

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting
February 5, 2009

Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the UTD Executive Board was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Present: Karen Aronowitz, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joan Cortez, Willette Cruse, Beverley Dowell, Pablo Gomez, Angie Gonzalez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Cassandra Holmes, Valarie Johnson, Paul Moore, Thomas Nunn, Maggie Palmer, Shirley Person, David Prince, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther and Sharon Williams.

Absent: Joyce Cook (excused) Sony Ambroise (unexcused)

Adoption of Agenda: President Aronowitz reported that due to the special Council of Stewards meeting this evening and the time, we would skip the Issues and Concerns of Board members' portion on the Agenda, and we would like to include the letter received from Rory Robinson. It was moved by Magda Brooks and properly seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Joan Cortez and seconded by Thomas Nunn to approve the minutes of January 8, 2009 as presented. Motion carried. It was moved by Magda Brooks and seconded by Thomas Nunn to approve the minutes of January 15, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

UTD Files Suit Against School Board for Sunshine Law Violations

President Aronowitz reported that we are at war the real front being the School Board and public opinion. We must make every member of our bargaining unit understand what is at stake.

President Aronowitz informed Board members that UTD filed a lawsuit today against the Miami-Dade School Board for the illegal meeting held which violated the state Sunshine Law –we demand that all budget decisions be made in the open and not in secret meetings.

President Aronowitz asked Board members to approve up to \$200,000 from the contingency fund to engage in activities and campaigns for our contract. President Aronowitz reported that funds will be used to purchase media and radio spots; and it will also help cover the legal fees of the lawsuit.

It was moved by Peter Hill and seconded by Wendi Werther to approve up to \$200,000 for the contract campaign from the UTD contingency fund. After discussion, motion carried, with one opposed.

Rally at the School Board – February 11, 2009

President Aronowitz reiterated to the Board members the importance of having the auditorium filled at the School Board meeting – we need to have over 1000 people attend this rally and urged Board members to help bring people to the rally. President Aronowitz also stated that at the meeting tonight, she would be asking for a commitment from our Stewards to bring members and parents to the rally.

Board members offered recommendations: Get the involvement of the PTA/PTSA; distribute flyers to parents encouraging them to support and rally with the teachers. Mr. Moore recommended that mock funerals be held and stated that we cannot be paralyzed by fear – we as leaders should take the lead. Ms. Peggy Green stated that teachers in the differentiated accountability schools are scared of losing their jobs and we need to start working with the larger schools and get them involved. Ms. Cortez urged the Board members to think out of the box – it is not business as usual.

Letter Received from Ms. Rory Robinson

President Aronowitz read the letter received from Ms. Robinson, essentially stating she would comply with the terms outlined in the Executive Board action – Rory has resigned her position and membership to the alliance. (Copies of the letter are part of the E-Board packet).

Ms. Peggy Green had a concern and felt that Rory Robinson should have been asked for a letter of resignation from the Alliance.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram informed Board members that we currently have 17,079 members, 13,598 FTE's and our UTD Budget is based on 14,500 FTE's. Mr. Ingram is giving the Board this information, because we will be taking a look at the Budget at our next Board meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram announced that Board members who would like to attend the Teacher of the Year Dinner are asked to call and let us know as soon as possible.

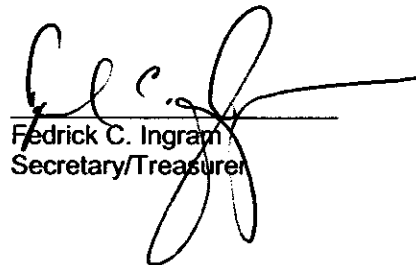
February 28, 2009 Education Rally in Orlando

Board members who would like to participate in the rally are asked to contact Elsa to make the reservations. UTD will be sponsoring buses which FEA will pay ½ to the statewide rally. The cost for each member is \$15.

Adjournment

In light of the starting time of the special Council of Stewards, it was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer