

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Council of Building Stewards Meeting
February 21, 2008

Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the Council of Building Stewards was called to order by President Aronowitz at approximately 6:00 p.m. Newly elected Representative Oscar Braynon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda: It was moved and properly seconded to have the Health Care Update report moved up on the agenda. After discussion, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: It was properly moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of January 17, 2008 as presented. Motion carried.

Special Item:

Representative Oscar Braynon

President Aronowitz introduced newly elected and UTD endorsed candidate Representative Oscar Braynon to the Council of Stewards.

Representative Braynon addressed the Council of Stewards stating he was very pleased to be in attendance at this meeting. He is a product of Dade County Public Schools; his wife is a teacher at Dr. Michael Krop Senior and a UTD member. Representative Braynon reassured the Council of Stewards that UTD had elected a friend, and every one is more than welcome to see him in Tallahassee during session. Representative Braynon thanked UTD for the support in his election campaign.

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

President Aronowitz reported that we will be involved in a series of activities and we need the involvement of the entire bargaining unit, non-members and members. Stewards will be playing a key role, and as a Union we must act together to get the job done.

President Aronowitz stated that we will be discussing and moving forward with ideas regarding health insurance issues and responses will be crafted so Stewards can be involved and know what is going on. President Aronowitz asked Stewards to be brave and take a stand – when we have Solidarity the union is an effective voice on behalf of all.

Health Insurance Update: Magistrate Hearing Scheduled for March 14th

President Aronowitz informed the Council of Stewards that the Magistrate will hear the case on Friday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. at DCPS. Although there is not a time limit within which the Magistrate must make the decision, we will be asking for an expedited response. The School Board will not have the decision of the Magistrate until the April School Board meeting.

Rally at the School Board – March 12, 2008!

President Aronowitz stated that UTD will be holding a rally at the School Board on March 12th, and we are asking members and non-members to participate. We are asking Stewards to schedule a meeting with members and non members at the school and notify the organizers of the time and date of the meeting.

Mr. Michael Molnar, UTD's Director of Organizing, addressed the Council of Stewards explaining the Health Care Action plan information which is in the Council folders. Mr. Molnar stated that in addition to the Rally on March 12th, we are also considering doing school site demonstrations. If schools are interested in doing the school site demonstrations, they are asked to let Maggie Cayon of the UTD Communications department know so we can have the press cover the events. Mr. Molnar also stated that we are asking members and non members to wear band aids as part of the "Cuts Don't Heal" campaign.

Council of Stewards Meeting March 20 will begin at 5:00 p.m. and we will March to the School Board

President Aronowitz announced that at the Council of Stewards meeting in March, we will be marching from the Temple to the School Board. President Aronowitz recommended to the Council, that perhaps the time of the meeting should be changed from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It was properly moved and seconded by Esther Garvett to change the time of the March Council of Stewards meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. After discussion, motion was adopted.

President Aronowitz reported that we still have problems at the State level pulling money out of this year's Budget. President Aronowitz stated that funding for education is deplorable. She remarked that the Florida Department of Education could be seen as responsible for a form of child abuse for not providing adequate funding for education. President Aronowitz also stated that we would like members of UTD at every School Board meeting – our presence means power. She is urging those members who would like to speak at the School Board to sign up and do so.

Discussion followed.

Secondary School Reform Update

President Aronowitz reminded the Council of Stewards that UTD has not agreed to conduct the Secondary School Reform initiative vote. For schools that have voted, Stewards are asked to call Randy Biro at UTD in order to have the vote invalidated. President Aronowitz also stated that in order to provide an informed choice, Zone Schools for 2008-2009 need to be identified first, and the terms and working conditions of those schools must be negotiated first, prior to any vote on the SSRI. President Aronowitz also reminded the Council that it is important to remember that expansion of continuation of SSRI will have a financial impact on the district, which will be impacted by our current health insurance situation.

Zone Bargaining Update

President Aronowitz reminded the Stewards that we have 39 schools participating in the Zone with a 3-year agreement which is up and we are now in negotiations with the district.

Mr. Joe Minor updated the Stewards with the proposals thus far submitted by UTD during negotiations and a power point presentation prepared by Clarice Petithomme, Steward from Florida City Elementary and member of the Zone bargaining team was shown to the Council. Mr. Minor reported that right now we do not know how many schools they will keep in the Zone but it will not be 39 schools – bargaining has been scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Minor also informed the Council of Stewards that UTD has seven bargaining team members for the Zone, and all are selected by the President of UTD.

Ms. Clarice Petithomme, Steward, Florida City Elementary and Mr. Steven Goldman, Steward Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School, members of the Zone Bargaining team addressed the Council of Stewards. Ms. Petithomme stated that UTD is working very hard in making sure that

negotiations go as smoothly as possible. Mr. Goldman stated that after four bargaining sessions one of the top issues is academic freedom. We have proposals, but M-DCPS have countered our proposal.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Minor reported that all information regarding UTD's proposals and Counter proposals will be on the UTD Website. Organizers will also be visiting schools and speaking to the Staff about bargaining and keeping Zone staff informed.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram recognized Ms. Jacqueline Sconiers, UTD Steward, who is the 2009 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year Winner, who will be receiving a brand new car as a result of her efforts.

Financial Management Review

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the Financials for the Second Quarter 2007-2008 from October 1st through December 31, 2007 with the Stewards, explaining key financial points. Mr. Ingram reported that as of November we had a total of 14,713 FTE's, and UTD's budget is based on an FTE of 14, 200. As of today, we have 18,239 members.

Mr. David Moss of the Steward Financial Oversight Committee addressed the Council of Stewards and reported that the FOC Committee had met on January 24, 2008 at UTD and reviewed the books. The FOC is pleased to announce that there have been no recommendations from the auditors; UTD has received a clean audit. Mr. Moss thanked the UTD leadership on behalf of the Steward FOC Committee (Dr. Fernando Egea and Ms. Carol Haney) for a great job in keeping UTD in financial order.

First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner

Report from the Field

First Vice President Leichner reported that he met with M-DCPS regarding the Level 3 grievance filed pertaining to the electronic grade book issue and its effect on the members of the bargaining unit. We are trying to solve this situation and he will have more information at the next meeting.

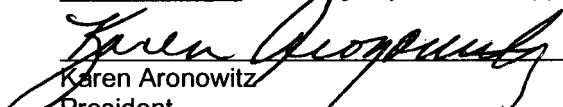
Mr. Leichner stated that one of our clerical members had been placed at the wrong level, and with the involvement of UTD she had received a \$5000 settlement. Mr. Leichner stated that the Steward had been fantastic at the arbitration. Miami Jackson Senior: Mr. Leichner stated he had visited this school and as a result he was in bed for five days – due to sick building syndrome.

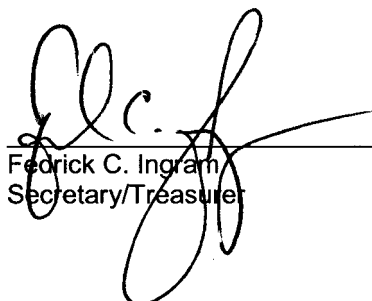
Tiger Raffle:

Karyn Cunningham announced the winners of the drawing: Mr. Steve Almond, and Ms. Karen Uhle. We have recruited ten new Tiger reps this month.

Questions/Answer Session

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.


Karen Aronowitz
President


Fedrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer