

United Teachers of Dade  
2200 Biscayne Boulevard  
Miami, Florida 33137

UTD Executive Board Meeting  
January 7, 2010

### Approved Minutes

This regular meeting of the UTD Executive Board was called to order by President Karen Aronowitz at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Present: Karen Aronowitz, Artie Leichner, Fedrick C. Ingram, Magda Brooks, Linda Cohen, Joan Cortez, Willette Cruse, Angie Gonzalez, Peggy Green, Peter Hill, Cassandra Holmes, Paul Moore, Thomas Nunn, David Prince, Chris Radney, Ingrid Robledo, Wendi Werther, Antonio White.

Absent: Sony Ambroise (unexcused) Beverley Dowell (excused) Pablo Gomez (unexcused) Valerie Johnson (excused) Maggie Palmer (excused) Shirley Person (unexcused) Sharon Williams (excused)

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

Adoption of Minutes: It was moved by Willette Cruse and properly seconded to adopt the minutes of December 10, 2009 as presented. Motion carried.

### Agenda

#### Issues/Concerns of Board Members

Ms. Peggy Green expressed concerns that schools are still testing every single week. There was also discussion regarding a memorandum that had been received by special education teachers indicating that if they do not take the subject area test they will be out of a job; concerns were also expressed regarding the \$250 cost of the tests and Mr. Molnar clarified that the district will reimburse teachers for the cost of the subject area test; Ms. Cortez had a concern about schools that do not make AYP, can teachers be transferred out –Dr. Biro responded that yes, teachers can be transferred from the school. Ms. Holmes reported that they are being required to post two grades per week per core subject –Mr. Leichner responded that we will get clarification from the district in writing.

President Aronowitz reported that Randy Biro will be addressing all of these issues. All clarifications regarding the regulations will be given to the Stewards to share with our members.

#### President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

- *Race to the Top Update*

President Aronowitz briefed the Board regarding Race to the Top stating that UTD is in discussions with the district; and after carefully reviewing the MOU from the State, there is no way we can sign the document – it undermines our collective bargaining agreement. President Aronowitz also stated that districts do not need the Union's signature to apply although this may mean a loss of points in the grant application but not enough to disqualify the district from applying. If M-DCPS is applying they need to sign the MOU by January 12, and the Florida DOE would sign by January 19<sup>th</sup>. President Aronowitz also informed that the issue is complicated, if the Superintendent signs the MOU and Florida gets the award, we have 90 days to complete the

MOU elements – if ratification by the Union is not obtained then it could go to Impasse—our salary step schedule does not meet the requirements of the MOU from the State and participating districts must complete all of the elements indicated in the MOU. President Aronowitz reported that she will be consulting with Pam Cooper, FEA, Legal Counsel, to check if they can force UTD to open up the contract in order to meet the requirements. It is Karen's opinion that the only way the district can force UTD into contract negotiations is by declaring financial urgency. President Aronowitz also stated that Andy Ford from FEA is working with Eric Smith, Commissioner of Education, in an attempt to have the State modify the MOU – but this is unlikely to happen. President Aronowitz reminded the Board that if the district gets the grant, sustaining programs associated with the grant falls on the district which is very grave concern, due to the lack of money available. President Aronowitz proceeded to read the letter dated January 7 addressed to Eric Smith, Commissioner of Education, from the Superintendent –expressing concerns regarding the implementation of MOU.

Question/Answer session followed. President Aronowitz stated that as soon as we have information from the Superintendent, the Board will be informed. Karen also indicated that the Superintendent of Duval County and the School Board will not sign the MOU unless the Duval Teachers Union sign.

It was recommended by Joan Cortez that we develop a message regarding RTTP in terms of the cost; amount of the grant, and the cost that it will take to implement the grant in the district, especially in terms of the testing.

Question/Answer session followed.

- *North Miami Beach Senior High School Update: Michael Molnar*

Mr. Michael Molnar reported that we have met with all parties involved, and one of the main problems is that the current Steward has not attended Council meetings for the past two years. Mr. Molnar stated that another Steward election will be held and we will continue our presence at the school.

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

- *Financial Management Review (November 2009 and Year-to-Date)*

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reviewed the key financial points, highlights and achievements in the report and stated that we are holding strong – we have 15,866 members for a total of 12,693 FTE's. Mr. Ingram reminded the Board members that effective January 1, 2010 the mileage rate is .50 and the 1099's will be mailed before January 31. Mr. Ingram also reminded the Board that if they submit mileage reimbursement they need to submit a copy of the driver's license and vehicle proof of insurance to Gladys Podnar.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram and President Aronowitz reported that we are in discussions with Crescent Heights regarding extending the lease – the lease is up in August.

Secretary/Treasurer Ingram reminded Board members of the UTD Multicultural event which is being held on February 6, Board members are urged to attend.

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

- Report from the Field

First Vice President Leichner reported that 15 members of the UTD Staff visited Frederick Douglass Elementary school in support of our members -- and we will continue to visit schools where principals seem to rule by fear and intimidation. Mr. Leichner also reported that we have

scheduled a meeting with Scott Clark regarding insurance – we need to find out how the process is working and we are still receiving complaints from our members that United Health Care is overcharging—Artie is handling this with the district.

Adjournment

It was moved by Chris Radney and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting. After discussion, motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

  
Karen Aronowitz  
President

  
Fredrick C. Ingram  
Secretary/Treasurer