

THE DETROIT teacher



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Math Whiz Honored by Coach Tom Izzo

Math whiz and mathematics teacher Joseph Lacey was honored with an Excellence in Education Award for his work coaching Academic Games. But getting the award from Michigan State University Coach Tom Izzo was an added thrill.

Lacey went to the Breslin Center in East Lansing on Sept. 24 to pick up his \$500 award and another \$500 for his school, Clippert Academy in southwest Detroit. The award was sponsored by the Michigan Lottery and WXYZ TV7.

"I'm a big fan of Tom Izzo so it was exciting," Lacey said. "When we went down there it happened so fast."

The 5-year Detroit teacher won the award for his work coaching students in manipulating mathematics equations.

Specifically, he gets his fifth-grade students to play at an eighth-grade level by practicing fractional functional exponents.

"If I just teach them the hard stuff," Lacey says, "They're used to knowing the more advanced skill."

Clippert is fortunate that its two Academic Games coaches are math teachers.

"If you have a coach who's not a math teacher, they don't know how to manipulate math," he said. Lacey was nominated for the award without his knowledge for making a significant impact in the lives of Michigan students.



Are You Sick and Tired?

By David Hecker
AFT Michigan President

We need to get out the vote for the governor's election on Nov. 4.



David Hecker

If you are sick and tired and can't take Gov. Snyder anymore then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up to the cuts to our K-12 classrooms then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up with the slashing of higher education funding then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up with paying 20 percent for your health care then you are obligated

to work a shift.

If you are fed up that taxes were raised on low income workers then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up that taxes on retirees have increased then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up that the money saved by hurting children, the low income and seniors was given to corporations then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up that the Governor lied to you about supporting Right-to-Work then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up that the Governor refuses to take a position on equal pay for equal work then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you are fed up that taxes on parents were raised with the elimination of the tax deduction for children and the college tuition tax credit then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you want a governor who supports our issues, who respects our work, who be-

lieves in working families and their unions then you are obligated to work a shift.

If you want a governor who is himself a union member then you are obligated to work a shift.

There is no magic to winning. We knock on doors and make phone calls to talk with voters we can win. If we don't we will lose.

If you are fed up with the above and want a governor who supports you, your family and your work, and have canvassed or called for Mark Schauer, thank you, thank you, thank you. You are carrying the load for all of us.

If you are fed up with the above and want a Governor who supports you, your family and your work, but you have not, or do not plan to do the work necessary to elect Mark Schauer let me ask you – how then can Mark win?

Fed up with Snyder? Sign up to volunteer by calling AFT Michigan at 313-393-2200. The race is a dead heat. Shame on us if Snyder wins and we did not do everything possible for Mark Schauer.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS PUT LABOR AND EDUCATION AT A CROSSROADS

There is a tremendous amount of concern about how our city, our region, our state, and our nation will look on the morning of Nov. 5. For those who are fearful, we should be.

President's Report



**Keith
Johnson**

In 2008, we were riding the wave of Obamamania; the opportunity to elect the first black president in the history of the United States; a sign that America had finally looked beyond race and would vote for the best candidate for president. That momentum was negated in 2010 during that midterm election.

The Democrats lost control of the House of Representatives. Michigan got Rick Snyder as governor and a Republican controlled legislature.

As a result Congress can't get anything done and neither can the president. Michigan has seen the erosion of collective bargaining rights and the previously impossible-to-believe distinction as a "Right to (not) Work" state. Teachers have endured a relentless assault on the profession and their unions.

We have seen the U.S. Supreme Court relax protections on the rights

of unions to require membership or shop fees. We have watched in disbelief as states like California, supported by the Secretary of Education, attempt to strip away tenure rights for teachers.

We have seen teacher and school unions singled out as the only unions that cannot have dues deducted by the employer, additional employee contributions to our pensions mandated by the legislature, and so much more. When does it all stop? **WHEN WE VOTE IN OUR OWN BEST INTERESTS!**

This year's midterms will go a long way in determining whether the union movement, the right to quality public education, and the expansion, indeed maintenance, of the middle class, remain an integral part of the American fabric. For all the complaints about the current state of affairs, we must take an honest look at how we made these atrocities possible.

There are two things politicians acknowledge: votes and money. When the black community, the middle class, the poor and disadvantaged, and the education community criticize Republicans, the governor, the legislature, and the courts, those entities look at whether we voted and raised money. If we did neither, what we think, what we feel, what we experience, how we suffer is irrelevant to those who make the decisions.

I once said that if each member simply contributed \$10, we could

raise (at that time) more than \$70,000 for our political action campaign. While we raised about \$12,000, the result was not acceptable and we had very little to divide among candidates who shared our interests.

The low voter turnout in 2010 was our undoing, and I fear that our continued reluctance to become politically active financially, through actions, and through voting will garner similar results in this year's election.

When we reflect on what the governor has done when he had to seek reelection, the thought of what he and his Republican cronies will do when they no longer have that concern due to term limits, should be frightening.

If it inspires us to vote, **WE WIN!**

THE DETROIT teacher

The Detroit Teacher is the official publication of the Detroit Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers Local 231, AFL-CIO. Member of the Union Teacher Press Association, International Labor Press Association & Michigan Labor Press. Published monthly September thru June.

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Updates . . .

DFT Achieves Cornerstone Society Status

The DFT is being recognized for achieving “Cornerstone Society” status within the Anthony Wayne Society at Wayne State University. The honor is given to the university’s closest friends and most loyal donors. DFT Memorial Scholarship Committee members Jeanetta and Ivan Cotman, Keith Johnson and Paula Trilety attended a VIP reception Oct. 9 at WSU.

The DFT Memorial Scholarship Committee received this honor for reaching a threshold of \$50,000 in scholarships. The DFT Memorial Scholarship Committee has given scholarships for many years to promising WSU students who are studying at the university’s College of Education.

“The fact that we’re recognized for giving was a milestone for us the scholarship committee,” said Paula Trilety, treasurer of the DFT Memorial Scholarship Fund.

“We were very pleased we are able to continue to provide WSU education students with a scholarship,” she said. “Our ability to do so is made possible because of the generosity and support of DFT members. Honoring or memorializing a colleague with a donation to the DFT Memorial Scholarship Fund is a special way to show you care.”

To donate, make your check payable to the DFT Memorial Scholarship Fund (attention Paula Trilety, treasurer) and mail it to the DFT, 7700 Second Ave. Suite 427, Detroit, MI 48202.

DFT Fund Gives Scholarship

The DFT Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded a scholarship to Lia Heath-Day, a student in the College of Education at Wayne State University.

“This award could not have come at a better time for me,” Heath-Day wrote the committee. “I am going to use this scholarship money to get me one step closer to my goal of becoming an elementary mathematics teacher, and I will always remember that with the help of others, it is possible to reach any dream.”

Retirements Announced

The following DFT members have announced their retirements: **Rita Lockridge** and **Colloneal Pinkston**.

If you have retired in the last six months and would like it announced, please call the editor at 313-875-6776.

The Buzz in the Air

By Edna Reaves
DFT Executive Vice President

Our schools are buzzing like a swarm of bees about a possible bankruptcy and an additional ten percent wage reduction. President Johnson has stated on our website that the official word from the emergency manager is we are not filing bankruptcy and we will not face an additional wage reduction.



Edna Reaves

Despite that assurance, our phones continue to ring and members are worried. I can’t say that I blame anyone for having doubts. It would not be the first time district officials have reneged on their word.

Empathizing with our members’ anxiety, I personally had a very candid conversation with Emergency Manager Jack Martin and posed a few hard questions. I asked for the absolute truth in regards to rumors circulating throughout the district.

Reaves: Is there any truth to the rumor that the district has immediate plans to file bankruptcy?

Martin: “That’s absolute bull****, and I don’t know where that is coming from!”

Reaves: Mr. Martin, word has it that the additional 10 percent pay cut will resurface at the beginning of the year?

Martin: “No, not for teachers and school based staff.”

We went on to discuss the numerous oversized classes and vacancies that still remain throughout the district. He assured me he is monitoring the leveling progress and the district is hiring staff as needed.

As sincere as Martin seemed, there is still room for concern. We all know that things can change as a result of the midterm elections. We know the governor has plans for our district. There are a totally different set of rumors being bounced around about his vision for our district. Gov. Snyder has said that nothing is off the table for education in Detroit. We know Snyder is calling the shots and determining the district’s direction.

Although it is too soon to say what will occur based on the outcome of the election, it is not too soon to start planning. If you are truly troubled by those rumors and cannot let them die, I suggest you join our strategic organizing team to get ahead of such an action.

It is best to be proactive as opposed to reactive. Our regional meetings are scheduled for this month. It is important that you attend one or all of these meetings. You will have an opportunity to express your thoughts and ideas and hear from your colleagues. It is time to get involved and be a part of the solution.

Snyder's Big-Government Failure

One of Gov. Rick Snyder's priorities is the expansion of the Education Achievement Authority (EAA), his failed experimental "state-wide" school district. This should worry every Michigan citizen. EAA has been an academic and financial failure.



Mark O'Keefe

The district took 15 schools from Detroit Public Schools with the start of the 2012-13 school year. By the start of its second year, 25 percent of students had left the failing district. An analysis by Thomas Pedroni of Wayne State University showed that MEAP scores were significantly lower under EAA than DPS. Many questions have been raised as to how EAA has worked with or not worked with special education children.

On the financial side, the EAA budget was dependent on significant funding from foundations. The actual funding received was far below expectations. They had no money for facilities, so they took over brand new buildings from DPS and agreed to pay \$1 per month in rent. These are buildings paid for by a bond issue approved by Detroit voters specifically for Detroit Public Schools, not EAA.

Imagine if any other school district built a \$50 million building, had the state take over the school, and then did not even pay for use of the building! The only reason they were able to do it in Detroit is that the state is running both DPS (through its state appointed emergency manager) and EAA.

Gov. Snyder has positioned himself to expand on his big-government, top-down management style.

When voters threw out the Emergency Manager law in November 2012, he signed a new, nearly identical, emergency manager law by the end of the year. Now he is poised to expand the scope of his failed experiment and many of his Republican colleagues who currently control the House and Senate can probably be counted on to oblige once they are re-elected.

The governor prides himself in being a businessman who is fiscally responsible. However, his school district would not be in existence without funding from foundations and a sweetheart deal on renting DPS buildings. This is not a sound or proper way to fund a public school system.

Please consider this when you vote on Nov. 4.



Debate organizers Andella White, a paraprofessional at Henderson; Vida Bonacci, a Priest teacher; Kim Mitchell, a teacher at Roberto Clemente; and Dr. Richard T. James, a Cass Tech teacher.

DFT Co-Hosts School Board Candidates Forum

DFT Labor Relations Administrator Terrence Martin was integral in organizing a forum Oct. 23 for the candidates for Detroit Board of Education. Some 17 candidates are vying for four, two-year seats.

Candidates Victor Gibson, Ida Short, Vivian Johnson, Sharon Render-Johnson, Arlyssa Heard, Wytrice Harris, Dennis Bryant and Patricia Singleton participated.

"We held this to get our membership and our community involved and engaged in the school board process," Martin said. "We don't endorse candidates but we thought it was necessary to give our community a chance to meet our candidates."

Although the school board has limited powers under emergency management, Martin said the district is expected to return powers to the school board this year.

"We want folks to make an informed decision," Martin said, "for when the school board is returned back to the citizens."

Martin said the debate was a success with more than 50 residents attending the Greater Apostolic Faith Temple.

"It was a big opportunity to see what the candidates knew about Detroit Public Schools, the research they have done, and their vision for DPS."

The debate was sponsored by the Michigan Education Justice Coalition.



Terrence Martin

THE DETROIT teacher NEWSMAKERS

A Doctor in the House at Western

By William Bowles
Western International High School

Dr. Terry McCabe sat in front of a panel of Wayne State University professors defending his doctoral thesis last summer. He was nervous.



Dr. Terry McCabe

The veteran Western International High School counselor worked day and night for seven years writing papers, attending classes, and conducting clinical supervision of graduate students in counseling.

Then came the question on which hinged his entire degree: explain how a PhD in bilingual counseling bridges the divide between abstract theory and boots-on-the-ground practical usefulness. It is a question McCabe had asked himself daily

in his work guiding Spanish-speaking students and their parents at Western, many of whom (mostly the parents) speak little or no English.

"Perfect," McCabe thought, "I'll tell them what I did two days ago." McCabe then told the professors how he played a critical role between a student in crisis, her Spanish-only-speaking parents, and the medical staff at a hospital where the distraught parents took their teen. McCabe provided the medical staff with background on the troubled student, and acted as translator.

McCabe knew he had hit the ball out of the park. In relating this potentially life-saving story, he had fulfilled the two essential components of the doctoral candidate in counseling: he tied academic theory to the real world of people in pain while providing relief and hope.

This is where McCabe reaps his greatest rewards.

He is also rewarded when supervising graduate students in counseling at W.S.U.

In a free clinic for members of the community, McCabe sits behind a two-way mirror during graduate student-led sessions of individual, group and family therapy. McCabe takes detailed notes on the sessions, which he uses to instruct his graduate students.

"It's a great training ground for Wayne State graduate students in counseling," McCabe said. "It puts a human face on theoretical learning." McCabe says Wayne State's free clinic is a much-needed resource within walking distance of many who need counseling but cannot pay for it. "The university is doing a fantastic thing in the city," McCabe said.

McCabe figures he's logged about 2,500 hours of supervision in the least seven years, many hours above and beyond what's required of the degree.

Each doctoral candidate is required to undergo his own supervision, a type of therapy session. Topics worked on during these sessions range from addressing a family issue, such as a sibling rivalry, to stress or time management. Time management was McCabe's issue, not a surprising choice when balancing work, school and caring for his ailing mother. McCabe said the PhD program is well run and found his professors to be supportive and encouraging throughout.

"I know they were there for me," he said.

We at Western are glad McCabe is there for us as well.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence

We all know that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we wear pink to show our support. October also is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The color purple is worn to show support.

On Oct. 10, Karen Lewis from Angel House visited Carver STEM Academy to share her painful story about domestic violence. Lewis's daughter was eight months pregnant when she was assaulted and killed by her boyfriend in Texas in March of 2014. Lewis held a memory



walk in honor of her daughter on Oct. 11.

Angel House was established in 2007 to assist women with domestic violence situations. Located at 28441 Five Mile Rd. in Livonia, Angel House is trying to

raise awareness and funds for a building to house young women.

Carver raised its awareness of this painful issue and showed its support by wearing the color purple during Lewis's presentation.

Gompers Teachers Visit Internet Café

After school and on weekends, teachers at Gompers Elementary School are updating their technology skills on their own time and their own dime.



**Instructional Specialist
Sylvia Tillman**

But they're making this year-long project fun. Called Gompers Internet Café, 21 teachers assembled on a recent Thursday to learn about the Next Generation Online Assessments. The aim is to get teachers through 10 modules over the year to get themselves — and their students — tech ready.

The meat of the work comes in modules 5-7 when they learn how to create the environment for learning, help students develop understanding, and apply knowledge. The program helps teachers with everything from writing achievement to storing data to reaching diverse learners.

Sylvia Tillman, who as a tech savvy preschool teacher, was pulled out of her classroom years ago to get Detroit teachers more engaged in technology. Today she is an instructional specialist who has trained 45 coaches at 40 schools in technology and the use of these programs.

The state is requiring online student assessments and Tillman is working her magic to get teachers comfortable with portals to use for every issue they face in the classroom.

"I love this because teachers see this isn't extra work," Tillman said. "They'll roll it over in the classroom and also get the kids to use these tools."

Tillman said the Internet Café must be used after school hours. The teachers filled the library to Tillman's delight.

"We're trying to move this district up," she said. She has urged administrators to support her push, saying we are losing ground in advancing education through technology. She noted Thomas Friedman's book "The World is Flat" when he high-



Gompers technology coaches Adrienne Junior and Christian Winston

lighted that the youngest astronaut in America is 62.

The district is clearly behind Tillman's push. "We finally got their ears."

Nominations Open for DFT Election 2014 Calendar for Biennial Election of DFT Officers, Executive Board Members and Trustees

- **Nov. 13:** Grievance appeal(s) to membership.
- **Nov. 17:** VOTING BEGINS. Ballots mailed to members' homes.
- **Nov. 30:** VOTING ENDS. All ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 30.
- **Dec. 6:** Ballots counted.

CALENDAR

All Meetings start at 4:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change.

November

- 6 DFT Executive Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m.**
(7700 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202)
- 11 Veterans Day, Half Day School**
- 13 General Membership Meeting, 4:30 p.m.**
(IBEW Hall, 1358 Abbott, East of Trumbull)
- 18 Retiree Chapter Meeting, 11:30 a.m.**
(Triumph Church, 2760 E. Grand Blvd.)
- 27-28 Thanksgiving, Schools Closed**

December

- 4 DFT Executive Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m.**
(7700 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202)
- 13 General Membership Meeting, 4:30 p.m.**
(IBEW Hall, 1358 Abbott, East of Trumbull)
- 16 Retiree Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.**
Golightly Career & Tech Center
- 22-31 Schols Closed, Christmas Break**

Mail Your Ballot by November 30

ELECTION EDITION

THE DETROIT teacher IT

Election Special



November 10, 2014

2014 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

BALLOTS MAILED TO MEMBERS' HOMES. VOTING BEGINS.

DECEMBER 5

VOTING ENDS. Ballots in P.O. Box by end of Business Day.

DECEMBER 6

BALLOTS COUNTED. Votes will be counted at the DAEOE Office by the DFT Election Committee.

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Unofficial List of Candidates in the 2014 General Election for Officers, Executive Board and Trustees

EON/BAMN — Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary

GEM — Great Educators Movement

UTR — United for Teachers Rights

PRESIDENT

Steve Conn	EON/BAMN
Mershira Oliver	GEM
Edna Reaves	UTR

TREASURER

Michelle Broughton	UTR
Ucal Finley	EON/BAMN
Kim Travis-Ewing	GEM

Mignon Pierce	GEM
Jason Posey	UTR
Leslee Przygodski	UTR
Susan Ramos	GEM
LaShawn Sims	UTR
Kevin Smith	GEM
Reneth Stewart	GEM
Horace Stone	GEM
Terry Strauss	UTR
Marcus Walton	UTR
Darnese Wilkinson	UTR
Lakia M. Wilson	UTR

VICE PRESIDENT

Myra Akpabio	EON/BAMN
Ivy Bailey	UTR
Vida Bonacci	UTR
April Chambers	EON/BAMN
Mark Duffy	GEM
Pamela Green	GEM
James Mallett	GEM
Derrick Marable	EON/BAMN
Michael Schenk	UTR

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Charles T. Beattie	EON/BAMN
Thomas Bobovski	EON/BAMN
Krystal Bolar	GEM
Glenda Booker	UTR
Kristen Boucher	GEM
Ursula M. Byrd	EON/BAMN
Cheryl Carter	GEM
Rachelle E. Dotson	EON/BAMN
Clarence Gaudy	GEM
Melvin Hibbett	EON/BAMN
Robin Jennings	UTR
Aaron Johnston	GEM
Rochelle Massingill	GEM
Shalon Miller	EON/BAMN
Mark Moroni	UTR
Quan Neloms	UTR

TRUSTEE

Elena Brantley-Phillips	UTR
Lisa Card	UTR
Elonda Clemons	GEM
Greg Dunmore	EON/BAMN
Leslie Hubbard	GEM
Angela Johnson	EON/BAMN
Rahjina Johnson	UTR
Leah Paukovits	EON/BAMN
Brandon Watkins	GEM

RECORDING SECRETARY

Nicole Davis	UTR
Dorian Evans	GEM
Erika M. Jones	EON/BAMN

President

STEVE CONN EON/BAMN

This fall's DFT officers election is our chance to finally stop the disintegration of our union and the destruction of public education. We can begin to win back our dignity, our rights, and everything else that we have lost in the last period. Either we make this change now in DFT leadership, or we will stand naked and defenseless against the next wave of planned pay cuts, class size hikes, school closings and more.

Let's make the DFT a force to be reckoned with again! EON/BAMN leadership will unite our union's struggle with the struggle of the people of Detroit – most importantly our students – for civil rights and equality.

The people of Detroit and Michigan hate what has been done to their schools. It's time to break with the policy of submission, elect EON/BAMN, take back our union, and fight to rebuild public education in Detroit.

MERSHIRA OLIVER GEM

Hello I am Mershira Oliver, candidate for President with the Great Educators Movement. I offer 13 years of experience as a past Labor Relations Administrator serving the best interest of members with first-class representation. I am committed to moving our Union forward. It is imperative that we prepare leaders that can mobilize and unify our Union for a strong membership. There are more mandates on teachers, less pay and fewer preps to meet expectations. We must build alliances with Lansing for what's important; the classroom. DPS must respect educators, with higher salaries, improved evaluation process and equal schools. DPS must value the two greatest assets students and teachers. G.E.M. is the catalyst to bring about much needed improvements during challenging times. G.E.M. will represent you with integrity and trustworthiness.

I am extremely proud to present you with my candidacy for President of the DFT. Vote Great Educators Movement!!!

EDNA REAVES UTR

When I took office, I committed to mobilizing and organizing this membership. We have made significant gains in this effort, but we have a great deal of work remaining. I vowed to develop city and statewide relationships and build community partnerships. We have been actively engaged in both initiatives as evidenced by the overwhelming community support we received, when we organized and successfully pushed back the additional 10% wage reduction at the start of the school year. We must continue our efforts towards a true collective bargaining agreement that provides the optimum teaching and learning environment. We need you to be a part of the process. As your president, I will continue to restore our power member by member! Vote for the best slate to lead this charge, a solution-driven team. Vote for the entire UTR slate!

Vice President

MYRA AKPABIO EON/BAMN

The backing down this summer by the EM on the 10% pay cut makes clear that the EON/BAMN strategy can win. The current leadership did nothing but lamely tell teachers to phone Lansing, EON/BAMN teachers and students sprang into action with meetings, pickets, and a petition signed by hundreds of teachers demanding mass DFT membership meeting at Cobo Hall.

As the Ferguson uprising filled the people of Detroit with a new sense of optimism and fight, Snyder and Martin backed down.

We must defend public education. We need equal quality education for the children of Detroit. The DFT must fight for pay increases and the mistreatment of our members

IVY BAILEY UTR

For years I chose to be a working supporter of the Detroit Federation of Teachers; many of you have urged me to do more. I am running for Vice President on the UTR slate. I have been your voice, advisor and a sounding board for over thirteen years. That will never change. I will focus on improving union customer service, communication, and member education. I will speak the truth and continue to "say what I mean, and mean what I say." A union is only as strong as its members and an educated membership is even stronger. It's time to organize and mobilize our members, parents and community to regain the respect that our profession deserves. Our students are still our most precious resource; someone has to fight for them. Please ask yourself: "If I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"

VIDA BONACCI UTR

For the 20 plus years that I have been an employee of the Detroit Public Schools, I have always been a strong advocate for the union. That advocacy is stronger than ever now that the future of our existence has been attacked.

I have served as Building Representative, school union committee member, delegate to the AFT conventions, and currently serve on the Executive Board and the AFT Detroit Community Engagement Committee.

This is not the time to be apathetic about our union leadership, especially with the turmoil we face locally and nationally. It is time to make rational decisions about the direction the union will be headed. The decisions I make will always support quality education for our deserving students and improving working conditions for our union brothers and sisters. A vote for the entire UTR slate is crucial. UTR has the experience and integrity to serve all DFT members.

APRIL CHAMBERS EON/BAMN

As a teacher who has been educating Detroit's youth for the past 15 years, I have witnessed the effectiveness of our membership joining together to form a united front. We have fought battles against the unjust policies that insult our integrity not just as educators, but, as educated professionals ourselves.

Over the years, however, we seem to have slacked off on a significant responsibility we hold to ourselves. We have gradually allowed the "powers that be" to belittle us through dictation rather than collaboration and mutual agreement, with little or no fight in return. In doing so, we are also allowing harm to befall the very children we educate on a daily basis. I did not become a teacher to sit on the sidelines and watch as multiple students fall through the cracks that can be avoided. Moreover, I am not willing to do this for myself and my fellow colleagues.

MARK DUFFY GEM

I have been teaching at the Academy of the Americas in Southwest Detroit starting on my 16th year. I teach 6th, 7th, 8th and now 9th grade Science and also I help with the technology in the building. I have been either Union Rep or Alternate for the last 9 years.

I have seen the changes in the district and especially in the state regarding public school education. It's a battle that has made its way to the Capitol. We need to educate our congress on how education should be structured in Michigan. The fight is to get congressmen and congresswomen elected that will change the policies, the Emergency Manager is here by law and will only be changed by LAW. We need to get organized and get all of our members involved. Change is needed in our union here too.

Vote for GEM — Great Educators Movement

PAMELA GREEN GEM

I have been teaching with Detroit Public Schools for 17 ½ years. I have a Bachelors of Science, M.A. in Guidance & Counseling. I have had the pleasure of serving as Union Rep for 1 ½ year, 21st Century Program Coordinator, Summer School Lead Teacher for the Bell Program, and Lead Teacher for my grade level. Being an active educator, I push for unionized services. Without these services, we do not stand a chance for change. We must fight for better services for teachers and public service workers.

I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and I am involved within the community.

**IT'S IMPORTANT
WE PRESERVE
OUR RIGHTS!!!
PLEASE VOTE**

I believe that through service and transparency we can take our union to the next level. I am committed to being all of these things. Vote GEM.

**JAMES MALLETT
GEM**

As a Detroit teacher for the past 12 years, I've excelled at helping take students to the next level by giving them foundational knowledge and having high expectations. I believe as a union, we should do the same. We should have high expectations for our teachers, contracts and make sure that we are on the frontline of truth and transparency. I'm dedicated to working with the members to reach the masses to let them know the truth about our district and the unfair practices that has gone on for far too long. I believe it is time for a new, refreshing voice within the union, a voice that people can trust is truly working FOR the teachers, and not hiding behind deals with the district. I plan on working hard as the next Vice president of this Union and I believe the G.E.M. is the way to go. Vote GEM.

**DERRICK MARABLE
EON/BAMN**

It's time to break with the policy of submission, elect EON/BAMN, take back our union, and fight to rebuild public education in Detroit. Either Detroit teachers build on this summer's success and continue the fight, or our enemies will soon reclaim the initiative and attack again. The EM is still talking about closing 24 more school this summer, which we all know will devastate DPS enrollment and help the charters. The only candidates in this election who are prepared to lead the fight against the continued destruction of DPS are those on the EON/BAMN slate.

**MICHAEL SCHENK
UTR**

My name is Michael Schenk and I am seeking the office of Vice-President. I am a Special Education teacher at Western International High School. I've been teaching in DPS for 14 years. During that time I have served in numerous union positions, including building representative, and both the DFT and AFT-Michigan executive boards. I believe our union is at a pivotal time in history, we have been under constant assault for the last five years, emergency managers, imposed contracts, steps frozen, no pay increases and an evaluation process that is neither fair nor transparent. We've been playing defense for too long, it is time to go on the offense. Under the new leadership of Edna Reaves and the entire UTR slate, we will fight for fair wages, the restoration of steps, quality health care and the RESPECT you have earned and deserve. VOTE THE ENTIRE UTR SLATE!

Recording Secretary

**NICOLE M. DAVIS
UTR**

You recently elected me to serve as your delegate for the state and national convention and I humbly ask for your vote once again. Many of you can attest to my abilities to take on this task, because you currently receive the monthly minutes I send out, after attending each general membership meeting. Have you heard of a bench member before? Well, that is a term that is often used when describing a spectator. This person is very much present, but not actively engaged. Well, that was the type of union member I used to be, prior to joining the UTR caucus. I have always been proud to be a part of a union, but my outlook has clearly changed. I now take ownership when I look at my fellow brother and sister and say, "WE made a difference!" Vote the entire UTR slate!

**DORIAN EVANS
GEM**

Brothers and Sisters of Local 231, It is TIME for a change! It is TIME for educators to be exalted and appreciated. We must not allow special interest groups to run our schools, thereby creating an unequal system of education. Since accepting a teaching position with DPS in 1994, I have been an active member of Local 231. As a committee member since 1995 and a building representative since 2009; I firmly believe that given real opportunity, a DPS teacher is unstoppable and a GEM. Vote GEM.

**ERIKA M. JONES
EON/BAMN**

This fall, the Detroit Public School teachers were invited back to teach with a 10% pay cut in the works; without any regard to a vote or prior meetings for the teachers that this would affect. As a teacher in the midst of a 15 year career with DPS, I am amazed at how many cuts, programs and necessary educational resources have been eliminated over the past decade.

The vision that Steve Conn has for the education of the Detroit Public Schools, is the vision we need. Our State government has "played" school, like children pretending to be teachers. We must now insist the urgency of funding from the Federal government, for one of the largest cities in the country. As Detroit changes in the Sports, Gambling and Entertainment fields, we must insist on a percentage of the revenue for our children growing up amidst the changes.

Treasurer

**MICHELLE BROUGHTON
UTR**

We are still the Mighty DFT, with your active engagement we will win! I am encouraging Union members to become active, engaged and empowered by connecting with leadership that

will advocate for all its members. Who am I? I am an active DFT member for 22 years. I have served as Building Rep for many years and an AFT delegate. I served as the Political Director for the DFT under Janna Garrison and then Political Coordinator under President Virginia Cantrell. I am currently a Precinct delegate of 27 years. I worked as a Substitute Teacher and am currently an Ed tech. I was a Head Teller at a major Bank. I have a B.S. degree, a Labor Law/union organizing-Certification from Wayne State University, and Certification in labor management from The National Labor College in Washington D.C.

I'm ready to serve as Treasurer under the UTR slate.

**UCAL FINLEY
EON/BAMN**

Dear DFT Membership:

As we move toward another election, let us not forget that we are a union, one in solidarity, fighting the good fight for equality in education for the children we teach, an honest wage for the never ending jobs we have and more importantly for a better future for the city of Detroit. As a membership, we must come together to win this fight. Under the leadership of EON/BAMN we can take back our dignity, renegotiate a fair wage, and restore the rights stripped from us that the former union leadership so eagerly gave away. We all have to see the writing on the wall, more cuts are coming, higher health care premiums are imminent, and larger class sizes will be inevitable. We must stop the destruction of our only means of leverage, our union. Support change. Support EON/BAMN.

**KIM TRAVIS-EWING
GEM**

Candidate for Treasurer of Detroit Federation of Teachers Kim Travis-Ewing School Social Worker, LMSW, ACSW, Educational Specialist

DFT School Social Work Chapter Chair and Union Representative.

Former AFT and MFT Delegate and member of political action, cope and election committees.

Volunteer for the phone bank and captain during mobilization activities.

First I would like to see DFT put the U back in Union and rebuild our membership. Secondly we need to engage in a strategic plan to improve our working environment and financial stability. It is imperative for DFT to become assertive, visible in the media and community. This will provide an opportunity for DFT to define our platform and take a position on things affecting our jobs and students. We also need to build a consistent alliance with our parents. Vote GEM.

Executive Board

CHARLES T. BEATTIE EON/BAMN

I am a firm believer that we need a change in leadership. Our strength as a union has been compromised long enough. A vote for the same parties that have been in charge is a vote for more of the same. So I ask if you have been happy with the results you have received from the union leadership. If not, vote for a change.

KRYSTAL BOLAR GEM

I have been employed with Detroit Public Schools for 20 years. In that time, I have served as building representative or alternate for 16 of those years. In those 16 years, I have been an advocate for teachers' rights and have always been honest. I am now running for a seat on the Executive Board. As an Executive Board member I pledge to continue to be honest and transparent. I also pledge to show the same steadfast courage and conviction when faced with challenges that our union and frankly our profession faces. As educators, we must unite. What affects you, affects me. Vote GEM.

GLEND A BOOKER UTR

I have been employed with the Detroit Public Schools system for 22 years. In the time, I have served as John R. Kings Building and Alternate Representative; as well as the school Union Committee Representative.

I have been an active member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers for the past fifteen years. I have served as a delegate for the National AFT Convention, COPE committee member and supporter, Building Representative Appreciation Dinner hostess, and a member of the DFT election committee.

I am now running for re-election on the Executive Board. As a member of the Executive Board, I will continue to uphold the integrity of this Union and place the principles of honesty and fairness in high regard. A vote for Glenda Booker on the UTR slate is a vote for accountability!

KRISTEN BOUCHER GEM

MacKenzie Elementary/Middle School
Grades 1-4 Learning Disabilities Teacher
14 years with Detroit Public Schools
Union Committee, Alternate Rep or Union Rep since 2003
Sergeant at Arms during 2006 DFT Strike
Vote GEM

URSULA M. BYRD EON/BAMN

My name is Ursula Byrd and I am a candidate for the Executive Board. It is an honor to be nominated for this position. I am a product of public education and attended Yost Elementary, Cadillac Middle School, and Cass Technical

High School. My dedication to public education spans over 15 years. Teaching at the former Sherrard Elementary Middle, Bates Academy, Duke Ellington, and currently Gompers Elementary Middle School gives me insight on teachers' struggle to provide a quality education to our students. With the EON/BAMN leadership I can do just that; ensure that we hold leadership in the Detroit Public Schools accountable and fight for fairness in the classroom, equality in pay, and respect for the profession of teaching. I will listen to teachers and support our mission to defend public education.

In the Spirit of Unity, Ursula M. Byrd

CHERYL CARTER GEM

I have worked for Detroit Public Schools for 18 years. I have been on the School Union Committee at John R. King for 10 years. I am experienced to teach and manage programs to meet your educational goals. I am currently seeking a position on the Executive Board to serve and represent our educators in an effective manner. My philosophy and belief is to help protect the rights of educators who provide a quality education for all of our students in Detroit Public Schools. I will strive to provide justice and restore human rights for both educators and students in the district. I will advocate for change and equity for all educators so that accountability and transparency is achieved. A vote for Cheryl Carter is a vote for CHANGE, DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM. Vote GEM.

RACHELLE E. DOTSON EON/BAMN

My career began 18 years ago at Goodale Elementary. Currently, I teach at Bates Academy. Throughout my teaching experience I've seen many changes throughout the district. These changes have affected DPS staff and students. As a member of the Executive Board, I'll use my leadership skills to help strategize a plan that will redirect our district back to putting children first. It's simple; fair teaching and learning conditions for staff and students will create a more successful district. It's time for our district to recognize that DPS teachers possess talents that would be priceless elsewhere, and that the teaching profession deserves respect. It's my belief that a union that demonstrates solidarity is stronger than media, politicians, and any other force of negativity that has torn us down over time. Let's stand today! Let's stand as one! Solidarity forever!

CLARENCE GAUDY GEM

I have 25 years teaching in construction trades of heating and cooling. I graduated from Wayne State University. I am a business owner for over 25 years in the heating and cooling industry. I am a licensed contractor with the state of Michigan. In my class, I have had multiple students compete and win state championships. I am a union representative for my building. I am also a member of the state board for the heating and Cooling curriculum. Vote GEM.

ROBIN JENNINGS UTR

I have been a devoted and enthusiastic teacher for the past twenty-three years and served as building representative for several years. I have dedicated my life and service to creating well-rounded students, who are happy and motivated individuals. I have been involved in politics for many years and I know how to build relationships. If elected as an Executive Board member, I will maintain a professional demeanor and provide outstanding service to my DFT brothers and sisters. I will work countless hours to maintain and strengthen the union that I have held close to my heart for so many years. I will help fight for the rights of our union and will always be available when called upon. Let me show you that my actions speak louder than words.

AARON JOHNSTON GEM

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the DFT. I bring to this slate, to this union, and to you, fifteen years of educational experience, leadership, and conscientious commitment of being a constant reoccurring positive presence in the everyday lives of our youth. Aside from my daily duties as an instructor, I have always served on numerous committees and bodies that promote the betterment of the work environment. It is now my desire to utilize those skills and talents and serve as an Executive Board member. As a member of the executive board, and in conjunction with the Great Educators Movement mission statement; I will be diligent in my duties to help improve the lives of the DFT members so they are able to inspire today's youth to become leaders of tomorrow. Vote GEM.

ROCHELLE MASSINGILL GEM

- Teacher: 15+ years Severely Multiply Impaired Special Education Keidan Special Education Center & Former Wingert Prevocational Center
- B.A. Wilberforce University M.Ed. Kent State University
- Doctoral program candidate MSU
- Education Administration licensure Michigan State University April 2015 to increase my depth of knowledge of principal roles expectations and responsibilities to make me a better union member.
- Union Representative over 10 years
- Election Committee 2 years
- Lead Teacher
- Go Green sustainability Coordinator and award recipient.
- Wayne County Award recipient for Green Schools
- Spirit of Detroit Award Recipient of two awards for work in DPS with students and urban/Community Garden
- Recipient of DPS foundation Grant for Urban/Community collaboration and beautification of neighborhoods through gardening
- Lucille F. McCants Chapter #1 of Educators Founder and Chartered Member
- GQEGC Award recipient for Community service

- Grant Researcher and Writer
- Community Project leader Boys and Girls club and Keidan Special Educator Center
- PASCA Project Coordinator

**SHALON MILLER
EON/BAMN**

The Mighty Detroit Federation of Teachers Union! When I first started working for Detroit Public Schools in 2000 our union was a source of pride. Union solidarity was something not to be questioned. What happened? When did our leadership stop caring about the everyday plight of teachers and students in the classrooms? When did the concerns of educators fall on deaf ears? The time for apathy has to end, our members must retake control of our union. Our membership needs leadership that will not ignore the concerns of the teachers and students. The DFT needs leadership that will not just be puppet for Detroit Public Schools Central Office. We need leadership that's ready to make OUR UNION relevant again. The DFT needs Steve Conn and EON/BAMN leadership!

**MARK MORONI
UTR**

My name is Mark Moroni. Allow me to fill you in on what I bring to the table. I have been teaching for Detroit Public Schools for over ten years. I am currently serving my third term as an Executive Board member. I bring ideas from the schools to the union leadership without reservation. I believe in a strong union and in supporting our members. I have served as a Detroit Federation of Teachers Delegate for the AFT national and state Convention four times. I am a dedicated union member and will continue to fight for this union's prosperity. Please vote for the entire UTR slate!

**QUAN NELOMS
UTR**

As a lifelong resident of Detroit and a Detroit Public Schools teacher for 11 years, I have experienced the shift in education in which all stakeholders have been impacted.

Teachers, students, families and whole communities have been affected by decisions made by outside entities. I believe that the interests of all stakeholders can be promoted and realized through the actions of an involved union. It's time to rebuild and grow. Teachers can no longer sit back and see what happens. Everyone has to get involved.

I am seeking the position of Executive Board member for the Detroit Federation of Teachers on the UTR slate. I seek to be a part of a team that aims to develop educated members, strong schools, strong communities and a better Detroit.

**MIGNON PIERCE
GEM**

I, Mignon Pierce, is seeking office for an Executive Board position with the Great Educators Movement (GEM). My desire to be elected is in my belief that I can move the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) in an upward direction. Along with the GEM caucus, I stand firm on our

rights and support members of the DFT. I will be an advocate for fairness and no questions shall be unanswered. If elected, I would like to further assist teachers with reducing oversized classrooms, establishing appropriate assessments for data, and much needed, long overdue, fight for economic increase. I believe I am capable and qualified to take on this position by having 15 years of teaching experience, representing several leadership roles; team member of the School Improvement Plan, 1st grade team leader, and DFT building representative. If you want change and results, vote for Mignon Pierce, Executive Board, GEM slate.

**JASON POSEY
UTR**

I am Jason Posey a third grade teacher at Noble Elementary Middle School. I have been teaching for eleven years. I am a proud member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. I have served as a DFT building representative, alternate, and on the school union committee. As a member of the UTR slate I believe that DFT members need to be kept abreast of the current conditions in the district. You are the union! We are in this situation together and staying informed is the best way to improve our circumstances. I am looking forward to serving you as a member of the executive board.

**LESLEE PRZYGODSKI
UTR**

I have been a teacher in DPS for 15 years and the building representative at Clippert Academy for 6 years. I am running for Executive Board because I would like to be part of the change in the direction of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. As a Detroit resident and the parent of a child in Detroit Public Schools, I have a vested interest in the future of our school system and union. With times becoming more uncertain for public educators, the DFT must rethink its mission. The union leadership has to rethink the way it related to its members and look for ways to bring alienated members back to the union. I am an independent thinker who's not afraid to speak her mind, and I would like to help our union move forward.

**SUSAN RAMOS
GEM**

I have been a Detroit Public Schools teacher for 37 years. I started my career in adult education and I am currently a 2nd grade teacher at Mann Elementary. I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. I am a life long learner and I enjoy district workshops. I have served as a building rep and a member of the school improvement team. Vote GEM.

**LASHAWN SIMS
UTR**

I have served on the Executive Board the past four years. Throughout that time I have seen teachers come under attack in ways that I never imagined. I have also proudly watched us unify to fight back. The current union leadership is committed to mobilizing, organizing and educating our members.

I have served as a building representative and I am currently an AFT Michigan Vice President. The most valuable lesson I have learned is that experience and relationships are extremely important. UTR is comprised of all classifications of the bargaining unit. Please elect the entire UTR slate to represent the DFT for the next two years.

**KEVIN SMITH
GEM**

I'm a person that believes in the concept Conceive, Believe, Achieve. Anything that we can conceive, anything that we can believe is possible and can be achieved. I believe that our minority students can achieve by accepting the goal of a high class education, attending class, and using the knowledge from their education to better themselves and their environment. How can a teacher make underachieving students realize that education can open doors? The teacher must use a combination of simplicity and grand theory to open themselves up to reach students. They must realize what made them learn and what some obstacles they encountered were. I will use my talents to help teachers understand the importance of a union and why unionism is important in today's world. Our middle class society was created thanks to unionism and I believe that unionism is the key to maintaining our middle class.

**RENETH STEWART
GEM**

Reneth Stewart, Detroit Federation of Teacher 2014-15 candidate for the Board of Trustees. Possessing over 18 years of experience as a certified Special Education Teacher in Detroit Public Schools. Including, four years as an Instructional Specialist in Detroit Public Schools. Currently, a Special Education teacher at Jerry L. White Center. I Earned a Master's +30 in Educational Leadership, at Walden University and I am currently a Ph.D candidate. I have served several years in various schools as a Detroit Federation of Teacher's Union Representative. I am well versed in the Detroit Federation of Teacher's Union Contract. Vote GEM.

**HORACE STONE
GEM**

I've also obtained a PhD degree from life and it's hard knocks. The reality of the election, the school district, our collective personal lives is based upon the correct choice. We have to make the right choice based upon those who can cause change, and not candy coat the situations our teaching staff is faced with. Vote GEM.

**TERRY STRAUSS
UTR**

My name is Terry Strauss, I am a JROTC Instructor at Frederick Douglass Academy, currently in my 13th year with DPS.

As a military retiree, I certainly understand leader/subordinate relationships and acknowledge the leader's (District) responsibility to take care of its subordinates (Teachers) so they may properly perform their tasks to the best of their ability.

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Teachers at Frederick Douglass Academy, and throughout the district, work extremely hard every day teaching and nurturing young men, women and children, often at their own expense. Things are not what we would like them to be, nor, in many cases what they should be. While I would say there is plenty of blame to go around, I believe we should look forward, not backwards. Let the legal and bargaining professionals fix the issues that are before us, while we focus on our future, which is providing a quality education to all our children.

MARCUS WALTON
UTR

The attacks against teachers, by our legislators in Lansing, have been horrific. We as teachers can no longer just sit behind our classroom desks and hope for things to get better.

I have been a teacher with Detroit Public Schools for twenty years. We, as educators, need to be the catalyst for the change that our profession needs. No fight is ever won by sitting on the sidelines. I am running for Executive Board, because I believe in the power of our union and the strength of our teachers.

I have served as: Building Representative, AFT National Delegate, AFT Michigan Delegate, and DFT Trustee. Teachers that I have worked with have proven that they have the strength and the courage to withstand the numerous assaults against our profession. UTR is the only Caucus that has the experience, strength and professionalism to provide solution driven unionism for the challenges we face.

DARNESE WILKINSON
UTR

Many of you know me as being a fighter who stands for equality and fairness. As a veteran teacher, I have experienced the crisis in public education. My ultimate goal is to be a part of the voices that are making sure teachers' rights are not being violated.

I am a Mathematics Instructional Specialist at Brewer Elementary-Middle School. I have been employed with Detroit Public Schools for 19 years. I have been a strong advocate for the Detroit Federation of Teachers and served as Building Representative at the former Howe Elementary School.

I am running as a candidate for Executive Board. I am dedicated to support quality education and improvements in working conditions. Please support the UTR slate in this move towards building a stronger union. In spirit and solidarity we can move mountains and restore power.

LAKIA M. WILSON
UTR

It's time to be seen and heard! It's a privilege and an honor to be a candidate on the UTR slate for the Executive Board of our union. I am currently assigned to Spain Elementary/Middle School, with five years of first grade teaching experience and over twelve years as the school counselor.

My service to the union ranges from Building Representative, Alternate and Union Committee member. Professionally speaking, we are facing

critical times in the field of education. It behooves us to remember the history of labor unions, dig deep, step up and demand dignified working conditions, wages and benefits for all.

It will take all of us to fight the attacks on public education. This is our union...yours and mine. As your candidate for Executive Board, I will step forward to support our profession and our union. I'm asking you to step forward and reclaim your power!

Trustees

ELENA BRANTLEY-PHILLIPS
UTR

I am Elena Brantley-Phillips and I am proud to be a candidate on the UTR slate for Trustee of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. I am a "Union Brat." I marched with my mother, when she walked for DAOE, as a child and I was hooked!

I have been a Detroit Public Schools classroom teacher for twenty years, so I am familiar with the different changes that we have all experienced. I can no longer sit back and see what's going to happen. It's time to get involved. We have to begin organizing our members, parents and community leaders.

I have experience with AFSCME Council 25, Local #542 as a Steward, Chief Steward and Recording Secretary. I chaired numerous committees including the Election Committee, as well as the Grievance Committee. As Trustee, I look forward to dedicating my time and energy to this position to move this union forward!

LISA CARD
UTR

I have been with Detroit Public Schools for fifteen years. I worked as an ESRP and long-term substitute. I returned to school to get certified and am now a Resource Room Teacher. I've seen many changes take place in our district. I am a proud product of Detroit Public Schools and a proud parent of Detroit Public School students. I admire the passion of my fellow educators and the heartfelt manner in which we care for our students. As trustee I plan to listen to the needs of our members and speak up for what's right. We must move toward "mobilizing members and the community to restore power" within our district. I know the members on the UTR slate are ready and prepared to get the job done!

ELONDA CLEMONS
GEM

I am a special education teacher at Osborn College Prep and I have been with Detroit Public Schools for ten years. It will be a privilege to use my years of expertise to serve as a Trustee. As an educator, I am aware of the multiple obstacles to providing a quality education to our youth. As an activist, I am aware that the union is only as strong as its body. Moreover, I am confident that the Great Educators Movement Slate, is the team to help strengthen and mobilize our members. Therefore, I intend to serve with integrity and diligence as it relates to making our workplace better. Vote GEM.

GREG DUNMORE
EON/BAMN

As a veteran teacher having dedicated the greater portion of my work life to Detroit's public schools, I cannot think of anytime more challenging, chaotic and alarming than what we are facing today – right now!!! Our professional dignity, well deserved wages, benefits and ability to do what we do best – educate, stimulate and nurture students are being grossly disrespected and devalued.

Running on the proactive EON/BAMN (Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary) slate, I am confident that we will make a difference. I strongly believe: Evil can and will only prevail when good men and women remain silent. We will not be silent in our articulation of what is attempting to destroy our union and the activism that must happen to save it! A vote for me is a vote for US!!!

LESLIE HUBBARD
GEM

My name is Leslie Hubbard and I am running for the office of Trustee. I am a Special Education Teacher. I hold an Educational Specialist Certificate.

As a Trustee, you can count on me to perform the duties and obligations of a trustee. Being a teacher has equipped me with a diverse set of skills while networking with colleagues throughout the district. I am aware of the students and instructor's needs. I would like to see the union members become stronger, actively involved, educated, and unified. Vote GEM.

RAHJINAH JOHNSON
UTR

I have always valued teaching and learning! I think of myself as being a change agent. I consciously surround myself with individuals who are inspired by positive resolutions. I pride myself in doing what is right and ethical. I realize this commitment is to serve others and help make this union a better place for members to function productively. These are turbulent times for educators and teacher unions and I plan to be a part of the decision making process while we protect and defend our rights and public education. I strongly believe one can determine a lot pertaining to someone's character by what he or she stand for and fight for, I will fight for our rights. I joined UTR because being a vital part of a team of dynamic leaders that instill goals to help people, is essential to me. I ask that you support our team.

BRANDON WATKINS
GEM

I have been with Detroit Public Schools for thirteen years. Attended Oakland University and received a B.S. in Elementary Education, majoring in language arts. I also received my Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from Oakland University. I am currently serving as building representative at Carstens Elementary. Vote GEM.