

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Building Stewards Meeting  
November 15, 2007

### **Unapproved Minutes**

This regular meeting of the UTD Council of Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Shapiro. President Aronowitz requested prayers on behalf of Mr. Miranda, a teacher from Carol City Senior who was shot outside the school.

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

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved and properly seconded by Tom Nunn to adopt the minutes as read. Motion carried.

### **Agenda**

#### **Special Item: Ellen Freidin, Campaign Chair, Fair Districts Florida**

Ms. Freiden addressed the Council of Stewards and reported that in 2010/2011 we will be facing the issue of redistricting in the State of Florida, and we must be involved in this issue in order for districts to be drawn up fairly so citizens can have proper representation in their districts.

An informational power point presentation on this issue was shown to the Council of Stewards.

Question/Answer session followed.

It was moved by Gerry Tiziani and properly seconded to have United Teachers of Dade sign up as a sponsor organization in this endeavor. After discussion, the motion was amended and moved by Esther Garvett and properly seconded to not only have UTD as a sponsor partner, but to also have UTD contribute \$500 to Fair Districts Florida. Motion carried.

President Aronowitz stated that once we receive the petitions from the Fair Districts Florida they will be distributed at the Council of Stewards meeting.

#### **President's Report: Karen Aronowitz**

##### ***Coalition of Immokalee Workers March—November 30, 2007***

President Aronowitz reminded the Council of Stewards of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers March on November 30<sup>th</sup>, at Burger King Headquarters. The march begins at 12:00 p.m., and information is posted on the UTD Website.

### ***UTD Declares Impasse on Health Insurance Bargaining***

President Aronowitz reported that we are at Impasse on Health insurance bargaining – the district wants to impose their plan, and place the cost of the increase of insurance on the backs of our employees and UTD will not accept this.

President Aronowitz explained the Impasse procedures to the Council, stating that once it goes to the Special Master the recommendation goes to the School Board. One option would have been to waive the Special Master because the longer we wait to enroll for the 2008 calendar year, the shorter time employees would have to pay the increased premiums. The district was not willing to waive. The School Board can impose the plan and then it would go to a bargaining unit ratification vote, which means the Stewards would conduct a ratification vote on an insurance plan. President Aronowitz also stated that she has been meeting with individual school board members on this issue, reiterating that the insurance increases cannot be placed on the backs of employees.

President Aronowitz reported that we are asking Stewards and UTD members to attend the School Board meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and speak at the public hearing regarding this issue. We are also asking Stewards to identify UTD members who would be willing to speak to the media. We are also asking members to attend the School Board meeting even if they do not wish to speak – this is a very important issue and we want the School Board auditorium filled to capacity.

President Aronowitz explained in detail other strategies that we are developing in order to deal with the insurance issue. A power point presentation was shown to the Council of Stewards explaining in detail the insurance plan that is being offered by the district.

Question/Answer session followed.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram**

#### ***Presentation of UTD Audit: Rick Covert, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra Certified Public Accountants***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that Mr. Covert had presented the audit to the UTD/Stewards Financial Oversight Committee, and to the Executive Board. Mr. Ingram acknowledged Ms. Gladys Podnar, Director of Finance and the UTD Accounting Department for all of the hard work in making certain the auditors had all the pertinent information needed in accomplishing the audit. Mr. Ingram introduced Mr. Mike Benner and Mr. John Feldman from American Federation of Teachers, stating that they are at this meeting in case Stewards have questions regarding finances. Mr. Ingram reminded the Council, that we are still in AFT Oversight until all monies due AFT are paid.

Mr. Rick Covert addressed the Council of Stewards stating that this is a clean audit and highlighted portions of the Financial Statements June 30, 2007 and 2006, and the UTD Required Communications letter for the Year Ended June 30, 2007. Mr. Cover reported that in simple terms, UTD gets an “A” on this audit. Mr. Covert stated that there are no reportable conditions for this audit.

Question/Answer session followed.

**Report from the Field: Artie Leichner**

First Vice President Leichner thanked the Stewards for filling out the surveys and returning them to the organizers. Mr. Leichner reported that he has asked for 500 pre-grievance forms from the Office of Legislative and Labor Relations at M-DCPS due to the numerous violations as a result of the survey. Mr. Leichner also reiterated to the Council of Stewards that we are seeing a lot of our colleagues getting ill as a result of sick buildings and they should be reporting their illnesses to workman's compensation.

It was moved and seconded by Esther Garvett to extend the meeting 10-minutes. After discussion, motion carried.

Questions/Answer session followed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Karen Aronowitz  
President

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Fedrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer