

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Council of Building Stewards Meeting
October 16, 2008

Unapproved Minutes

This regular meeting of the Council of Building Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Honorable State Representative Luis Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance, after which a moment of silence was observed for our two Stewards that passed away, Ms. Sharon Auer, and Ms. Betty Lemans.

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

Adoption of Minutes: It was properly moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of September 18, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

Special Item: Obama for America Campaign!

The Honorable Luis Garcia, State Representative

Representative Garcia addressed the Council of Stewards stating that he is running for a second term in District 107 and he would appreciate the vote of the Council in making this possible. Representative Garcia also stated that we must unite and work together to elect the best presidential candidate – Barack Obama.

Steven Hildebrand, Deputy Campaign Manager for Barack Obama

Mr. Steven Hildebrand, Deputy Campaign Manager for Barack Obama's 2008 Presidential Campaign addressed the Council of Stewards. Mr. Hildebrand thanked the Council of Stewards for being educators and for caring about the future of our children in Miami-Dade.

A power point presentation was shown to the Council, "Change vs. more of the same". Mr. Hildebrand stated that we only have 19 days left before the elections and Florida will be the battle ground, and we need people to volunteer for phone banking and for manning the polls.. Mr. Hildebrand reported that we have seen 900,000 new registered voters already which is unprecedented.

The Honorable Dan Gelber, State Representative

Representative Gelber addressed the Council of Stewards stating that Senator Obama has a vision for the future and is a voice for a movement – the Republicans have nothing to offer. Representative Gelber stated that although we are winning, we must not be too over confident. He asked Stewards to work to get out the vote and to urge their families and colleagues to vote for Obama for President.

Ms. Karen Cunningham also addressed the Council of Stewards, strongly recommending that our members do not wear any political insignias while in schools with students. She added that political insignias can be worn when students are not in school. Ms. Cunningham also stated that the informational card with the UTD Slate can be used as a topic of conversation for a unit

meeting, but reminded Stewards that they cannot post the information. If there are questions regarding the wearing of T-shirts or buttons supporting candidates, Stewards are asked to contact Ms. Cunningham.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

UTD Audit Presentation 2007-2008 A+

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that on a yearly basis UTD engages an independent audit firm to ensure that the internal financial controls of UTD are in place and functioning properly. This year, the auditing firm of Moprrison, Brown Argiz & Farra, Certified Public Accountants, have completed the financial requirement of our audit. Mr. Ingram reported that the audit has been presented to the Steward Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) and to the UTD Executive Board. Mr. Ingram acknowledged the work of Ms. Gladys Podnar, UTD's Director of Finance and Operations and the Staff for a job well done during the audit – they worked long hours in making sure that information was available. Mr. Ingram also acknowledged Mr. John Feldman, Manager of Financial Services, AFT and Mr. Mike Benner, General Manager, from AFT.

Mr. Rick Covert, Certified Public Accountant, Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra addressed the Council of Stewards reviewing the audit in its entirety (Financial Statements June 30, 2008 and 2007), and the Required letter of Communications for the Year ended June 30, 2008 (copies were distributed to the Council of Stewards). Mr. Covert reported that in five years the financial well being of the Union has increased – a significant turnaround financially. He stated that UTD's internal process and financial oversight would receive an A+ if we were using a report card.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram announced that many of our members and UTD Executive Board are in Tampa representing UTD at the FEA Delegate Assembly. Mr. Ingram reminded the Council of Stewards that early voting begins on Monday, October 20, and urged everyone to vote for Senator Barack Obama.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

Donations being accepted for Haiti for the victims of the Hurricane

President Aronowitz reported that while at the School Board meeting held yesterday, a surprise visit was made by Rene Preval, President of Haiti who came to the School Board to say thank you for all collections received thus far. UTD is also collecting for Haiti. President Aronowitz acknowledged Marlene Desdunes, UTD Organizer, and thanked her for her work on behalf of those in Haiti. President Aronowitz asked Stewards to bring their donated items to the UTD Building – Haiti needs our help and we will be collecting items for infant and children during the month of October, November and December.

Help for UTD Members! Consolidated Credit Counseling Services

President Aronowitz reported that UTD is offering financial workshops each month to help our members during these difficult economic times. Stewards are asked to share the information in the Council of Stewards packets with their colleagues. The workshops will be held on October 20th, November 13th, December 16th, January 26, February 24th and March 23rd, 2009. President Aronowitz reported that the six sessions will deal with different topics.

Hispanic Heritage Event—October 25, 2008

President Aronowitz reminded the Council of the UTD Hispanic Heritage Event being held Saturday, October 25th, and Westland High School.

Health Insurance Bargaining

President Aronowitz reported that as a result of the survey, over 200 UTD members had responded and had asked to be placed on the Health Care bargaining team. President Aronowitz reported that this evening we would draw six names from those who responded, since we cannot have everyone as a member of the team. In addition to the six names, we will have Artie Leichner, and consultants in the insurance industry and councils as members. President Aronowitz reported that in the survey, 100% ranked health care as their # 1 concern, and 100% also indicated wages as a concern.

The following names were drawn and selected for the Health Care Bargaining Team: Magda Brooks, Marjorie Mitchell, Lisa Sweeting, Elisa D'Angelo, Cesar Cuenca, Sandrell Brown-Simmons, and at the recommendation of Mr. Javier Berezdivin, an alternate was also chosen, Eric Hernandez.

President Aronowitz stated that if Stewards or colleagues have recommendations for health care bargaining to please Email those recommendations to her.

November 4th – Professional Development Day, LOU

President Aronowitz reported that she had signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) regarding Professional Development Day /November 4th, 2008 issue. President Aronowitz stated that you must show up to work from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00, and sign up for the on-line courses that are available. President Aronowitz also stated that you can take professional development if offered at another school – but you must sign in. (The LOU is part of the Council of Building Stewards packet). President Aronowitz asked Stewards to share the LOU memorandum with their principals, in order to make sure there are no questions as to the time on 11/4 of 8:30 to 1:00.

Question/Answer Session followed.

Update on IPEGS

President Aronowitz acknowledged the UTD members of the Joint UTD/MDCPS IPEGS Committee stating that the UTD members had recommended discontinuing IPEGS, which the district did not accept. President Aronowitz reported that one of the big problems with IPEGS has been the issue of goal setting and money for training which we were assured by the district we would have and never did.

Dr. Randy Biro, Director, Educational Policy Department reported that the committee had done an incredible job and as a result of meetings between the UTD leadership we had eliminated goal setting as part of IPEGS. As of right now, you do have the option of goal setting or the IPDP forms. With the IPDP forms you can use the FCAT data. Dr. Biro reiterated that the goal setting component will no longer be an element of the evaluation process, and the IPDP will not be a part of the performance evaluation process for instructional personnel.

Dr. Biro also stated that there would be an emergency meeting of the Joint UTD/M-DCPS IPEGS committee on October 23rd, to modify, and streamline IPEGS. We will also be discussing reducing the levels from four to three. In terms of the evaluation, they will be adding a piece to IPEGS about peer review. As a result, we will have representatives from AFT/Toledo, Ohio to look at the peer review and assist us with this, since they already have a peer review as part of the evaluation process. Dr. Biro stated that President Aronowitz will continue discussions with the district on IPEGS and no revisions will be made until all parties agree. As information becomes available it will be placed on the UTD Website.

Questions/Answer session followed.

Impasse Hearing – November 3rd and November 4th

President Aronowitz reminded the Council of Stewards of the Impasse Hearing which is being held on November 3rd and perhaps on the 4th at the School Board Auditorium.

President Aronowitz is asking our members to wear red and the stickers that are in the folders – honoring our contract. President Aronowitz stated that we would like as many people to attend as possible, but since it is a work day, those who would like to attend perhaps can take a personal day. The UTD Executive Board members will be in attendance as part of the bargaining team.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss it was properly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Karen Aronowitz
President

Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer