

**United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137**

**Council of Building Stewards Meeting  
May 17, 2007**

**Approved Minutes**

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

**Adoption of Agenda:** It was moved by Brian Graefe and seconded by Milton Moore to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Brian Graefe and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of April 19, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

**Agenda**

**Special Items:**

***Congratulations! National Teacher Appreciation Month***

President Aronowitz saluted all of our members who are teachers and are doing an outstanding job.

***Congratulations! 100% Membership: Lenorah B. Smith Elementary School***

President Aronowitz recognized Frantz Prospere, UTD Steward, and Marlene Desdunes, UTD Organizer for the tremendous efforts in recruiting. President Aronowitz reported that UTD will be holding a celebration at the end of the year at the schools.

**President's Report: Karen Aronowitz**

***Update on the Legislative Session***

President Aronowitz reported that this past legislative session was not great for Dade County, because the debate mostly centered on property taxes. In terms of social services there are major programs facing cuts. President Aronowitz stated that if money for property taxes shrinks, then the monies available for salaries shrink also. President Aronowitz reminded the Council that the tax policy is very complicated and we do get paid with tax dollars. There will be a special legislative session to deal with the issue of property taxes June 12- through June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Fortunately, two legislative issues failed that would have had negative results for education: 1) The legislation to break-up schools districts which would have resulted in M-DCPS being split into twenty or more districts. Such division had the potential to destroy the Union and only increase more bureaucracy. 2) Once again there was an attempt to put vouchers back on, which was defeated. President Aronowitz reported that Speaker of the House Marcos Rubio continues the rhetoric of re-write the Sunshine State Standards into "World Class Standards."

### ***MAP Replaces STAR***

President Aronowitz reported that the Governor wanted to double the amount of money put into MAP but it did not happen. President Aronowitz reminded Stewards that the MAP bonus money is not part of the salary, and many of our people are not eligible for this money.

President Aronowitz stated this summer we will be very busy planning the legislative agenda. UTD will not want to begin looking strategically at all issues affecting public education.

### ***Top Membership Recruiter: Beverley Dowell***

President Aronowitz recognized the top membership recruiters: Wanda Santos, Maggie Palmer, Portia Weisfeld and David Mahon. This year's top recruiter once again was Beverley Dowell, who recruited seventy members and she was presented with a designer watch. All of the recruiters were presented with bouquets and certificates.

### ***Recognition of Retiring Stewards***

President Aronowitz recognized Brian Graefe, Coral Park Elementary School, Willie Williams, Amelia Earhart Elementary School, Eva Betterson, Brownsville Middle School, and Ms. Joyce Beamer, Thomas Jefferson Middle School and member of the Steward Financial Oversight Committee.

President Aronowitz thanked each of the Stewards for their dedication, stating that they will be missed and urged each Steward to become members of the UTD Retired Teachers chapter.

### ***Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Fedrick C. Ingram***

#### ***Financial Management Review for Third Quarter 2006-2007 January, February & March 2007 Year to Date***

Ms. Gladys Podnar, Director of Finance, explained the Financial Management Review to the Council of Stewards, reporting on the key financial points and achievements. Ms. Podnar stated that our records indicated that as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, we had a total of 14,630 FTE's. Ms. Podnar also stated that actual results for the first nine months of the fiscal year as well as the projections for the remainder of the year show a positive operating income for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### ***UTD's 2007-2008 Proposed Budget is Adopted***

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reported that the Budget was approved by the UTD Executive Board and then mailed to the Stewards. Secretary/Treasurer Ingram stated that he has been available to answer questions on the Budget and has met with several Stewards who took the opportunity to come into UTD to review various budget areas and ask questions.

A power point presentation was shown, and the Secretary/Treasurer reported that the income dues revenue is based on 14,200 FTE's. There is no increase in the local membership dues, only pass-throughs from AFT/NEA/AFL-CIO, our affiliates.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram answered questions from Stewards.

It was moved by Brian Graefe and seconded by Martin Shapiro to approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget. Motion carried.

President Aronowitz reported that UTD will be convening a Dues Structure committee, and members are always welcomed to participate. She reiterated that members are also welcome to come to UTD to look at the financials. All that is needed is a call to Ms. Podnar and/or Mr. Ingram so they can be available to answer questions.

**First Vice President's Report: Artie Leichner**

***Report from the Field***

**Update on the issue of appliances (refrigerators):** Vice President Leichner reported that he had met with Mr. Woodson today, reiterating that the programmatic needs of the teachers should be taken into account. **5,000 Role Models:** Vice President Leichner reported that several students from the 5,000 role model program had accompanied him today in the office and he showed them how UTD works. **Electronic Grade book:** We are still in discussions with M-DCPS --Vice President Leichner reminded the Council of Stewards that no one can be required to do the electronic grade book.

Discussion followed by Stewards.

Vice President Leichner informed the Council of Stewards that if they had any issues regarding contract interpretations, or questions, or problems to please e-mail him at UTD.

On the issue of the surveys principals are asking members to fill out, President Aronowitz reported that these surveys are *voluntary*.

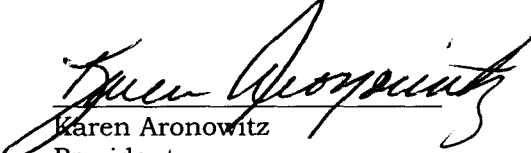
***Oath of Office Given to Stewards, Executive Board, and Officers***

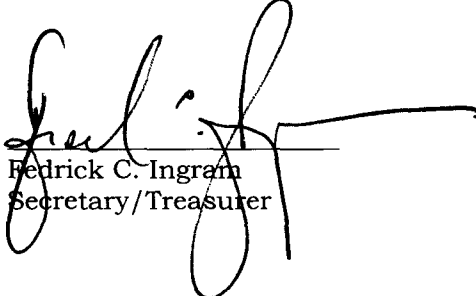
The Honorable Karen Mills Francis gave the Oath of Office to the newly elected Stewards, members of the Executive Board and the UTD Officers, congratulating every one.

President Aronowitz presented Judge Karen Mills Francis with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of United Teachers of Dade.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Valarie Johnson and seconded by Milton Moore to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
Karen Aronowitz  
President

  
Fredrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer