

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Stewards Meeting
January 15, 2008

Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the Council of Building Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 5:00 p.m. Florida "Gators" led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Aronowitz asked for a moment of silence on behalf of our new President, Barack Obama.

Adoption of Agenda: President Aronowitz reported that we would be adding a Special Report from the Secretary/Treasurer to the agenda. It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of November 20, 2008 as presented. After discussion, motion carried. It was moved by Esther Garvett and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of December 11, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda

President Aronowitz announced that our Black History celebration will be held on February 21, 2009 at Miami Jackson Senior. Our guest speaker will be Reg Weaver, Past President of the National Education Association.

American Fidelity Assurance Company: Sharon Brady

Ms. Sharon Brady from American Fidelity Assurance Company addressed the Council of Stewards, stating that membership benefits enrollment will begin on January 20, 2009 through March 6, 2009. Ms. Brady also stated that American Fidelity offers accident only insurance; cancer indemnity insurance; long term care insurance; and term life insurance products. Ms. Brady stated that representatives from American Fidelity Assurance Company will be visiting schools to answer questions from members.

President Aronowitz announced the next item of business is the report of the Secretary/Treasurer. If there is no objection, the Chair will dispense with reading the financial Report prepared for the December meeting, at which there was no quorum.

President Aronowitz stated that hearing no objection, the report will be filed with the Secretary. The Council will now hear the current report from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Financial Management Review for November 2008 and Year-to-Date

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the financial report for November 2008 and year-to-date with the Council of Stewards, stating that we currently have 16,933 members and 13,535 FTE's. The UTD Budget is based on an FTE of 14,450 which gives us a negative variance of 915 FTE's. Secretary/Treasurer Ingram stated that expenses on the back lot were not budgeted so we show a negative variance.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram also stated that in terms of Administrative expenses, we have a favorable variance with the Budget due to the continuous control of expenses at all levels. The

procedures of the Organization are consistently followed and all expenditures are going through a very stringent process in order to make up for the negative variance in income dues.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

Legislative Update

President Aronowitz stated that she had been to Tallahassee twice and speaking to the different legislators in trying to have them hold educational harmless from any budget cuts. Both UTD and FEA worked endlessly to block legislation which would have allowed the DOE to come in and unilaterally cut salaries of district employees if the district reserves fell below 2%. President Aronowitz reiterated to the Council of Stewards that this piece of legislation would have destroyed collective bargaining, and that teachers and office personnel are not and should not be the revenue stream for the District.

President Aronowitz stated that Superintendent Carvalho has increased the reserves to approximately 1% which is \$39.5 million. Under the former Superintendent; the reserves went down as low as \$4 million. President Aronowitz stated that the district was prepared for the 4% Governor's holdback. Some capital funding may now be used for operations. The legislature gave the district flexibility through forgiveness of up to \$11 million. Property and casualty can be paid from Capital.

President Aronowitz reported that the PTA/PTSA held a rally at the School Board meeting urging no more cuts and Mayor Manny Diaz spoke at the rally. President Aronowitz stated that what Superintendent Carvalho said at the Board meeting, about not cutting programs, is setting us up again – we are not the revenue stream for education. The \$300 million cut based on scenario is not going to happen, President Aronowitz stated that she will be doing a report and meeting with members of the school board.

President Aronowitz thanked Albert Stellmach for speaking at the School Board meeting and making sure that the issues of art/music teachers are heard.

Impasse Hearing

A video presentation covering the two days of the Impasse Hearing was shown to the Council of Stewards highlighting the remarks of the UTD General Counsel, Mark Richard, and President Aronowitz. The video has been placed on YouTube and it can be viewed on the UTD Website. Stewards are asked to encourage members to view the video.

President Aronowitz stated that the Magistrate will be issuing his ruling by February 2, and it will be heard at the School Board meeting of February 11. We are urging everyone to attend a rally at the School Board on 2/11 — we need and must show our strength and now is the time. President Aronowitz also stated that we have to win the hearts and minds of our community – have them hear our plight. It is extremely important for our message to go out to the community at large and to our School Board Members.

Health Care Package Overwhelmingly Ratified

President Aronowitz reported that our bargaining unit members ratified the Health Care package, with a YES vote of 16,577, and 141 voted no. President Aronowitz acknowledged the members of the UTD Health Care bargaining team: Marjorie Mitchell, Lisa Sweeting, Elisa D'Angelo, Cesar Cuenca, Sandell Brown-Simmons, Eric Hernandez, Chris Radney, UTD Executive Board member, and Dr. Magda Brooks, UTD Executive Board Member.

Questions/Answer session followed.

First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

First Vice President Leichner reported he had attended three meetings with the district regarding the substitute situation– the general consensus is very problematic, perhaps some version of flex time can be used. Mr. Leichner asked Stewards from the elementary schools which are the most affected by the lack of substitutes to have all of their ideas and recommendations emailed to UTD.

Mr. Leichner also stated that he had received reports that administrators are violating the contract and teachers are terrified about losing their jobs. Mr. Leichner reported that any violation of the contract should be reported. We must stand together during these trying times.

Discussion followed.

Special Item from the Secretary/Treasurer: Fedrick C. Ingram

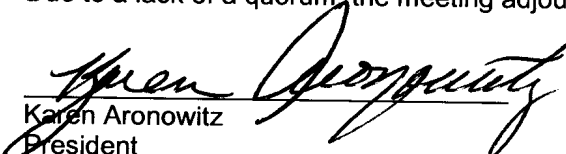
Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that Mr. Beightol had appealed the decision of the Executive Board and Ms Patricia Ireland, UTD's Counsel, had responded to his request, indicating the appeal had been denied. (Copy of the letter from Patricia Ireland, Attorney at Law to Mr. Shawn Beightol is part of the Council folder).

Ms. Linda Sadaka, Steward from Michael Krop Senior expressed concerns regarding the trial procedures and notification. Mr. Tom Landers, also from Krop Senior addressed the Council of Stewards.

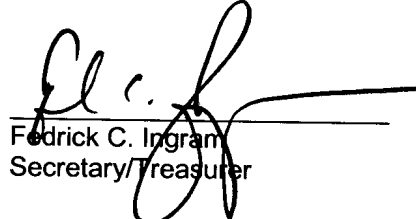
After extensive discussion, it was moved by Tom Landers, to suspend the decision of the appeal, – due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting adjourned and no action was taken on the motion.

Adjournment

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting adjourned.



Karen Aronowitz
President



Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer