

# Voting in the schools

## November 24, 25, 26

# ELECTION EDITION

THE DETROIT teacher



## Election Special

**POSTMASTER: All forms 3579 are to be forwarded to Detroit Federation of Teachers, 2875 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202**

**November 10, 2008**

## 2008 Calendar for Biennial Election of Officers, Executive Board Members and Trustees

**NOVEMBER 10 (week of)**

Special Election Edition of the **DETROIT TEACHER** sent to schools. Campaign Literature sent to schools. Deliver ballot to printer.

**NOVEMBER 17 & 18**

ELECTION COMMITTEE packs envelopes with ballots and other voting materials.

## NOVEMBER 19

BALLOTS AND VOTING MATERIALS delivered to schools via United Parcel Service.

**NOVEMBER 24-25-26**

**VOTING IN THE SCHOOLS.** Ballots to be delivered to DFT Election Committee P. O. Box by U.S. mail.

## DECEMBER 3

Post Office Box CLOSED at Midnight.

**DECEMBER 6**

**TALLY OF VOTES.** Votes will be counted at the DFT Office by Unimatic Election Services under the supervision of the DFT Election Committee.

# DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

*Unofficial List of Candidates in the 2008 General Election for Officers, Executive Board and Trustees*

**DCF — Detroit's Children First**  
**CFC — Caucus for Cantrell Educators for Change**

**MOUF — Moving Our Union Forward**  
**UTR — United for Teacher Rights**

**U&PS — Unity and Progress Slate**  
**IND — Independent**

**PRESIDENT**

Virginia Cantrell	CFC
Steve Conn	U&PS
Ann Crowley	DCF
Gregory Johnson	MOUF
Keith Johnson	UTR

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Felecia Clark	UTR
Vanessa Eppes	U&PS
Diane Smith	CFC
Kecia Lynn Smith	MOUF
Julie Brown	DCF

## VICE PRESIDENT

Sandra Ambrose	CFC
Toni Clover	CFC
Franchott Cooper	MOUF
Marjorie Jones	UTR
Maganda Lambert	MOUF
Mearon Lewers	CFC
Othniel McGriff	UTR
M. Heather Miller	U&PS
Mark O'Keefe	UTR
Geraldine Pappas	DCF
Gregory Phillips	U&PS
Andrew Rodgers	DCF
Donna Rowell	U&PS
Rosemary Sholtz	MOUF
Ann Turner	DCF

**TREASURER**

Israel Agodu	MOUF
William Bowles	U&PS
Franco Iaderosa	CFC
Nadonya Muslim	UTR
Therese Yglesias	DCF

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Valda Adams	UTR
Sonya Alexander-Key	DCF
Ivy Bailey	CFC
Charles Beattie	U&PS
Christopher Beck	MOUF
Shirley Berga	CFC
Becky Bernardo	DCF
Judy Blodgett	MOUF
Alissa Bowens	U&PS
Kurtis Brown	UTR
Terrence Butler	IND
Roberto Castro	U&PS

Carla Clavon  
Diane Crawford  
Anita Daly  
Mark Davis  
Nazzareno Del Greco  
Christopher Dominguez  
Gregory Dunmore  
Nicholas Ellis  
Doris Flaherty  
Marion Frehsee  
Victor Gibson  
Deborah Goodwin-Smith  
Paul Grams  
Kathi Groggin Lewis  
Valeria Hatten-Mathis  
Tom Hedblom  
Sandra Hughes  
Jacqueline Hughes-Ross  
Lorraine Jeter-Grayer  
Sidney Lee  
Pamela McIntosh  
Mark Moroni  
Margo Duncan Nelson  
Wendy Newberry  
Joann Olivache  
Steven Portnoy  
Michelle Purvear

MOUF  
U&PS  
UTR  
U&PS  
CFC  
DCF  
U&PS  
DCF  
UTR  
MOUF  
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DCF  
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MOUF  
CFC  
UTR

Josephine Raupp  
Carolyn Rayford-Blythe  
Dashmire Sadiku  
Lisa Scott  
Charlene Smith  
Corey Stokes  
Brian Sworik  
Mary Jo Tarrien  
Robert Thomas  
Rosemary Tom-Mirjah

**TRUSTEE**

Samele Ambrose	CFC
Kim Bradley	CFC
Demeatrice Brooks	MOUF
Jennetta Clark	UTR
Vincent Garcia	DCF
Ette Garth	CFC
Lillie Gladney	UTR
Vanesska Harris	MOUF
Virginia Jeffress	DCF
Elyse Kidder	DCF
Shirley Morrison	UTR
Denise Smith	U&PS
Patricia White	MOUF

## President

### **VIRGINIA CANTRELL** **Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

Since becoming president I've been faced with \$3 million inherited debt, school closings, membership loss, a dysfunctional, deeply-in-debt school district, and yearly layoffs.

Still, I fought to enforce the contract, reduce class size, cut excessive paperwork, and promote clean/safe schools. I continue to fight for teachers and support staff in order to provide the quality education the students deserve.

I worked to bring DFT, DPS community and parents together for the purpose of improving communication, thus improving the working condition of our educational system.

I brought financial responsibility to the DFT, paid off \$3 million to balance the budget. You asked for change, I delivered change. I'm committed to the struggle so members can have faith and trust in our union.

We need a strong, effective, no-nonsense leader to stand firm against the politics and personal agendas the DFT faces. DON'T BE MISLED. Vote Caucus for Cantrell.

### **STEVE CONN** **Cass Tech math teacher** **United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I have twenty years of unparalleled DFT activism and experience. I am the only Presidential candidate with a strategy for winning the quality union contract and school conditions our teachers need, and for defeating the attacks on public education.

As President, I will publicly insist that the board begin contract negotiations immediately. I will cut my salary in half and use the money to launch a citywide campaign explaining how teacher job security, class size, pay, health care, etc. are essential to school improvement. The DFT will organize rallies, marches, and public hearings this winter and spring to unite teachers, students, parents, and community in a struggle for a superior DFT contract and equal, quality schools. We must unite metropolitan Detroit – city, suburb, public, charter – in one well-funded, stable, integrated public school system that can serve as a national model. For our full campaign statement, email sjconn@msn.com.

# Voting in the schools Nov. 24, 25, 26

### **ANN CROWLEY** **Earhart Middle School Teacher** **Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

I'm a teacher at Earhart Middle School with a background as an educator of Detroit children for 28 years, including four years as an administrator. My family moved out of the city 3 years ago when DPS became impossible to navigate as a parent of a Cass Tech student.

Members of Detroit Children First (DC1) formed seeking an alternative plan for children in public schools in Detroit. DC1 aims to take the Detroit Federation of Teachers into a new frontier as leaders. We are inspired by Green Dot Schools, a nonprofit, unionized school system operating in Los Angeles and the Bronx under the current AFT/UFT President Randi Weingarten. True to the visions of past AFT leaders we see the DFT as a vehicle to form its own public school academies. The expertise of DFT members will bring educational decision making back to the schools and back to the classrooms.

### **GREGORY JOHNSON** **Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

Greg Johnson, DFT Executive Vice President, is humbled and honored to be nominated as DFT President. The MOUF (Moving Our Union Forward) slate is a new generation with a new vision to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD (MOUF)! We don't have to tell you that these are tough times for Labor Unions, and the DFT in particular. The Good News is that the DFT was built for tough times and we need Greg Johnson, a tough and capable leader as DFT President. Greg understands the needs of DFT members, and has assembled a young and capable team of DFT members who will MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD (MOUF). "The urgency of NOW is upon us. Now is the time!" MOUF are the ones we have been waiting for, to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! Vote Greg Johnson as DFT President, and the entire MOUF slate, to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD!

### **KEITH JOHNSON** **United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

As we prepare to enter the most pivotal negotiations in recent history, it is imperative that our Union has a leader who demonstrates the strength, knowledge and experience to negotiate, police, and enforce our contract. My experience and knowledge as DFT's Director of Operations, a negotiator, primary writer of our contract language since 1994, and advocate for the rights of our members, have prepared me to provide the quality of leadership the DFT needs.

I will deliver a leadership capable of making tough, fact-based decisions in these difficult times and focus on effectively building coalitions within and outside of our Union. We cannot afford to entrust our Union's future to anyone who lacks knowledge and experience, especially during contract negotiations. I have assembled a strong, experienced, and capable team of leaders who will be accountable to our membership.

I humbly seek your support and vote for president of the DFT.

## Vice President

### **SANDRA AMBROSE** **Winterhalter Elementary K-8** **Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

I am and have been a Building Rep. for many years at Winterhalter and have served on the Executive Board for 18 years. I have diligently worked and fought for the professional rights of all teachers at Winterhalter and other schools along with the supportive staff.

Today's problems affecting educators have been at their worst. With the rise of the Charter Schools, low enrollment and the deficit of the DFT and DPS. We need a strong leader and executive board to stand firm against these crisis.

I will continue to work hard as I have in the past to insure that Special Education have a voice in the democratic process that affects all teachers.

If I am elected Vice President I will continue my fight for the rights of the Detroit Teachers and Supportive Staff.

### **TONI C. CLOVER** **Turning Point Academy** **Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

My teaching career began in Special Education. I've also taught regular education. All students deserve opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills essential to the development of becoming productive individuals. I've demonstrated my leadership ability as an exemplary teacher, active union member, served on school union committees, building representative, and worked as a Labor Relations Administrator.

I have experienced and observed the increased demands placed on the teaching profession, it has never been greater. There are serious issues to deal with at DPS and we need serious, qualified, experienced educators to resolve these issues. "Educators For Change" has the experience, knowledge and dedication to get the job done. The leadership team of Cantrell and Clover is committed to facing the challenges, as we provide quality representation and service to our DFT members. "Educators For Change" is a constructive partner in education reform and provides strong leadership.

### **FRANCHOTT R. COOPER** **Longfellow Annex** **Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

Franchott R. Cooper, DFT Executive Board member, works at Longfellow Annex, as a School Social Worker, in the Office of Primary Education. I am honored to be nominated as DFT Executive Vice President on the MOUF slate (Moving Our Union Forward).

As your DFT Executive Vice President, I will fight alongside, DFT President Gregory Johnson, to improve your working conditions and safeguard your DFT contractual rights, as our new generation MOVES OUR UNION FORWARD with a new vision!

Greg is intelligent, honest and hard working — a true visionary! As your DFT President, Greg will fight hard for you, and get the job done. He is the only feasible option to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD!

As your Executive Vice President, I will work with Greg and passionately advocate for and serve YOU — the membership! Vote the MOUF slate to Move Our Union Forward!

### **MARJORIE JONES** **United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

It has been a pleasure to serve as Executive Board member under our great President Janna Garrison. I have been a faithful and attentive member striving hard to fight for the rights of our members. I have served as a delegate to the AFL-CIO, MFT & AFT Conventions. I have served as building rep for 10 years and been a union committee member for many years.

These are trying times and we need active members to work toward a common goal to demand and secure what our members want and need. If elected, I will do my best to make our DFT union a union that all DFT members will be proud of.

### **MAGANDA LAMBERT-PLUMMER** **Barsamian Preparatory Center** **Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I am Maganda Lambert-Plummer. I am honored to be nominated as Vice President for the Detroit Federation of Teachers, and proud to be running on the MOUF slate. MOUF is a dedicated New Generation with a New Vision that will bring fresh ideas to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! It is imperative that we MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD. Currently, I work at Barsamian Preparatory Center as a School Social Worker. My union service includes ten years as a DFT Building Representative, American Federation of Teachers Convention Delegate, and AFT Michigan Convention Delegate. As your DFT Vice President, I will serve the membership and work with our new DFT President, Greg Johnson, to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD I am a firm believer in teamwork, and the MOUF slate is committed and dedicated to MOVING OUR UNION FORWARD! Vote the entire MOUF slate, to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD!

### **MEARON LEWERS** **Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

I have diligently worked to enforce the contract. I have fought for the professional rights of teachers during many years as a Building Representative, and as an Executive Board member.

These years have been a challenge! We need an Executive team that is unified in their goal of obtaining the best

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## Vice President

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for their members in wages, hours, and working conditions. I am sincerely committed to positive change with both the Detroit Public School system, and within the union.

This is not the time to elect self-serving, politically motivated members to your Executive Board. Cantrell and her team will continue serving you.

Re-elect Educators for Change!

**OTHNIEL McGRIFF**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

In these days of District uncertainty and discord, the loss of more state revenue as a result of declining student enrollment, the advent of more charter schools on the horizon, and other concerns puts the DFT in a precarious position. For these reasons and more, the leadership of the DFT must be strong competent, unwavering, and ready to challenge the district when ever necessary in support of it's members.

As a former Executive Board member of seven years, building representative for over twenty five years, a member of numerous DFT, AFT, & MFT committees and thirty seven years of teaching experience, I am confident that I possess the knowledge and skills necessary for this position and with your help I will continue to work on those issues that affect our membership.

I ask for your support.

Vote the UTR slate. Thank you.

**M. HEATHER MILLER**  
**Marquette Mathematics Teacher**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

The alliance the DFT must make with the Detroit community and activist students is the key to our progress and survival. At the DFT public hearing "Resolving the Crisis of Public Education" dozens of students throughout the district attended to voice their support for our joint fight for first-class, quality schools. Our fight for lower class size, clean and safe buildings, and top quality books and supplies is also our students' fight. We must support the students' rights to speak out. United we will win.

As a civil rights and union activist I have consistently worked with the community and the youth of Detroit to defend affirmative action, win a quality contract, and stop the school closings and teacher layoffs. Unity and Progress is the only slate prepared to forge these needed alliances that are essential to move the DFT forward. Contact us at [sjconn@msn.com](mailto:sjconn@msn.com). Vote Unity and Progress.

**MARK O'KEEFE**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

As a Certified Public Accountant with 18 years experience in business, I am well qualified to help with the business side of running our union. In the corporate world, I have served as a member of the board of directors, retirement plan trustee, and chief financial officer. My business background will be valuable during contract negotiations.

In thirteen years of teaching in Detroit elementary schools, I have taught homeroom in grades one through

four, and given preps in Accelerated Math and Phys. Ed. I have subbed in grades K through six, and have worked with LD, CI, ECDD, and autistic classes.

My union activities include four years as building rep., four years as alternate rep., and three years on the union committee. I have been a Labor Day parade marshal and was elected delegate to the 2008 national AFT convention and the Detroit Metropolitan AFL-CIO convention.

**GERI PAPPAS**  
**Amelia Earhart Middle School**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

Geri Pappas is a special education teacher at Amelia Earhart Middle School in Southwest Detroit. Since 1974 after graduating from the University of Detroit she has worked as a K-8 teacher for both the Archdiocese of Detroit and Detroit Public Schools. Her jobs have included media specialist, instructional specialist, resource teacher, reading first coach, and basic classroom teacher. She has served as a union representative in two Detroit schools. She is also a literacy advocate believes we need to reach students and their families in an effort to increase literacy skills. She is a member of the International Reading Association, board member of the Michigan Reading Association, and past president of Metropolitan Detroit Reading Council and Wayne County Reading Council.

**GREG PHILLIPS**  
**Frederick Douglass Voc Tech/History**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

As the efforts to destroy public education meet with inadequate opposition by our union, conditions in our schools deteriorate. Now many DPS students are speaking out for better schools. The whole future of the DFT depends on us working with these students.

The DFT recently sponsored a public hearing, "Resolving the Crisis of Public Education in Detroit-Placing Hope and Progress back on the Michigan Educational Agenda." Many DPS students attended. The DFT leaders should have welcomed them with open arms. Many of these young people had great ideas. Moreover they were our students — exactly what the whole evening was about! Instead, DFT officials interrupted and disrespected the students. They even let some anti-union and pro-charter activists take the students' places in line!

The DFT needs elected leaders who will work with the students, not against them. The future of DPS and the DFT depends on this.

**ANDREW RODGERS**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

Like all of you, I chose this profession in order to teach children. In recent years, our schools have been distracted by administrative and executive issues that have nothing to do with the teaching of children. Parents are taking their students out of traditional public schools in droves and the numbers are going to increase further. It is time for the DFT to start thinking outside of the box. While children come first, teachers need humane working conditions in order to teach them effectively. Our experience and input should be valued. The DFT must organize non-profit, unionized learning academies before the

city is overrun by disorganized charter schools who are focused on profit and view teachers as a dispensable.

**DONNA ROWELL**  
**Pelham at Owen Academy School Nurse**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

As a school nurse, I fully understand the need for quality health care for our students. Detroit's schools must be sanctuaries for our students! With the growing economic and social crisis, our union must be fighting for the extra funding needed so that our schools can provide a broad spectrum of human needs. Instead of cuts in funding, programs, and supplies and attacking public education, we must ensure that our schools provide health care, recreation, and adult education, along with art, music, physical education, and extracurricular activities. The DFT must show its commitment to the youth and the community of Detroit and protect our most vulnerable students by making every school a sanctuary for all of our students. Unity and Progress is the only slate prepared to make the fight for sanctuary schools. Vote Unity & Progress. Get our full campaign statement email [marquette6@hotmail.com](mailto:marquette6@hotmail.com).

**ROSEMARY SHOLTZ**  
**Head Start Teacher**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I'm Rosemary Sholtz, a Head Start Teacher; raised in Detroit, in a union family. It's an honor and privilege to be nominated as Vice President of the MOUF slate. I attended Detroit Public Schools, and continue to support the City but with genuine concerns about the future of DPS.

As a Building Representative and past Alternate, I have listened to members who have real issues and concerns that are not being met, using the same old philosophies for the last 20 years.

Gregory Johnson is an inspirational leader and a team player. His strong philosophy about the future of our union and the direction of our DPS schools is amazing. He is the change we need. Together we will help, Move Our Union Forward.

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten." Vote the entire MOUF slate.

**ANN TURNER**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

I've been a teacher for 24 years, 17 with Detroit Public Schools & as Building Rep for 13 years. As the mother of 2 young girls in this system, I've fought for quality public education and against for-profit charter schools. I believe that the time is now, for us, as Union Members with strength, knowledge, integrity, passion & ability to charter our own non-profit schools. Our children deserve quality education and NO ONE is fighting for that! Contracts and working conditions for teachers are integrally connected to the fight for quality. Class size, environment, special services & salary all contribute to how well we educate. Once we shift our focus and place children and education first, these factors will inherently improve. No longer should we let a downtown bureaucracy dictate how to provide education to the children of Detroit. We know what to do – place the children first!

## Recording Secretary

**JULIE BROWN**  
**Phoenix Middle School**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

I was born in Detroit and educated in Mexico at UANL, Monterrey. My certification and experience is Bilingual-Spanish/ESL. Over the course of my 21 years with Detroit Public Schools I have taught young people at Western High School, Earhart Middle School, and currently Phoenix Middle School.

The community in Detroit is much more diverse than the community of 21 years ago. Detroit Children First realizes and embraces the diversity of our Detroit citizens. The foundation of its mission is to bring diversity in the instructional practices back to the classrooms. Detroit Federation of Teacher members know their students and their community. Unionized teachers wish to be a part of a team that recognizes a new sense of hope for children in Detroit Public Schools. Detroit Children First is a new hope for those that have not given up.

**FELICIA CLARK**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

I am eager to serve the Detroit Federation of Teachers as Recording Secretary because I strongly believe in its strength and solidarity. As an active member since 1996, I have seen the DFT, under the leadership of the UNITED FOR TEACHERS RIGHTS (UTR) Caucus, make great strides toward gaining safe working conditions and fair and equitable pay for its members. I truly believe that the United for Teachers Rights Caucus is the Caucus that will Move Our Union FORWARD again. UTR has the experience needed to negotiate a fair and equitable contract and to bring back what is desperately missing at this crucial time—SOLIDARITY!

**VANESSA G. EPPES**  
**McNair Middle School**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I am running because our union needs big changes. We need new leadership with new ideas and energy to fight for the things our members deserve. Job security, good pay and health benefits, low class size, and safety and security for our children and staff. When the DFT and teachers stand up and fight for these things all of Detroit will be with us.

Rather than laying off teachers, we should be hiring more teachers to reduce class size and vastly increase the attention that our neediest students deserve. Especially in this time of deep economic and family crisis our schools must be sanctuaries for our students. Detroit's schools should provide for our students needs; from personal support and counseling, to the best college prep, to health care and recreation. Find out more about Unity & Progress Slate and get copies of our platform statement email: [sjconn@msn.com](mailto:sjconn@msn.com)

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Recording Secretary

(Continued from Page 3)

**DIANE SMITH**  
**Winterhalter Elementary K-8**  
**Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

The Detroit Federation of Teachers must unite under the strong leadership of Virginia Cantrell. With the daily unexpected issues arising from the Detroit Board of Education we need a leader who not only takes charge but handles her responsibilities. That is why as DFT members we must vote for the entire Caucus for Cantrell slate.

As DFT Recording Secretary, the rank-and-file membership not only will have a true professional in charge of recording DFT correspondence, but someone who is accountable to the membership.

I am presently working at Winterhalter, as a Special Education Teacher, and have served on the school union committee for many years.

Let's move this union forward, I urge all DFT members to vote the straight Caucus for Cantrell slate!

**KECIA SMITH**  
**Thomas M. Cooley High School**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I, Kecia Smith an English teacher at Thomas M. Cooley High School, am proud to accept the nomination for Recording Secretary for the MOVING OUR UNION FORWARD slate. This union needs a change in leadership that will MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD into the 21st century.

I began my teaching career at Henry Ford High School where I became acquainted with Gregory J. Johnson. At Henry Ford I observed him stand up for our staff and work conditions. He is a passionate, intelligent, and trustworthy individual who will fight for the teachers and students of Detroit. As your Recording Secretary I will assist Gregory voice your concerns in a skillful manner.

I am proud of the team that we have assembled on the MOUF slate, they are truly professionals with a mission to serve Detroit teachers. Vote for the MOUF slate, your choice for building a stronger union.

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Treasurer

**ISRAEL AGODU**  
**Foreign Language Immersion and**  
**Cultural School**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

After receiving a letter in the mail about my inclusion as a candidate for treasurer in the "moving our union forward" (MOUF) ticket, I began canvassing schools and speaking to some union members about Greg Johnson and Franchott Cooper (candidates for president and executive vice president respectively) on their integrity and leadership qualities. I was impressed on the kind of response I received, and having attended one of their meetings and listened to them speak; I'm convinced that they possess what it requires to move our union forward and return it back to its good old glory.

I am Israel Agodu, a mathematics teacher for ten years, currently at Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural School. I'm a strong believer in accountability and staying in touch with DFT members. With my background in mathematics, I'll endeavor to do a good job as your treasurer if you vote for MOUF slate.

**WILLIAM BOWLES**  
**Western High Librarian**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I vigorously support the student-centered platform of the Unity and Progress Slate. From funding supplies, instruction and infrastructure, to maintaining safe schools, our slate offers the best opportunity for positive change. To get a copy of our complete campaign statement, or to have one of our speakers address your school or union chapter, email marquette6@hotmail.com, or call 313-645-9340.

**FRANCO IADEROSA**  
**Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

Complacency, status quo and "business as usual" are no longer acceptable terms when it comes to our contract. That mentality has weakened us as a union and set us back years as far as wages, benefits and labor rights.

Our contract, at least the majority of its language, was written and agreed upon a long time ago. Its contents and meaning have ceased to make an impact on the working conditions of our brothers and sisters.

We MUST have a strong contract, with precise and meaningful language, a contract that reflects today's work environment, one that allows us to negotiate our wages and benefits from a POSITION OF STRENGTH.

Our schools deserve better, our community deserves better and our children certainly deserve MUCH better. Vote straight Caucus for Cantrell Educators for Change.

**NADONYA MUSLIM**  
**United For Teacher Rights (UTR)**

I've been an educator since 1989. As a social studies teacher, I've always sought out to educate others and empower myself to stand up for my rights and the rights of others. This sense of unionism was instilled in me at an early age. My parents and grandparents have always

supported their union and stood behind their leadership. I am proud to have served as the treasurer of the Mighty DFT. I work diligently to insure that our expenditures, budget and assets are intact. As an executive board member, it is my responsibility to stand up for the membership as a whole. I do not just attend the meetings, I am active in the union. My activities include but are not limited to the following: Phone bank, strike captain, previous alternate union rep. at Southeastern High, Katrina Committee, COPE, and Labor Day Parade Marshall. Support me as I support UTR.

**THERESE YGLESIAS**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

Therese Yglesias graduated from Western International High School then earned a bachelor, teaching certificate and master's degree in mathematics education from Wayne State University. Therese has taught mathematics and technology in the Detroit Public Schools since 1985 after teaching for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Therese has also taught mathematics courses at Davenport University and Wayne County Community College. As a Board Member of the Detroit Old Newsboys Goodfellow Fund and active participant on multiple Goodfellow committees Mrs. Yglesias understands that needs of children extend beyond the classroom. When schools remain open later for the community, not only do students benefit from after school programs but organizations can provide their services to neighborhoods more effectively. Community use of school facilities not only benefits program participants but promotes a sense of ownership and responsibility in the neighborhood keeping the needs of Detroit Children First.

Executive Board

**VALDA ADAMS**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

I have been employed by DPS as a Social Studies teacher for almost 30 years in middle schools and have been a union representative for fifteen years. Since joining UTR, I have been a delegate for MFT and AFT conventions, along with being a 14th Congressional precinct delegate.

It is important for all members to work in unity.

As a executive board member, I will do my best to serve the membership in full capacity.

I will do my best to help lower class size, enhance services for children and teachers, push that more policies are implemented to have safe schools and use my professionalism and willingness to push our union in the right direction.

We need new leadership to make a change, now.

Please vote for me and the UTR Slate. It's time for a change.

**SONYA ALEXANDER-KEY**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**  
No Statement

**IVY BAILEY**  
**Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

I am once again seeking a position on the Executive Board on the Caucus for

Cantrell Slate. My time as an Executive Board Member has passed quickly. We put in a lot of hard work, but believe me there is much work still to be done. I will continue to speak and work on behalf of all our members when no one else will. I will continue to tenaciously represent the membership with honesty and integrity. I will continue to stand firm on issues that affect the entire membership. As always, "I will say what I mean and mean what I say." I work for you!

**CHARLES THOMAS BEATTIE**  
**Marquette Middle School Science**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

The Detroit Federation of Teachers must do more to defend, protect, and encourage activism of its union representatives and members. As a DFT executive board member I will ensure that member's rights are protected from overzealous principals who feel they can violate our contract. As the building representative at Marquette I have consistently participated in DFT rallies, protest, and membership meetings and will actively encourage other members to do so as well. A strong and vibrant union is our best defense to protecting our rights and stopping the outrageous behavior of some administrators in DPS. The upcoming contract negotiations must be open to all members and our demands must be discussed and vote on democratically at an open DFT meeting. Vote Unity and Progress and get our slate material or arrange for a slate speaker for your school at [marquette6@hotmail.com](mailto:marquette6@hotmail.com).

**CHRISTOPHER BECK**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I, Christopher Beck, have been a teacher with Detroit Public Schools for fifteen years. I'm proud to be teaching in this District. We already have some excellent schools, and one key to increased excellence is a staff of teachers who feel appreciated, not only by the students, but by their employer. It's the DFT that must guide the Board in how to appreciate the teachers, and it is also up to the DFT to be responsive when its members call or send e-mails.

Mr. Greg Johnson and the *Moving Our Union Forward* slate are the best choice to serve the DFT membership in these important ways, thus I am proud to be part of the slate. With Mr. Johnson we can return to a DFT that represents the interests of the membership, communicates the Union proceeds regularly, and negotiates gains rather than concessions. Let's begin *Moving Our Union Forward* now.

**SHIRLEY J. BERGA**  
**Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

We campaigned on bringing positive change. Some initiatives follow:

- Having AFT staff examine books and give guidance on millions owed.
- Escalated hearings on the stack of outstanding grievances.
- Initiated collaboration with DPS Adm., parents, students, officials, organizations and members to improve education.

We know smaller class size, clean safe buildings, consistent code of conduct enforcement, certified teachers in all classes, books, supplies and materials, parental support, and involvement are

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# Executive Board

(Continued from Page 4)

but a few pre-requisites for sound educational programs. Once there is a system in place that “works” families will bring children to our doors!

President Cantrell continues the fight for change, improved working conditions, service to members, and educational excellence. VOTE STRAIGHT CFC!

**BECKY BERNARDO**

**Detroit’s Children First (DCF)**

I have taught in Detroit Public Schools for 11 years. I believe that children must always come first and if they do then a teacher’s job can be done with excellent results. If children are first, class sizes are small, facilities are clean and safe, necessary books and supplies are available and parents are involved. If children are first, programs for children are abundant and adequate staffing for specialized needs are in place.

**JUDY BLODGETT**

**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)  
Henry Ford High School**

I, Judy Blodgett, as a member of the MOUF slate, accept the nomination for executive board member to the DFT. I think it’s time for a change! I’ve been an English teacher for ten years and am currently teaching at Henry Ford. Things have gone from bad to worse as far as supplies, policies, and conditions are concerned. I’ve complained, mumbled, and grumbled. I’ve had enough! This time I’m going to be part of the solution. I don’t want to just take a stand. I want to create action. The one thing DPS has going for it is its students. They are too beautiful to lose. We owe it to them to make this district better. It has to be the teachers. It has to be this union because no one else seems to be doing it. I believe Greg Johnson and MOUF will help make this union and district better.

**ALISSA BOWENS**

**Clark Elementary School  
United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I have worked as a DFT member for almost 13 years. I have served on the union committee at Clark Elementary for seven years. I am concerned about the treatment of our teachers, students, and our school system in the future. I am for change not only in our nation but also in our district. If I am elected I will fight for the rights and what is owed to us as our contract states. Get the complete election statement of the Unity and Progress Slate at [marquette6@hotmail.com](mailto:marquette6@hotmail.com).

**KURTIS BROWN**

**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

It is my opinion that DFT is in dire need of proven leadership. Keith Johnson, former V.P. of UTR, provides that proven leadership. Keith has shown to have the knowledge base, work ethic, and a vision of the proper direction our district must pursue. I am in support of the platform that Keith has set forth and am willing to put in the work necessary to accomplish those goals. Through the experience of UTR and the enthusiasm of new members to the ticket, I believe we possess that perfect combination to bring

DFT back to prominence in our community. My goal along with UTR is to create a learning environment in which all students will have an opportunity to meet their full potential. We intend to do so by making the goal a reality.

**TERRENCE BUTLER**

**Western International High School  
Independent (IND)**

Thank you membership for allowing me the opportunity to present myself as an independent candidate for the Executive Board of the DFT. With the viability of our Union at stake, I feel that I am uniquely positioned to lead our organization into a new era of collective bargaining. I am a ten-year veteran DPS teacher with experience in both middle and secondary schools. I am currently the Building Rep at Western International High School where I confront on a daily basis the crisis in public education. In uncertain economic times, the critical issues affecting our membership must be at the forefront of our efforts. Maintaining the integrity of our profession must be our focus. I am asking for your vote, confident that I am capable of serving the varied interests of our membership.

**ROBERTO CASTRO**

**Western High School  
United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I’m running for the Executive Board of the Detroit Federation of Teachers with the Unity and Progress slate, because I have known Steve Conn since my student teaching at Cass Tech 15 years ago and can confidently say that Mr. Conn is a dedicated teacher, a proven leader, a firm advocate of the right of the children of Detroit to quality education and a strong community activist in defense of public education. Public education is under attack throughout the country and it is up to us to stand in defense of what we inherited; so we can pass on to our children, if not better educational institutions, at least the model of the ways to defend what has been trusted to us, which many of us take for granted. We are in front of tough times ahead; it is strong and experienced leadership what we require to deal with adversity.

**CARLA CLAVON**

**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I, Carla Clavon, a Pre-K teacher, have been with the board since 1993. I proudly accept the nomination of Executive Board Member on the MOUF slate. My family has served DPS as administrators and teachers over the last forty years.

As teachers we continue to fight for things we need to educate our students. Many teachers haven’t been given textbooks needed to give our children a quality public education. As an executive board member I plan to aid Mr. Johnson on improving conditions for teachers and students.

Gregory Johnson has dedicated many years working to serve teachers to better our work conditions. He is committed to Moving Our Union Forward. As an Obama supporter, I realize we need change. I believe Gregory Johnson will bring about the change we need to Move Our Union Forward. Mr. Johnson will bring the new energy and vitality we need! Vote the MOUF slate.

**DIANE CRAWFORD**

**Munger School Social Worker  
United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

My name is Diane Crawford. I have been a Detroit substitute teacher and am currently a social worker at Munger elementary. I am running to effect positive change within the Detroit Federation of Teachers. I have been active in the community and feel that the DFT needs to become more active to let the parents and the rest of the community know the barriers that members face and how we can effect change together. I believe everyone can help be it active or passive. It’s essential that we as a union collaborate with our parents and the community. One thing is certain, we cannot continue with business as usual. Understanding our commonalities will move us forward.

We must understand and intervene politically at the local, state, national, and international level to be truly effective. Now is the time; we can move forward, onward and upward. Vote Unity and Progress.

**ANITA D. DALY**

**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

I’m running on the UTR slate for Executive Board. I’ve previously been on the Executive Board. My previous experience, I feel, has given me more than adequate experience to fight for your rights as a teacher.

I’ve worked for the DPS as a kindergarten teacher for the past 22 years. Other experiences with the Union are:

- AFT Michigan Administrative Board
- AFT Delegate to Conventions
- AFT Michigan Delegate
- Labor Day Parade Marshall
- DFT Building Rep.
- Building Rep Dinner Committee

I believe that I’m a strong delegate for all Teachers Rights, especially as an Early Childhood Advocate for Kindergarten & Preschool Teachers. My entire 22 years with the Union has given me, both volunteer and delegate duties, a strong, united base for fighting for Teachers Rights. I hope you will vote the entire UTR slate, because we need a fair and workable contract which Keith Johnson will be able to get for us.

**MARK DAVIS**

**Renaissance High School  
United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

I have served nineteen years with DPS and I have taught/counseled students at Mumford, Northern, Murray Wright, Ann Arbor Trail, and Frederick Douglass.

The number one problem in this district is lack of unity. The current DFT leadership has little knowledge of the particular problems that are unique to each teacher, each school, and each group of students throughout this city. As a result of not having a clear grasp of the problems due to not listening, we are in a state of disarray as a union. We must restore the unity if we are going to have a chance at survival.

I am with this union not to roll back or fall asleep while the hard fought gains obtained by the forefathers of this union get washed down the drain. We must stand together more now than ever before. We must be committed toward unity.

**NAZZARENO (NINO) DEL GRECO**

**Denby High School Counselor  
Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)**

I believe these are very challenging times for the DFT and DPS. Together we must ensure the stability of the educational process in this city. We must work together to retain and recruit students in our public school system. We can achieve this by ensuring a safe and quality education for all our students. We must also retain and recruit the best teachers by making sure that our teachers receive the same level of compensation as teachers in surrounding districts.

DPS Teacher for 12 years  
DPS Counselor for 25 years  
DFT Union Committee Member  
DFT Alternate Union Representative  
MFT Quest Conference 2000  
MFT Convention Delegate 2008  
AFT Convention Delegate 2008

**CHRISTOPHER DOMINGUEZ**

**Detroit’s Children First (DCF)**

Bachelor of Arts & Science  
Univ. of North Carolina at Asheville  
Major: Psychology  
Teaching Certificate  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
“General Science” Major (Grades 7-12)  
University of Michigan-Dearborn  
Pursuing:  
Masters Degree “Educational Technology”  
University of Michigan-Rackham  
(10 credit hrs accomplished) Program

**GREG DUNMOREI**

**Cass Technical High School  
Social Studies**

**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

Public Education is in a state of crisis! One of the greatest investments that any of us can make is to uplift education in the public sector. During these trying times, we as a well established organization must be militant in our demands for those things that promote excellence in our school system. As highly trained educators, we have earned the right to help direct our school system on the right path. We must not allow anyone to disrespect our collective ability to give outstanding advice and have real action taken based on our professional expertise. Based on the adage: *Action speaks louder than words*, I hope to make an active contribution by serving as a representative on our great union’s executive board.

**NICK ELLIS**

**Detroit’s Children First (DCF)**

I have been an Art teacher in Detroit Public Schools for 31 years. I am part of Detroit Children First because I want change to come in time to save the children we teach today. Too many generations have been lost and it is time to stand up and challenge the status quo. Enough is enough. Top down management misses the world our children live in today. Direct decision making and delivery of funds must happen at the building level. Teachers, community, administration and the learners all know what will work for them. Let us lead the way to a better day for Detroit youth.

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Executive Board

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**DORIS M. FLAHERTY**  
**Earhart Middle School**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

I have been a Detroit Public Schools teacher in secondary schools for 26 years and a DFT Building Representative for 19 years.

I work feverishly for DFT members at my school to assure that their rights will not be eroded by school administrators.

I am an advocate for fair and just treatment as well as smaller class size, and a fervent believer that no child should be left behind.

I am seeking your vote as an Executive Board Member because I possess the traits you would like to see in a candidate seeking this position.

I am tireless in pursuing just treatment, resilient against attacks on our contract, understanding of teachers' needs and rights. Those who have worked with me over these many years in DPS have found a trustworthy and sincere compatriot who is both eager and, in fact, exuberant in promoting the best interests of our fellow teachers.

**MARION FREHSEE**  
**Noble Middle School**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I am Marion Frehsee, a proud DFT member and teacher at Noble Middle School. It is with great honor that I accept the nomination for DFT Executive Board member on the MOUF slate. I am a deeply committed and concerned DFT member. As your elected DFT Executive Board member, I will work with our newly elected DFT President, Greg Johnson, to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! The MOUF slate is a growing movement of vibrant, young, and deeply committed DFT members—A New Generation with A NEW VISION, who will MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! I am committed to serving our membership and safeguarding our contractual rights. I believe that all children should receive a good, quality, top-notch public school education. As the MOUF slate MOVES OUR UNION FORWARD, we move our children forward, because “teachers want what children need.” Vote the entire MOUF slate to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD!

**DEBORAH GOODWIN-SMITH**  
**Henry Ford High School**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

I am Deborah Goodwin-Smith, a Teacher at Henry Ford High School. My career has spanned 21 years. Western High School is my alma mater. I received my Bachelor's from Western Michigan University, and a Master's from the University of Detroit. My son is a DPS graduate and my daughter currently attends Ludington Middle School. Active membership include my church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. I have served on the School Union Committee and North Central Accreditation Team at Henry Ford. Facilitating workshops designed to ensure the district's compliance with current legislation has prepared me for educational changes that are on the horizon. Change will only

take place through collaboration and innovation. Strong voices and a united effort are required to “Move Our Union Forward”. I stand ready to add my voice.

**PAUL GRAMS**  
**McNair Middle School**  
**United & Progress Slate (U&PS)**

Please read the Unity and Progress campaign statement — the only plan for taking our union forward in these difficult times. The statement includes a political action agenda. Our union currently has no political agenda. The statement includes a plan for winning a quality contract in 2009. Our union currently has no plan for bargaining. The statement includes a plan for uniting teachers and community. The current DFT leadership has only taken such action when pressed at union meetings by the members of our slate.

Most importantly, the statement calls for the DFT to fight charters and surrounding districts, such as Ferndale, that set up separate, segregated schools only for Detroit students in order to profit from the crisis in DPS. We need to stop this outrageous practice, and unite metro Detroit in a fight to overcome segregation and establish one unified, well-funded, financially stable, racially integrated metropolitan school district.

**KATHI GOGGIN-LEWIS**  
**Ann Arbor Trail Magnet School**  
**Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)**

My name is Kathi Goggin-Lewis and I am a Preschool Teacher presently working at Ann Arbor Trail Magnet School with the DPS Great Start Readiness Program.

As a member of the DFT for over 20 years, I too wish to see our union regain strength while moving forward with vigor, values, vision, and leadership that has the proven experience to preserve and extend our rights. As your president, Gregory J. Johnson would serve with honor, fresh vision, and an extensive background of experience with DFT.

A solid, strongly organized unit of rank and file members makes for better contracts. Gregory Johnson and his team will involve our membership so we can build member power and bargain more effectively. He is devoted to fighting for the rights of every member, everyday, in every way. I would be honored to work with such dedicated professionals. Please vote the MOUF slate. Together We Build!

**VALERIA HATTEN-MATHIS**  
**Mumford High School**  
**United for Teachers Rights (UTR)**

For more than 16 years, I have committed myself to the integrity and virtue of the UTR. I still believe that the UTR serves everyone above and beyond what is required. I was a Building Rep at Mumford High School for 16 years and was voted in each time with an overwhelming majority vote. I have been a delegate to the American Federation of Teachers since 1990. I have served on the election committee for more than four terms, while working numerous phone banks for every local, state and national election. I also volunteered to be a strike captain during our last work stoppage. Each Labor Day holiday you can find me walking in the Labor Day Parade. I have served on the high school prep/lunch committee. My overall union

experience and commitment qualifies me to serve you on the DFT Executive Board.

**TOM HEDBLOM**  
**Detroit's Children First (DCF)**

This is my 15th year with DPS as a unionized teacher. I have been employed with the city since 1969 when I joined the Police Dept. I've been involved with the future of City's youth, plus with our union's status, both of which are of great concern and require immediate attention.

There are concerns and issues that must be adequately addressed to solidify the positive future of the rank and file of our union so as to maintain the exemplary integrity we rightly deserve.

My objectives will be:

- Maintain camaraderie of our unionized membership
- Provide the best possible care and services for our families
- Encourage educational professionalism and realism with administration
- Investigate the strains and inconsistencies of the district budget
- Establish confidence and cooperation with the citizens of our city

Incorporated with the approval and assistance of our leaser, I'll continue to challenge issues for the benefit of our membership.

**SANDRA HUGHES**  
**Van Zile elementary School**  
**Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)**

In seeking your support for the office of DFT Executive Board, I will do my very best to be a strong and positive voice for all DFT members. I am passionate about making our union an organization that effectively addresses the needs of all DFT members.

My background qualifies me for this position

- DPS Teacher for over 30 years
- Building Rep for 25 years
- DFT Executive Board
- DFT Election Committee
- Delegate for the AFT and MFT conventions
- Currently working on several union committees.
- Master's Degree in Administration Leadership

As a current Executive Board member I will continue to work to achieve parity for Teachers on all levels. The same union dues should yield the same benefits. Our union must work proactively with parents and community to reform education. I am committed to working hard to accomplish this. I ask for your vote and support for the Virginia Cantrell slate.

**JACQUELINE ROSS**  
**Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)**

This economic and political climate calls for experience, integrity, and responsible leadership. The issues of student performance, curriculum requirements, work environment, inadequate resources and declining student enrollment must continue to be the priority of this union! This “Call to Action” must remain at the forefront, even in these turbulent times. We must remain that beacon of hope and shining example that proves: Public Education Works!

My position of service as an Executive Board member has given me an appreciation for the principles that our union

must stand on. I am more prepared and committed to continue the struggle to maintain the faith, trust and integrity that our current president, Virginia Cantrell has restored to this union's leadership.

Homeroom teacher — 24 years, Executive Board member, AFT-MI Vice President, Building Rep., COPE Supporter, Mentor and Supervising Teacher-15 years.

Don't turn back the clock — Vote “Educators for Change.”

**LORRAINE JETER-GRAYER**  
**Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)**

I'm seeking your support for the office of DFT, Executive Board. I'll continue to be a strong and positive voice for all DFT members. I'm very passionate about making changes that address the needs of all DFT members. I've been an active member since 1992. I've served as a building representative, alternate, and committee member. I'm a delegate for the American Federation of Teachers, Michigan Federation of Teachers, and the Metropolitan AFL-CIO.

During my tenure as a union member, I've fought for providing a safe environment; better working conditions and addressing the importance and the need for smaller class size. When I am re-elected, I will continue to work proactively with the coalition of unions and the community to reform education. I will work tirelessly to ensure equality for our union and to strengthen our contractual agreements with DPS.

I'm asking for your vote and support for the entire slate.

**SIDNEY LEE**  
**Pershing High School**  
**Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)**

Hello, my name is Sidney Lee. I work at Pershing High School as a mathematics teacher. I am running for the executive board. The position of treasurer was not for me. I want to spend my time advocating for high school reform that centers on teachers, teacher's teaching, and students learning. The Cantrell caucus spent the last 2 years struggling to stabilize the DFT. We have done that and now must focus on the educational aspect of the teaching profession. We have changed, but those who remain do so with Union in mind and do the hard work it takes to keep our union strong despite the many obstacles we faced. Give us more years and a shot at negotiating a fair and equitable contract in these troubled times. Solidarity forever.

**PAMELA MCINTOSH**  
**Teacher at Emerson Elementary/Middle**  
**Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)**

I am a first grade teacher who has served for 2 years at Woodward elementary prior to its closing. I now teach at Emerson and have exciting opportunities ahead of me. In addition to teaching elementary school I am also an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University in the Department of Education. One of the reasons I chose to run with Virginia Cantrell, on her caucus, is that I want to be part of a great future for the teachers that I train. As an Executive Board member I can help to provide the best working conditions for the staff as well as the best learning conditions for the students.

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Executive Board

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With your vote I can continue to provide support to the current teachers as well as those of the future.

MARK A. MORONI

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

In the six years I've taught in the Detroit Public Schools a lot has changed. I began my career as an elementary home-room teacher. I currently teach special education, and along with many other low seniority teachers, was afforded that opportunity due to the UTR caucus' negotiations to retain and retrain teachers whose certification was no longer needed to fill vacancies within the District. The current Union administration appears to not be fighting as hard as UTR historically did to preserve member's rights. As a proud Union member I want to bring back unity and power to all members.

MARGO DUNCAN-NELSON

Detroit's Children First (DCF)

Hello, my name is Margo Duncan Nelson. I am the mother of two children both which attend Detroit Public Schools. I am not a product of Detroit Public Schools but have been in the Detroit area for 18 years of which 15 I have been a teacher. It always gives me great pleasure to reach and teach young men and women. I get the greatest pleasure out of seeing youngsters grow up and become positive productive citizens. Our goal as educators should be to keep them safe and teach the children, but so many times we lose sight of that and they are the most important component of a successful school district. We have placed other less important issues in the forefront but we need to constantly remind ourselves that if there are no children then there is no need for teachers.

WENDY NEWBERRY

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

My name is Wendy Newberry and I would love to serve and represent my sisters and brothers as an executive board member of Detroit Federation of Teachers. I will fight for the professional rights of teachers.

Serving as a building representative, vice president of Michigan-AFT, delegate for the MFT and AFT conventions and on the AFL-CIO, I feel I'm quite knowledgeable of current issues affecting our profession. I will use my position to solve problems that are important to us as educators.

Being a special education teacher I will make every effort to speak on issues affecting our students.

Please vote for the entire UTR, (United for Teacher Rights), slate and we will fight to defend our jobs, our unions, and our schools. Vote for a new leadership team UTR, (United for Teachers Rights). We will represent you well.

JOANN OLIVACHE

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

Joann Olivache, DFT member for over 28 years, graciously accepts the nomination as an Executive Board Member for the MOUF (Moving Our Union Forward) slate. I am elated to be nominated to the MOUF slate, a slate that supports CHANGES and NEW

VISIONS. Along with Greg Johnson, a capable and skillful leader as the DFT President, we will once again gain the respect that this DFT was built on. Vote Joann Olivache, and the entire MOUF slate. Now is the time to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD.

STEVEN PORTNOY

Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)

When I was hired by DPS as a school psychologist in 1988 there were 188,000 students, about 12,000 DFT members, and DFT negotiated a 6% raise the next year. Boy, how things have changed in twenty years. I've seen the district deteriorate at an alarming rate due to unprecedented corruption and mismanagement by previous administrations and school boards. Predictably over the years DPS has attempted to balance their budgets on our backs. Raises have dwindled to virtually nothing and working conditions are often dangerous and unhealthy. All the while, the powers that be seemed to be oblivious to the needs of the children, the parents and teachers.

Virginia Cantrell has spent much of her first term putting out fires and forging strong relationships within the community at large. As an executive board member, I will vigorously help her fight for higher wages, smaller class sizes, classroom materials, health care and a better future.

MICHELLE PURYEAR

McColl Elementary School

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

DFT members, the Detroit Public School District is in a crisis. Due to a lack of leadership and no plans to improve student achievement, we are in danger of losing even more students to charter schools. This will result in even more teacher layoffs. We need a union that can unify and mobilize our membership so that we can effectively deal with the overwhelming problems we are facing. Our next contract talks with DPS are going to be the most critical in our union's history. We must have a strong leader who can effectively negotiate our contract. As President of the DFT, Keith Johnson will get the job done. He has already assembled a group of qualified people that are committed to this membership and the students of DPS. The members of UTR are ready to serve. STRONG PROVEN LEADERSHIP, VOTE UTR!

JOSEPHINE RAUPP

Munger Elementary School

Caucus for Cantrell (CFC)

As a current DFT Executive Board member, I seek your support for another term. During my 26-year career as an educator with DPS I have served as a delegate to the AFT National Convention, AFT Michigan Convention, as union committee member for 16 years, and as building representative of Munger Elementary for 10 years.

My priorities of concern that I will continue to address are competitive wages and benefits for all DFT members, clean and safe schools, smaller class size, adequate books and supplies, influx of charter schools, and the lack of funding from federal, state, and local government for public education. During the current economic crisis, we need your help to participate in the political

process to demand and secure these common goals. We need a strong and positive union so I ask you to vote for the entire slate of Caucus for Cantrell: Educators for Change.

CAROLYN RAYFORD-BLYTHE

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan she graduated from Mumford High School. After receiving her Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University, she has taught for over twenty-six (26) years in Detroit. Twenty-four (24) of those years she has been teaching at Henry Ford High School. She has been diligent in teaching and providing a quality education to her students in spite of the familiar unreasonable obstacles of not enough textbooks, limited equipment, and equipment in need of repair/replacement. As a classroom teacher she has seen administrators come and go, each with their own agenda, which did not put children or the process of education.

Leaving education from 1975-1983, she worked as a Contract Specialist, contracting with private and public training institutions, to provide classroom training and job placement to eligible participants. In this capacity she reviewed RFPS (request for proposals) presented recommendations for approval to the Board of Commissioners and monitored approved contracts.

DASHMIRE SADIMU

Detroit's Children First (DCF)

I have been a Physical Education teacher with DPS for 9 years. I am certified to teach P.E., Health, and Recreation and Sociology. Educationally, I have earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education at York University in Toronto. I have also completed the Master of Educational Leadership program at Wayne State University.

I support the vision of an alternative plan for implementing instruction to our children in Detroit. This alternative features highly qualified, unionized, DFT members operating under a humane contract collaborating equally with administration and the community to meet the needs of our children. This plan sets into motion the incorporation of public school academies run by the Detroit Federation of Teachers.

LISA SCOTT

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

Greetings DFT members! My name is Lisa Scott and I am requesting support as I run for an executive board position. I have always believed in the necessity and effectiveness of organized labor. I began my involvement with human rights organizations while attending Western Michigan University. Following my graduate studies, I worked in various human service agencies. I am committed to protecting our rights and enforcing our contract. For the past 10 years I have served as a union representative/alternate. Because we are facing times as never experienced before, it is imperative to support those with a proven track record and a new vision. I am a school social worker and have been employed by DPS since 1996. A vote for me is true solidarity!

CHARLENE SMITH

Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)

Most recently I have served the DFT as an executive board member. I have worked to put the DFT on a solid path to financial soundness. In keeping with the AFT mission, I would like to continue an effort that will bring together all DFT members to assist and support one another, strength the school system in which we work, and improve the quality of services we provide.

COREY STOKES

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

Although experience is a great teacher, youth is not always wasted on the young! The experience of the previous cabinet has led us to this sad day in the history of our union and it is time for something new! It is time we began MOVING OUR UNION FORWARD! It is with that fact in mind that I have accepted a nomination to the executive board as a member of the MOUF slate. My name is Corey Stokes. I am passionate about our children and I am passionate about our profession. In my 11 years of service in DPS I have served 3 years as Alternate Building Rep and 2½ years as Building Rep. I was also elected as a delegate to the American Federation of Teachers Conference. Under the vision of the MOUF slate OUR union can ensure that every child receives a quality public school education.

BRIAN SWORIK

Earhart Middle School

Detroit's Children First (DCF)

I teach Physical Education at Earhart Middle School. I have been teaching at the middle school level for 14 years and am certified K-12. I completed my undergraduate studies at Central Michigan University where I became their first student to be simultaneously licensed to teach in both Michigan and Ontario. I later went on to complete graduate degree in Sports Administration at Wayne State University. I was nominated by the faculty for the National Dean's List. Recently I graduated from the Driver's Education Certificate Program at Wayne State University.

It is my intention to run for the Executive Board and maintain a high level of professionalism as we set out towards achieving our goals in educating Detroit's future leaders.

MARY JO TARRIEN

Detroit's Children First (DCF)

I have always loved the challenge of teaching in an urban school. Urban children deserve a quality education taught by innovative, dedicated teachers. We're in an era of change, our school district requires changing the emphasis from bureaucracy to focusing on our children. I'm a Detroit resident, 22 years with DPS, teaching 6th grade science and DAPCEP (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program) at Earhart Middle School. I have been a finalist for Wayne County RESA Teacher of the Year: 2008 Walter P. Chrysler Crystal Award winner for innovative teaching integrating technology: presenter for Atlas-Teaching For Understanding Summer Institute, sponsored by Harvard University in Bellingham, WA; Lead teacher for LeTUS (Learning Technologies in Urban Schools); presen-

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Executive Board

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ter at district Science Workshops, and collaborated with University of Michigan Ann Arbor on developing, and piloting state of the art science curriculums for middle school.

Let’s initiate change for Detroit! For the children!

ROBERT THOMAS

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

I’m a graduate of the University of Michigan with a M.S. Degree plus 30 in Social Work Administration and Clinical Practice. Since 1999 I’ve worked in DPS. Currently I provide comprehensive mental health services to students and their families at Henry Ford High School.

As a DFT member, I’m strongly committed to labor reform, fighting for the rights of students, teachers, support staff and parents, and “Moving Our Union Forward.” I’m running for Executive Board on the caucus of Greg Johnson because of his strong leadership and commitment to the overall growth and survival of our union’s future.

This team will continue the fight for quality education for students, improved compensation and benefits for all DFT members. This new leadership will serve as a catalyst for bringing members, parents, students and community together for the purpose of improving labor relations and the education system.

Vote for the MOUF Team.

ROSE TOM-MIRJAH

Detroit’s Children First (DCF)

My name is Rose Tom-Mirjah and I am currently a special education teacher. I have been with Detroit Public Schools for 12 years and am running on the Detroit Children First Slate because I believe in empowerment at the local school level. Decisions made at the local school level with all stakeholders as participants guarantees that the specified requirements of the community are being met. Individual school communities know their populations and needs and who better to develop and implement the programs for these children. Children come first when a community decides what will best meet their unique needs. Teachers, parents and community working together ensure a quality educational process. This type of involvement and focus on the needs of children essentially improves the learning conditions, the working conditions and the outcomes for all involved. We must put children first!

Trustees

SAMELE A. AMBROSE

Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)

As I complete my first term as Trustee for DFT, I worked and served on the Administrative Board as an AFT Michigan Vice President and Building Rep for the DFT. Upon undertaking the duties as Trustee for DFT, I did carry out my duties as Trustee in a responsible and dedicated manner.

Realizing the immense challenges and obligations that active union participating often entails, I felt that it was imperative that I use all of my talents and abilities to their fullest extent in

order to meet my goals as a trustee. I continued to engage in political activity at the local and state level. I have involved myself in the legislative process in an effort to further the goals of our Union. I urge you to vote straight Caucus for Cantrell slate.

KIM BRADLEY

Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)

No Statement

DEMEATRICE BROOKS

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

I am Demeatrice Brooks, a Special Education Teacher and Swim Coach at Henry Ford High School. With great pleasure, I accept the nomination of Detroit Federation of Teachers Trustee. I am a proud member of the MOUF slate — a group of young, dedicated, and committed, DFT members, who, with the guidance of our next DFT President, Greg Johnson, will MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! I have known Greg for over ten years and he has always displayed strength of character, and tough, bold, leadership — the skills necessary to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! In my travels throughout the district, and the state, as teacher and coach, I have sensed a new and growing movement among our younger DFT members. We are concerned about where our union is headed. It’s time for A NEW GENERATION with A NEW VISION to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD! Vote the entire MOUF slate!

JENNETTA L. CLARK

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

I have been a member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers for more than 30 years. I have been a supporter of UTR (United for Teachers Rights) since its inception. Currently, I am a Kindergarten teacher and the DFT Representative at McFarlane Elementary School.

The need for strong, experienced and responsive leadership is critical at this time. The UTR offers that leadership. I am soliciting your vote for the Board of Trustees of our Union. The future of OUR union is at risk. Vote UTR — EXPERIENCE YOU CAN DEPEND ON!

VINCENT PAUL GARCIA

Detroit’s Children First (DCF)

I’m a Bilingual Math Teacher and an Alumnus of the University of Michigan. Currently pursuing a graduate degree at Wayne State University.

I have prior experience as a Program Coordinator at Saginaw Juvenile Detention Center.

I’ve been teaching since my classmates started asking me for help in the fifth grade. I didn’t choose to be an educator. Education chose me. Now, it’s my turn to make the best choices for the future teachers sitting in my classroom.

ETTE’ F. GARTH

Caucus For Cantrell (CFC)

Ms. Ette’ F. Garth was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan by a veteran Detroit Public Schools Special Education Teacher. She received all her formative educative through the Detroit Public School System. Ms. Garth attended Breitmeyer Elementary School, Sherrard Middle School and graduated with honors from Northern High School. She has since received a Bachelors of Arts,

Masters of Education and a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration all from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Garth currently holds a position as a Special Education Teacher at Columbus Middle School.

LILLIE GLADNEY

Renaissance High School

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

I have been teaching for 29 years. Currently I’m a Building Rep and a Business Education Teacher at Renaissance High School. I am a candidate on the UTR Slate for Trustee. I’m asking for your vote because, I believe I can help to make a difference. I believe in fairness for all DFT members. We need leaders to fight for our teachers and students. We need a President and Executive Board that is available for all DFT members, not just a select few.

VANESSKA HARRIS

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

I am Vanesska Harris, a teacher at Noble, and I accept the nomination as Detroit Federation of Teachers Trustee. I strongly believe that the MOUF slate and our New Generation with A New Vision is the only viable option we have to instill hope and ensure the success and survival of our great union. As DFT Trustee, I will work and fight for the membership. I will help Greg Johnson, our newly elected DFT President; maintain the financial stability of our union. The growing movement of a New Generation with a New Vision to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD is like a whirlwind that cannot be stopped. We are young and dedicated DFT professionals who will give strength and vibrancy to our union. vote the entire MOUF slate to MOVE OUR UNION FORWARD!

VIRGINIA JEFFERS

Detroit’s Children First (DCF)

As a highly qualified teacher who has been with DPS for 11 years, I have witnessed many positive nd negative aspects of the public school system. Despite the great effort that many schools and individual teachers give, it is not enough to combat the failures of the district and state. Every new program, curriculum, and law claims to be for the benefit of students, but for some reason, our students education is still lacking. Detroit students deserve the very best education, and a definite change is needed if we are to make this a reality. Detroit Children First was created by teachers who are committed to the education of our youth, and know what is needed in order for all of our students to be successful.

ELYSE M. KIDDER

Detroit’s Children First (DCF)

As a dedicated, highly qualified teacher of twenty-two years, (in Michigan, New York and Florida), I have seen and been a part of many new innovative approaches to education. Some benefited students while others failed miserably. No Child Left Behind was full of so many promises but with little government funding and other bureaucratic blunders, the pledge has failed our children. Detroit Children First will not! There has never been a

time when change is so greatly needed. I believe that Detroit students deserve the very best education as other students across America are receiving. My hard work and perseverance, like Cesar Chavez’s in his struggle to improve the lives of migrant workers, will impact student learning so all reach success.

Detroit Children First will provide a safe, caring, and dynamic environment, created by Caring educators and leadership so all children receive a quality education.

SHIRLEY MORRISON

United for Teachers Rights (UTR)

I’m Shirley Morrison, a teacher, who has over 35 years of teaching experience and union affiliation. I’m a member of United Teachers Rights Caucus, NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and an Alumni of University of Michigan. With economic problems of DPS, we need strong leadership, innovative minds, and proven leaders to represent our union. I’m asking for your support and vote for my candidacy as Trustee of the Union. The UTR team has proven leadership. The UTR caucus is able and ready to serve the union membership. UTR leadership will make sure that the membership has a contract book in their hands before negotiations for the next contract begins.

We need proven experienced leaders to be in place to negotiate our new contract in 2009. We need people we can trust! We need leaders who’ll put the union first! We need the UTR. Vote the UTR Caucus!

DENISE T. SMITH

United & Progress Slate (U&PS)

No Statement

PATRICIA WHITE

Renaissance High School

Moving Our Union Forward (MOUF)

I am Patricia White a Detroit Public School Social Worker, currently working at Renaissance High School. As a DFT member, I feel all disciplines should be treated fairly, equally and with respect. For the past thirteen years, I have witnessed the failures and limited representation often bestowed on support staff and others.

It is my honest belief that Gregory Johnson along with MOUF (Moving Our Union Forward) will fight for all members of the DFT and not just a selected few. It is apparent that change is needed and a new generation with a new vision will restore our union to greatness.

As a trustee, I pledge to help implement fairness and accountability for all. I am soliciting your vote for the MOUF (Moving Our Union Forward) slate and just watch us work for you!

