

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Emergency Council of Building Stewards Meeting
May 7, 2009

Unapproved Minutes

This emergency Council of Building Stewards meeting was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Aronowitz and a moment of silence was observed.

Minutes: Being that this was an emergency meeting, no minutes were brought up to the assembly for approval.

Agenda

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

Council of Stewards votes to have the Members of the UTD Bargaining Unit Vote on the Superintendent's Offer regarding the 2-3 Day issue

President Aronowitz explained to the Council of Stewards that she was contacted by the Superintendent with an offer regarding the 2-3 days issue. President Aronowitz stated the purpose of this meeting is to decide the questions, as to whether the district's offer on the 2-3 day issue be put to a vote of the UTD Bargaining unit. President Aronowitz stated that the offer itself is not open to debate this evening and she provided the Council with the general provisions of the offer.

President Aronowitz reminded the Council of Stewards, that if the offer does go before the members of the bargaining unit, a Ratification Vote must be held. In either case, the process takes time and we anticipate the days will be taken at the end of the fiscal year – members have to prepare and be ready – this is reality.

Mr. Mark Richard, UTD General Counsel, explained the Superintendent's offer to the Council of Stewards, reiterating that this offer has not been made to any other union. The offer includes that no permanent, full-time employee of the UTD bargaining unit will be laid-off until certain criteria are met and until the money is paid back on October 1, 2009-December 31, 2009 ; Expedited bargaining with pay rates and step progression to be the first on the agenda. Mr. Richard also explained additional offers which are increased UTD/M-DCPS Communication; Critical Issues Task Force involving concerns of the Clerical Education Support Personnel and Paraprofessionals; Expanded time for New Teacher Orientation; Increased Uninterrupted Opt Day Planning Time for teachers.

Mr. Richard reiterated to the Council of Stewards that the decision is difficult, but we need to make sure that whatever decision the Council makes, it will be made in the best interests of our members.

President Aronowitz stated that if the Council votes no, the Superintendent will be informed, and if the vote is yes, she will be meeting in a bargaining session with the Superintendent and advise that the offer will be put to a vote to the bargaining unit members.

President Aronowitz acknowledged and thanked all of the Stewards for being at this meeting, to discuss this important issue. President Aronowitz stated that it is a difficult decision, but whatever is voted on this evening, again, we will have one voice, and leave as one.

Extensive discussion followed on the Superintendent's offer.

President Aronowitz reported on the voting process, stating that Stewards will be asked to write a "yes", if they would like to put the districts offer to a vote of the bargaining unit, and to write a "no", if they do not agree that the district's offer should be put out to a vote of the bargaining unit. After the cards are collected, four Stewards will count the cards and the results of the vote will be announced to the Council.

After the Stewards voted, and the cards were counted, 252 Stewards voted to have the members of the UTD bargaining unit vote on the Superintendent's offers, and 38 voted no.

President Aronowitz thanked the Council of Stewards stating that she will meet with the Superintendent and inform him of the vote. President Aronowitz reminded the Council of Stewards that since the bargaining unit members will be voting, we will have a Contract Ratification process.

President Aronowitz reminded the Council, that we will have the regular Council of Stewards meeting on May 21, for the Adoption of the UTD Budget for 2009-2010.

Adjournment

It was moved by Thomas Nunn, and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. After discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Karen Aronowitz
President

Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer