

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Building Stewards Meeting
March 19, 2009

Approved Minutes

This regular Council of Building Stewards meeting was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Aronowitz.

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

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of February 19, 2009 as presented. After discussion, motion carried.

Agenda

Special Recognition:

Ella Carson, Winner of the Good Teaching Essay Contest

President Aronowitz recognized the Winners of the Good Teaching Essay Contest. The first place winner was Ella Carson, second place winner, June Johnson and the third place winner Cheryl Cohen.

David Moss, Master Steward

President Aronowitz stated that this year, UTD had reinstated the Master Steward Academy which recognizes outstanding Union Building Stewards for their excellence. President Aronowitz further indicated that a UTD Building Steward is declared a Master Steward when he or she fulfills the programs requirements. The Steward must demonstrate excellence in Leadership Education, Committee Service, Legislative Activist, Union Attendance, Worksite Leader and Elective Activities.

President Aronowitz stated that this evening we are proud to award this year's Master Steward honor to David Moss, UTD Steward at Redland Middle School, and Steward member of the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC). President Aronowitz recognized Mr. Moss with a certificate and a lapel pin. Mr. Moss addressed the Council and indicated he was very proud of his achievements.

FOC Committee Report to the Council of Building Stewards

Mr. Fernando Egea, member of the UTD Steward Financial Oversight Committee, addressed the Council of Stewards, and read the FOC report in its entirety to the Council of Stewards.

Mr. Egea reported that the FOC Committee had met to do the Financial Management Review as well as the Operational Budget and Cash Flow for the 2007-08 last Fiscal Quarter and First Quarter 2008-09. Mr. Egea reported the committee had observed a negative variance in the total amount of FTE's generated – a loss of 945 FTE's from the working budget; our Budget is based on an FTE count of 14,450. Mr. Egea stated that further cuts on administrative expenses and professional services assisted in offsetting this negative variance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram thanked members of the FOC committee for their work and report.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram gave a summary of the key financial points and achievements noted in the report. Mr. Ingram further stated that we are holding strong, as of March 10, 2009 we had a total of 17,059 members.

If Stewards have any questions, they are asked to contact Secretary/Treasurer Ingram.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

E-Activity Issue Update

President Aronowitz stated that we have filed grievances in this issue – we feel our members' freedom of speech and rights have been violated and we are presently holding conversations with FEA Legal and the ACLU about a possible lawsuit.

UTD using Twitter

Mr. Jason Joseph informed Stewards that we are now using "Twitter" which is a new technology whereby important updates can be sent directly to a cell phone or you can view updates on your web enabled computer device. Mr. Joseph stated that we will be using Twitter as a way of communicating up to the minute information. As usual, we will also post information on the UTD Web site.

Support Education Rallies

President Aronowitz acknowledged the UTD members that participated in the "Make our Schools a Priority" rally held at the UCS Arena in Orlando on February 28, and the "Invest a Penny in Education" rally held by the PTA and co-sponsored by FEA in Tallahassee. President Aronowitz reported that she had just returned from Tallahassee and had attended the Rally, and there were over 2000 in attendance. She stated that the PTA had collected pennies but the Capitol police would not allow the pennies to be placed on the steps of the Capitol for fearing that due to the weight, the floor would give out. As a result of this, we received more press coverage and the Rally made the national news. President Aronowitz stated that while in Tallahassee she continued to meet with members of the Dade Delegation in order to make sure that education is held harmless during the budget cuts.

District Proposed Salary Give-Back

President Aronowitz reported that the other unions have done what they feel is right for their members, but we feel that the district has not done everything it can to honor our contract.

A Power point presentation followed which included a brief history of how the process started in June of last year, when Dr. Crew sent a memorandum cancelling the step increases; the impasse hearing and the ruling of the Magistrate; and where we are at the present time with this issue.

President Aronowitz stated that we have not returned to bargaining because we feel that the District is calling us back improperly and that they have not been transparent with their budget numbers. President Aronowitz also stated that we need everyone to be ready to fight and continue to make our position and our concerns clear to the Board, since these decisions will ultimately be decided by their voting in public.

Question/answer session followed.

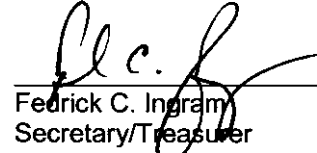
First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

First Vice President Leichner updated the Council of Stewards on various issues, including balanced billing. Stewards are asked to contact Artie if they are having problems with being billed by their insurance for the balances. Regarding the issue of substitutes – schools can hire substitutes even if they are in the red – if they have a problem they can contact the Region.

Adjournment

It was moved by Tom Nunn and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. After discussion, motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fredrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer