

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Building Stewards meeting
September 13, 2008

Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the Council of Building Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 8:30 a.m. The Steward of the Year finalists led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Aronowitz observed a moment of silence on behalf of the victims of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

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

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Magda Brooks and seconded by Linda Cohen to adopt the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

Special Presentations

Christina Ramos, Coordinator, Orange Bowl Committee: Poster Contest

Ms. Ramos addressed the Council of Stewards, bringing greetings on behalf of the Orange Bowl Committee and reminded the Council that information regarding the Student Poster Contest is in the Council folders. Ms. Ramos stated that inside the Council folders are the official templates of the Orange Bowl Committee to be used with the posters. The deadline for the student poster contest is Friday, October 3, 2008.

Phyllis Compton, President, UTD Retired Teachers

Ms. Phyllis Compton addressed the Council, stating that the UTD Retired Teachers Chapter will be becoming more visible in the schools this year in order to answer questions from members who are thinking about retirement. Ms. Compton also stated that, as a former building Steward, she is aware of all of the questions that people have regarding issues such as insurance when they are thinking about retiring. The Retired Teachers Chapter is here to help. Ms. Compton also stated that the Retired Teachers Chapter will be sponsoring a meeting regarding retirement in January – Stewards are asked to let the members know. Information on the Retired Teachers Chapter can be found on the UTD website.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

Impasse Hearing Rescheduled for November 3 and 4th, 2008

President Aronowitz reported that we were advised yesterday that the Impasse Hearing has been rescheduled for November 3rd and 4th. Therefore, President Aronowitz is asking Stewards to vote early on the 4th in case we do not conclude on 11/3 so they can attend the session. President Aronowitz stated that the hearing was rescheduled at the request of the School Board with objections from UTD, but the General Master agreed with the School Board to reschedule.

New School Board Member Elected and a New Superintendent

President Aronowitz pointed out that now that with the successful election of a new School Board member, we have changed the balance of the voting on the School Board. President Aronowitz reported on the School Board Agenda Item A-2 regarding Reduction in Force, explaining that UTD has scheduled a meeting for all affected members for Tuesday, and Staff will be available to answer members questions and address concerns. President Aronowitz reported that we will work with the new Superintendent and our message again will be one -- to honor the contract. President Aronowitz also stated that the Budget estimating conference shows less money for Dade County in 2009, which means that we will operating with the funding level of 2006.

Legislative Update

President Aronowitz reported that Amendments 5, 7 and 9 will not be on the ballot – and if this would have passed, there would have been no funding for public schools in Florida. She stressed that now is a critical time – this Union is the wall that is holding back the sea. We have a very important election in November, and we must elect the candidate that will support public education – Barack Obama. Obama’s message is of hope and McCain’s message is that of fear.

President Aronowitz reported she was a delegate at the Convention, supporting Barack Obama and the Florida delegation was very aware of our endorsement of Larry Feldman – everyone was waiting for the outcome.

Present Aronowitz reminded Stewards to get out the vote, and volunteer for phone banking for UTD endorsed candidates. President Aronowitz thanked every one who came out during the summer and volunteered in the phone banking for the School Board race – it paid off. President Aronowitz reiterated that we will continue to fight and we will continue to work to have our contract honored – we will not be silenced – public education truly makes us a democratic society.

Tiger Cope Update: Karen Cunningham

Ms. Cunningham thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the School Board races, and urged Stewards to ask their members to become Tiger COPE members – dues are only \$ 1.50 per paycheck for teachers.

Question/Answer Session followed.

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

UTD Audit Update

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that there is no financial management report because we are in the process of completing the audit. Mr. Ingram reported that the Auditors will be presenting the draft of the Audit to the Steward Financial Oversight Committee and the Executive Board on October 2nd, and then it will be presented to the Council of Building Stewards at the October 16, 2008 meeting.

FOC Report Third Quarter 2007-2008

Mr. David Moss member of the Steward Financial Oversight Committee addressed the Council of Stewards reporting that the FOC committee members (Carol Haney and Dr. Fernando Egea) had met at UTD on August 11, 2008 for the Financial Management Review as well as the Operational Budget and Cash Flow for the Third Quarter (January, February and March).

Mr. Moss stated that during this quarter they looked at an annual membership of 18.324; however, they foresee a change for the next quarter period, as there will be constraints in the district employment projections. Mr. Moss stated that as before, a favorable variance in the Budget is noted as organizational overhead continued to be controlled. Mr. Moss took the opportunity of acknowledging the hard work and efforts of the UTD elected officers and Staff.

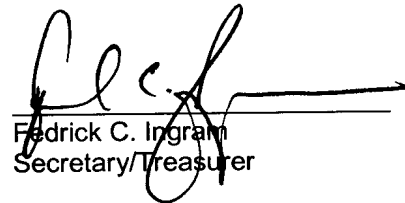
First Vice President's Report: Artie Lechner

First Vice President Lechner reported that since problems still persist with the electronic grade-book, we have asked for impact bargaining. Mr. Lechner also stated that we are aware of the overcrowding issue and this will continue until PACS are opened.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, it was moved by Ingrid Robledo and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fredrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer