

# Voting by mail November 19-29

## ELECTION EDITION

# THE DETROIT teacher IT

Election Special



November 9, 2012

### 2012 Calendar for Biennial Election of Officers, Executive Board Members and Trustees

#### NOVEMBER 12 (week of)

Special Election Edition of the **DETROIT TEACHER** published online, campaign literature sent to schools. Deliver ballot to printer.

#### NOVEMBER 15 & 16

AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION mails ballots via US Postal Service.

#### NOVEMBER 19-29

VOTING AT HOME. Ballots to be returned to DFT Election Committee P.O. Box by U.S. mail.

#### NOVEMBER 30

Post Office Box CLOSED at 5 p.m.

#### DECEMBER 1

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

## DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

*Unofficial List of Candidates in the 2012 General Election for Officers, Executive Board and Trustees*

**EON/BAMN** – Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary

**TFUS** – Teachers For Union Solidarity

**UTR** – United for Teachers' Rights

#### PRESIDENT

Steve Conn	EON/BAMN
Victor Gibson	TFUS
Keith Johnson	UTR

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Christine Abood	EON/BAMN
Michelle Broughton	TFUS
Joseph Hines	TFUS
Sharon Jamison	EON/BAMN
Nadonya Muslim	UTR
Gena Porter	EON/BAMN
Edna Reaves	UTR
Michael Schenk	UTR
William Weir	TFUS

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Felecia Clark	UTR
Grady Gibbs	TFUS
Barbara Selley	EON/BAMN

#### TREASURER

Kurtis Brown	UTR
Beatrice Carter	EON/BAMN
Dawn McFarlin	TFUS

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Myra Akpabio	EON/BAMN
Delores Alexander	EON/BAMN
John H. Andrews	EON/BAMN
Ivy Bailey	UTR
Jamila Bell	EON/BAMN
Thomas Bobovski	EON/BAMN
Vida Bonacci	UTR
Glenda Booker	UTR
David Brennan	EON/BAMN
Greg Dunmore	EON/BAMN
Dorian Evans	TFUS
Ucal Finley	EON/BAMN
William Gardner	UTR

Sherise Hedgespeth	EON/BAMN
Wanda Lundy-Colquitt	UTR
Mark Moroni	UTR
Wendy Newberry	UTR
Vanessa Parnell	UTR
Steven Portnoy	UTR
Leslee Przygodski	EON/BAMN
Lisa Scott	UTR
LaShawn Sims	UTR
Alvera Smith	EON/BAMN

#### TRUSTEE

Joseph Arfre	EON/BAMN
April Chambers	EON/BAMN
Marilyn McCormick	EON/BAMN
Vanessa Rasheed	UTR
Marcus Walton	UTR
Beverly Wilkerson	UTR

## President

**STEVE CONN**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

Our EON/BAMN candidates are proven fighters who have consistently stood up, loudly and proudly, for Detroit teachers and the defense of public education. This is the kind of leadership the DFT needs in order to make it again the mighty force it was before current union “leaders” sold everything out for the sake of their alliances with the politicians. The Chicago teachers’ strike and the BAMN-led Detroit water workers strike show that, when unions act like unions, we win! A DFT strike is the only way to stop the continued destruction of our jobs, our public schools, and our students’ futures. Our strike will have total support from the people of Detroit, who are fed up with the racist destruction of their city. With EON/BAMN leadership, the DFT can play a leading role in building the new civil rights movement that is the future of Detroit!

**VICTOR GIBSON**  
**Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

I am Victor Gibson and I’m running for President of the Detroit Federation of Teachers on the Teachers for Union Solidarity slate. I’m the Building Rep. at Paul Robeson Malcolm X and was an Executive Board member 2008-10. I graduated from WSU Labor Studies ’06. We need a NEW Leadership Model if our Union is to stop the continued “dismantling” of DPS and the loss of members. TFUS offers every member an opportunity to Build A Stronger Union by voting for Executive Officers separate from the Executive Board. This would result in a balance of powers. No more “rubber stamping” of Executive decisions. The Executive Board would be made up of members from the other slates with the highest vote totals. This would allow for more accountability and transparency. The TFUS slate will lead by consensus not cronyism. A Strong Union has INVOLVED, INFORMED and EMPOWERED MEMBERS. VOTE TFUS.

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

The past four years have been the most challenging in the history of public education and teacher Unions. A collapsed economy, unreasonable, unfunded demands placed upon educators have combined to make it easier to vilify and discredit teachers and their Union.

This hasn’t been more evident anywhere

than in Detroit. The UTR team has had the knowledge and the strength to make the toughest decisions in the toughest times. The other candidates vying for the opportunity to lead this Union offer plenty of criticism but no solutions.

As you consider who should lead the DFT the choice is clear; leadership that has proven the ability to make tough decisions because they were right, not popular, or the opponents who offer plenty of rhetoric but never a clearly defined plan of what to do, but more importantly HOW THEY’D DO IT.

