

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting
January 8, 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, Fedrick C. Ingram, Sony Ambroise, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joyce Cook, Willette Cruse, Beverley Dowell, Pablo Gomez, Angie Gonzalez, Peter Hill, Cassandra Holmes, Valerie Johnson, Paul Moore, Thomas Nunn, David Prince, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther, and Sharon Williams. Guest: Tom Landers

Absent: Artie Leichner (excused) Joan Cortez (excused) Peggy Green (excused) Maggie Palmer (excused) Shirley Person (unexcused)

Adoption of Agenda: President Aronowitz reported that since First Vice President Leichner is not at this meeting, his report will be deleted from the agenda. It was moved by Magda Brooks and properly seconded to adopt the agenda as revised. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

December 4, 2008: It was moved by Magda Brooks and seconded by Ingrid Robledo to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

December 11, 2008: It was moved by Magda Brooks and properly seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

December 16, 2008: It was moved by Magda Brooks and seconded by Beverley Dowell to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

Issues and Concerns of Board Members

Ms. Werther reported that at her school several of her colleagues were told that they would be losing their 6th period supplement – which was done at the last minute. Ms. Werther stated that she had reported this to the Organizer but UTD needs to take a stand; Ms. Dowell expressed concerns regarding the Education Compact IB program with the Miami Beach feeder pattern schools; teachers are being required to attend trainings and there has been a concern that art and music teachers are being asked to give up their planning time and teach. Ms. Dowell also stated that people are afraid to file grievances and it is her recommendation since we are not in ordinary times that UTD show more of a presence in the schools – teachers are afraid and administrators are violating the contract daily; Mr. Hill stated that the district is using the economic situation in order to violate the contract and destroy collective bargaining. Mr. Hill also stated that there are too many specialists in elementary schools and they should be placed in the classrooms; Ms. Cohen stated that there are reading coaches who just run around telling people what to do in the schools, and they do not work. Mr. Radney stated that we needed to make our members safe if they have fears, and perhaps, we can even release Board members to go to schools and meet with Stewards/Principals when issues arise. Mr. Radney also stated that Organizers need to be more visible in the schools – perhaps they can visit during lunch time. Ms. Werther also stated that we need to find out about the AP's who were demoted and are now

in our unit making more money than those on Step 22. Mr. Moore stated that we need to put ourselves on the line and then people will follow – we need to stand up for this Union and our members.

Discussion followed.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

Legislative Update

President Aronowitz reported that things are bad all over – 2300 teachers have lost their jobs in Los Angeles. President Aronowitz explained the Implementing Bill to the Board members reiterating that if this bill is passed it would destroy collective bargaining. UTD and FEA are working diligently towards defeating this bill. President Aronowitz reported that Miami-Dade is not in a fiscal emergency yet, and if this happens, DOE can come in and cut salaries to make the difference of the 2%. President Aronowitz stated that she spent most of her time in Tallahassee visiting the legislators with the Superintendent—in trying to hold education harmless. President Aronowitz stated that we expect a \$47 million hit in Miami-Dade, which is part of the Governor's 4% holdback.

It was moved by Paul Moore and seconded by Cassandra Holmes to have our members physically sit around the Capitol during the legislative session being held in March and stay until the legislature comes back with a Budget that can make people leave in decency. After discussion, motion failed.

President Aronowitz reported that we will be exploring options and we will keep everyone informed of those options.

Health Care Ratification Vote

President Aronowitz reported the Ratification Vote for the insurance will be held on January 8 and 9. The Internal Functions committee will count the ballots on 1/13 and if approved by the bargaining unit, it will go to the School Board at the January 14 School Board meeting.

Contract Empowerment Classes

President Aronowitz stated that classes will be held on 1/20/09 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Palmetto Senior High School Media Center; 1/22/09 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Miami Lakes K-8 Center, and on 1/26/09 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at David Lawrence Media Center. President Aronowitz stated that master plan points will be available – and these classes will serve to empower our members in terms of our contract and knowing their rights.

President Aronowitz announced the next item of business is the report of the Secretary/Treasurer. If there is no objection, the chair will dispense with reading the financial report prepared for the December 11, 2008 meeting, which was presented by the Secretary/Treasurer at that meeting, at which there was no quorum. Hearing no objection, the report will be filed with the Secretary –the Executive Board will now hear any current reports from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

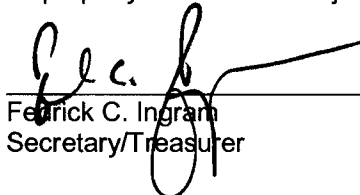
Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that the IRS had changed the mileage reimbursement rate, which is now \$.55, copies of the Board stipend check schedule was also distributed.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, it was moved by Pablo Gomez and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Karen Aronowitz
President



Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer