

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting  
December 10, 2009

### Approved 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, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingra, Sony Ambrose, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joan Cortez, Beverley Dowell, Angie Gonzalez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Valerie Johnson, Paul Moore, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther, Sharon Williams, Antonio White.

Absent: Willette Cruse (excused) Pablo Gomez (unexcused) Cassandra Holmes (excused) Maggie Palmer (excused) Thomas Nunn (excused) Shirley Person (unexcused) David Prince (unexcused)

Adoption of Agenda: It was moved by Magda Brooks and properly seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes: It was moved by Joan Cortez and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of November 5, 2009 as presented. After discussion, motion carried. It was moved by Magda Brooks and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as presented. After discussion, motion carried.

### Agenda

#### Attendance at Executive Board Meetings and the Issue of the Stipend

President Aronowitz stated that due to the lack of time at the last Board meeting, this issue is being brought back to the Board for discussion and/or action.

After extensive discussion on the issue, it was moved by Chris Radney and properly seconded by Joan Cortez that a Board member who misses two consecutive months unexcused shall be paid no stipend starting with the first stipend following the seconded month's absence. After discussion, motion carried.

#### Concerns of Board Members:

Ms. Linda Cohen reported on an issue at North Miami Beach Senior High School concerning the security monitors and the AP, apparently it seemed like outright Union busting. Ms. Dowell also expressed her deep concerns as well as other Board members regarding this issue. President Aronowitz stated that Michael Molnar will be investigating what actually happened, but Michael reported that the Steward had just resigned via email to the entire Staff at the school. Mr. Molnar reported that once he conducts the investigation he will be reporting back to the Board.

President Aronowitz informed Board members that UTD will be visiting other schools next week where we are aware of problematic principals – but it will be a surprise visit. President Aronowitz stated that we had scheduled a blitz at a school and the principal found out UTD was going to attend the faculty meeting, and he cancelled the meeting.

Board members expressed concerns that even if we blitz the school, how do we keep other things from continuing to happen. It was recommended that next time we do visit a school, that we use a legal team to also attend and send a message to the administration that harassment of our employees will not be tolerated. President Aronowitz reported that UTD will not tolerate harassment of any kind to employees, but it needs to be reported so we can get involved and solve the problem.

President Aronowitz reported that our lease expires in August and we have begun discussions with Crescent Heights regarding this issue – we have not renewed as of yet.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

President Aronowitz reported that our lease expires in August we have begun discussions with Crescent Heights regarding the lease but we have not renewed yet.

*School Board 5 Year Plan*

President Aronowitz stated that UTD had a meeting open to everyone who was interested in looking at the School Board 5-Year plan regarding curriculum. Ms. Randy Biro reported that we had over 50 participants at the meeting, and the input received was excellent. Ms. Biro also stated that the recommendations received will be sent to the district –great comments were made in reference to academics.

*Race to the Top Funds*

President Aronowitz reported that Florida is looking as one of the contenders for the grant; FEA has met with the DOE and the state is mandating that performance pay be attached to it which in Karen's mind undermines collective bargaining. President Aronowitz also stated that the district can apply with or without the Union, and M-DCPS has already sent a letter to the Florida Department of Education. President Aronowitz informed the Board that UTD will be involved in all discussions, but we are not ready as of now, to sign any MOU's with the district and FEA is also looking at different types of performance pay models. President Aronowitz also stated that Broward has not even settled their contract as of yet; the Duval Teachers Union has not signed in and Palm Beach doesn't know anything about the grant.

President Aronowitz also reported that we have AFT involved regarding what the US Department of Education requires for the grant, and FEA is now in discussions with the Florida DOE about what they are saying – there is a conflict between what the US DOE grant requirements are and what the Florida DOE is mandating.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram stated he has no financial management reports to give at this meeting; they were done at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Ingram stated that the legislative session starts in March so we need to start thinking about what's going on politically. Mr. Ingram also stated that Maggie Palmer is doing better, and asked Board members to keep praying for her speedy recovery.

First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

*Insurance Concerns*

First Vice President Leichner reported that we will be discussing the insurance problems with M-DCPS so it will never happen again. We had over 450 calls from frustrated members who could not enroll, and M-DCPS could not even help administrators enroll for their new insurance plans.

Mr. Leichner stated that we will be re-establishing the UTD Insurance Committee. The retirees had major problems in attempting to enroll.

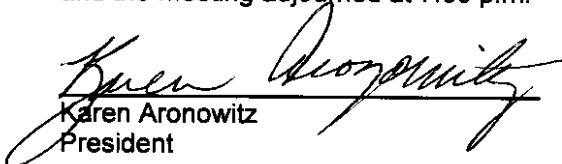
Ms. Cortez reported that we are having too many problems with interim testing, students are being tested a week before the holiday which is stupid; if the district has no money why are they doing all of these different tests. Students are already burned-out with FACT. Ms. Cortez recommends that teachers keep a testing log, and write the date the test was given and the amount of time taken away from teaching.

President Aronowitz stated that testing issues will be part of our legislative agenda, we are talking about why the DOE insists on these tests and the percentage of time spent in giving these tests – we need to limit tests, period. We are raising these issues with the district and the DOE, and we will be having the legislators to see what is going on.

Ms. Peggy Green stated that we need to do something locally, if the tests are not included in the testing calendar then they should not be done – President Aronowitz stated this can be grieved.

Adjournment

The leadership wished the Board members a happy winter recess and a happy new year. It was moved by President Aronowitz and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

  
Karen Aronowitz  
President

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Fedrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer