

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting
May 3rd, 2007

Approved Minutes

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

Present: Karen Aronowitz, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joyce Cook, Joan Cortez, Beverley Dowell, Pablo Gomez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Beverly Heller, Valarie Johnson, Paul Moore, Natalie Moton, David Prince, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther.

Absent: Sony Ambroise (excused) Richard Downer (excused) Albert Stellmach (excused) Sandy Simon (excused) Tom Nunn (excused) Maggie Palmer (excused)

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

Approval of Minutes

April 12, 2007: It was moved by Peggy Green and seconded by Magda Brooks to adopt the minutes as read. Motion carried.

April 19, 2007: It was moved by Artie Leichner and seconded by Pablo Gomez to adopt the minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

Agenda

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Financial Management Review (March)

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that the Financial Management Review for the month of March will be mailed to the Board members next week and it will be reviewed at the next meeting, prior to the Council of Stewards meeting.

UTD Proposed Budget 2007-2008

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that the Budget has already been mailed to the Stewards. If there are questions regarding the proposed budget, please refer the questions to Mr. Ingram. The Budget will be presented to the Council of Stewards at the May meeting for adoption.

President Aronowitz reported that since the May meeting is the last meeting of the year, we would be having a dinner in honor of the Stewards.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

STAR/MAP Update

President Aronowitz once again updated the Board on the MAP plan and stated that we would be looking at Broward's plan if it gets approved by the DOE.

Steward(s) Elections (May 8,9,10, 2007)

President Aronowitz reminded the Board members that elected Stewards(s) do not take office until the conclusion of the May Council of Stewards meeting. Therefore, they do not get to vote on the UTD Budget – the Budget is discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Office Employee of the Year winner: Tracy A. Brown

President Aronowitz reported that Ms. Tracy Brown was this year's winner of the Office Employee of the Year and one of our own, Ms. Natalie Moton, was a runner up. Board members congratulated Natalie Moton.

Paraprofessional of the Year winner: Marjorie Murillo

President Aronowitz reported that Ms. Marjorie Murillo was this year's winner of the Paraprofessional of the Year, Ms. Caridad R. Cebey was a runner-up.

First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

UTD Retired Teachers Chapter Breakfast: Mr. Leichner reported he had attended the breakfast this past Saturday which was great and informed the Board that one of our very dedicated UTD Stewards and member is retiring, Brian Graefe.

Zone Schools: Mr. Leichner reported that colleagues must be reminded that Zone finances are not for ever, and they need to be made aware of it. The zone calendar has been pulled. President Aronowitz reported we will probably have an August 20th starting date.

Appliances/Refrigerator Memorandum: Mr. Leichner reported that we had received numerous complaints regarding this issue, and the personal needs of our members must be taken into account, i.e. members that take medications that have to be refrigerated. Artie stated he had met with Mr. Woodson and we are moving in a positive direction – a second email has been sent out by the district on this issue. Discussion followed on this issue by Board members.

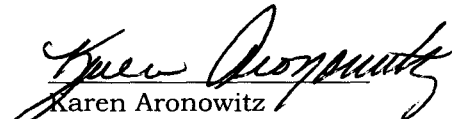
Electronic Grade-book issue: Mr. Leichner reported that we have filed three level 3 grievances and it seems that once the district comes with a solution, that solution creates more problems. Board members raised the concerns that when the computers are down for three days, it becomes an impossible task to have the grade-book completed. Discussion followed, that perhaps we should have something in writing from the district regarding this issue. Board members felt that we should not have to wait until the computers are down to contact M-DCPS for direction, but we should have some sort of language addressing this issue for the future and have UTD send the information to the Stewards.

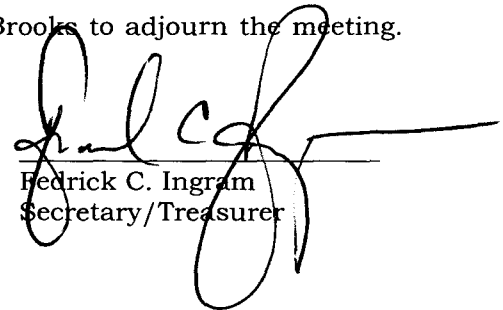
New Business:

- 1) Mr. Peter Hill and Ms. Dowell expressed concerns with principals still not responding to referral of students in terms of discipline problems. Mr. Leichner responded that Jason Joseph has requested information from M-DCPS, and we are waiting on the score cards to see who gets the bonuses. Mr. Hill had a concern regarding Staff interpreting legal matters – Mr. Leichner responded to the concern.
- 2) Ms. Peggy Green requested an update on the petition from Mr. Paul Moore. Mr. Moore reported, through the Chairperson, that the efforts with the petitions are still on-going, the churches and community groups are very much involved now. Mr. Leichner reported that he will be taking the petition to the TURN meeting, and the NEA Convention to gather support.
- 3) Ms. Wendi Werther expressed her concerns regarding the Secondary School Reform initiative and interpretation dealing with the UTD/M-DCPS contract. Mr. Leichner and President Aronowitz responded to the concerns.
- 4) Mr. Chris Radney reported on Alternative Education and the problems regarding gender academics which are extremely sexist. President Aronowitz asked Chris to prepare a report for the Board and get Tom Nunn involved.

Adjournment

It was moved by Peggy Green and seconded by Magda Brooks to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fredrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer