still receiving feedback on the plan.

Mr. Molnar highlighted portions of the organizing plan stating that UTD has developed a DVD video which outlines the budget crisis which will be presented to the Stewards at the United Way Breakfast. Each Steward will be asked to present this video at their first faculty meeting. Mr. Molnar also stated that part of the plan will include having the leadership visiting worksites 50% of the time this year and Board members who wish to have leadership visit their schools are to let the organizer know. Michael also stated that AFT has trained the organizers in the area of mapping which will give us a clue on how the principals do their layout at the worksites in terms of personnel and we will be choosing schools as pilot schools this year to see how this works.

Question/Answer session followed and it was recommended that when Organizers visit schools, they should check in and see the Stewards – sometimes this does not happen.

President Aronowitz stated that this is a very critical organizing time for UTD in terms of the budget – we need to build our density and our bargaining unit is shrinking. President Aronowitz also stated that we do have a contingency plan in case we cannot recruit new members.

UTD Membership Report (Fourth Quarter)

Mr. Molnar distributed copies of the UTD Membership Report for the Fourth Quarter to the Board members stating that our unit size as of 6/30/08 was 39,904, and the unit size as of August was 39,558. Mr. Molnar also stated that we had processed 173 membership cards from April to June.

Question/Answer session followed.

Mr. Molnar also stated that UTD had partnered with Staples and Ibiley Uniforms to offer incentives to our members, and at the same time building partnerships with the community.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that UTD is operating in a contingency mode and we are very fiscally prudent at this time. We are changing in terms of finance and we are cutting back even on food, because every expense impacts our budget. We have also engaged our Auditors in order to prepare the reports.

Mr. Ingram stated that he is recommending that for the FEA DA being held in October that we only give stipends to twenty people and allows five slots for the E-Board members. Mr. Ingram stated that when we have the delegate meeting in September, we could do a type of lottery. Mr. Ingram reiterated that we are not trying to deny people from attending, but he does have a fiduciary duty, and it is the matter concerning the stipend. After extensive discussion on this issue, President Aronowitz stated that this will be brought back to the Board along with other discussions regarding the Budget at the September meeting. Mr. Ingram withdrew his recommendation.


It was moved by Valarie Johnson and seconded by Thomas Nunn to extend the meeting 15 minutes. After discussion, motion carried.

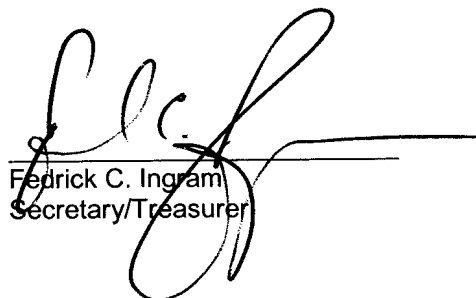
First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

Mr. Leichner reported that we have resolution regarding the electronic grade book – letters or numbers can be used now – more information will be forthcoming, once we get it in writing from M-DCPS. Mr. Leichner also stated that once you pick the scale, you cannot change it until the end of the year. Mr. Leichner also reported that the district is moving to direct deposit beginning in January and no paper checks will be available – the paystubs will be available for viewing on line. Mr. Leichner reported that a type of debit card will be issued and as information becomes available it will be placed on the web site.

Adjournment

It was moved by Maggie Palmer and seconded by Willette Cruse to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer