

United Teachers of Dade
2200 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Special Council of Stewards Meeting
September 30, 2009

Approved Minutes

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

Minutes:

Since this was a Special Council of Building Stewards meeting, no minutes were brought up for approval.

Agenda

President's Report: Karen Aronowitz

- *Collective Bargaining Update*

President Aronowitz reported that the reason for this special meeting of the Council of Stewards is to get direction from Stewards when UTD goes into bargaining Friday. President Aronowitz stated that we have had six bargaining sessions since June and to date, the district has offered no legitimate salary proposals; they have started discussions on health insurance.

President Aronowitz explained that if we do not have a new health insurance plan in place before January 1st, the District will be required to pay a full 22% increase for healthcare costs to United Health Care. This potential increase could represent a loss of over 5 million dollars per month which could otherwise be used for salaries and benefits. President Aronowitz further explained that we have held the line as best we can, and have done our research to determine the District's actual financial situation. UTD has examined the District's budget line-by-line and we have had experts from AFT and NEA go through the budget and closely analyze the health insurance facts.

Most importantly, President Aronowitz explained, we needed to know what our members' priorities were. She shared with the Council of Stewards the results of the member survey which indicated that the priorities were: Maintain a POS health plan at no cost to employees; Step Advancement; Maintain Health Benefits, Prevent Layoffs, Guaranteed Future Step Advancement.

President Aronowitz stated that the District is in better financial shape than other public entities at this time, much to the credit of the sacrifice made by our employees; however, time is growing short to settle a contract. She reminded the Council of the hardships of other public employees -- City of Miami, Metro-Dade and other entities in Dade County -- including furlough days, lay-offs, and salary cuts. President Aronowitz asked Stewards for a response on behalf of their members: if we go into bargaining on Friday and we feel there is an opportunity to settle a contract if in fact several of our top priorities are met, do they believe UTD should move forward?

Discussion followed.

After extensive discussion, it was moved by Antonio White and properly seconded by Angela Ramsey, to have leadership go into negotiations, and settle if they can get no cost in health care to the employee and a move to increase the steps. Motion carried.

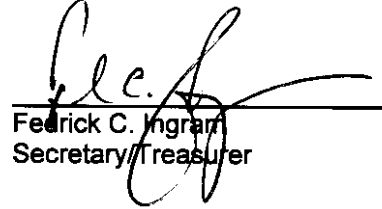
President Aronowitz thanked the Stewards for their patience, stating she had received her marching orders from the membership and Council and she would be bargaining on October 2nd.

Adjournment

Adjournment was moved by Thomas Nunn and properly seconded. President Aronowitz announced that she, the other Officers, and members of UTD Staff would stay after the meeting to answer further questions.



Karen Aronowitz
President



Fredrick C. Ingram
Secretary/Treasurer