Rhetoric or RESULTS! The choice is YOURS! VOTE UTR.

## Vice President

**CHRISTINE ABOOD**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

I have served DPS for nearly 4 decades and currently am teaching 1st grade at Beckham Academy. I believe our teachers in DPS are some of the most professional and hardest working in the country and need to be recognized, respected and rewarded for it. I am a supporter of smaller class sizes, more teacher prep time, security at the workplaces, better supplies, textbooks and programs including music and art. Students are over tested and consequently under taught. Let’s have more teacher input into decision making for our children so they can all reach their potential as students.

**MICHELLE BROUGHTON**  
**Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

What a summer! What a year! I am encouraging Union members (brothers and sisters) to become active, engaged and empowered by connecting with leadership that will advocate for all its members. Who am I? I am Michelle Broughton an active DFT member, building Rep. Also served as the Political Director for the DFT then the Political coordinator under President Virginia Cantrell, (20 years as a Precinct delegate). I worked as a Substitute teacher and currently as an Ed-tech. I was born a UAW baby, Union Blue and union strong, now ready to serve our DFT membership as Vice President under the TFUS slate. I have a labor Law/union organizing-Certification from Wayne State University Labor college and The National Labor College, in Washington D.C. Together we can move forward if we all vote to build a better Union. Looking for a better summer? Vote!!

**JOSEPH HINES**  
**Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

Hello, my name is Joseph Hines and I am a candidate for the Detroit Federation of Teachers Executive Vice-President Office. I would make a good leader because first I am willing to lead. I am not fearful of the responsibilities of leadership. I am willing to communicate information to the general body in a timely manner and with the most definitive clarity. I am able to follow leadership of the president and the general body when decisions are made.

Second, I am not afraid to consider change. Change means that someone must take up the torch from those whom have served before us to make certain that what has been before will not be lost. Change means being able to work well with others for the greater good and to complete the mission.

I’m resourceful, resilient and diligent. I am willing to look at change and say let’s go.

**SHARON JAMISON**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

Teachers, I know you care about your future and the future of your students. That’s why you should vote for EON/BAMN in the upcoming DFT Officers and Executive Board election. EON/BAMN stands for Equal Opportunity Now/ By Any Means Necessary. We are the ones who have really been leading Detroit teachers for several years now – from fighting school closings and state takeovers, to standing up against the destruction of our rights. I am greatly inspired by the Chicago teachers strike and the strike by the Detroit water workers. I know that if our union acts like a union, with strikes and actions in the streets, we can defeat the continued attacks on our schools and our jobs. This is the only way forward. So remember: Vote EON/BAMN for DFT officers and executive board!

**NADONYA MUSLIM**  
**United for Teachers’ Rights (UTR)**

This is our most pivotal year yet; the union as we know it is under attack and the decisions we make today will undoubtedly affect the future of not only you, our committed and dedicated members, but the students that we tirelessly serve. In the spirit of solidarity we must work as a cohesive unit in a stance against those who are determined to destroy our mighty union.

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**(Continued on Page 3)**

**VICE PRESIDENT***(Continued from Page 2)*

I have served the union in numerous capacities from the local, state to national levels. I am determined as I have always been in doing whatever it takes to ensure that our constitution and by-laws are upheld at all times. I will continue to lead the rallies, and speak out against injustices that we as teachers endure as we battle the frontline.

I ask you to support me as I have supported you and together we will defeat the negative opposition!

**GENA PORTER**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

I have worked for the DPS for over 32 years and have been a part of the DFT the entire time of my employment. I am running for the position of Vice President in the EON/BAMN slate under the presidency of Steve Conn. This union is in dire need of change, representation, management and leadership to name a few. As a member of the EON/BAMN slate, it is our desire to make our union once again, a viable resource for teachers, parents, students and our entire community. Our students must be our number one concern and I am committed to working with all stakeholders to provide a quality education for our youth. In order to do this, change must begin at the top. Our teachers must receive adequate support from our union in order to do the job that they are committed and dedicated to doing.

**EDNA REAVES**  
**United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

Less than one year out of the classroom, it's apparent to me that we need to re-engage our members to improve solidarity. As executive vice president the past seven months it has been my mission to build union activism in our schools and improve communications with our members. We have increased our robo-calls and email blasts, conducted telephone town halls, and created a Facebook page.

Our strength is in our ability to organize and mobilize together and empower ourselves to strengthen this union in spite of the daily attacks we face. I am proud to be an integral part of a leadership team that is not afraid to stand up for our profession and the interest of our members and students. You need a leadership team that will represent you with dignity and respect. You need a team that is solution driven, solves problems and gets results. You need UTR.

**MICHAEL SCHENK**  
**United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I am a special Education teacher at North-western High School. I have been teaching in DPS for 12 years. I have had the honor and privilege of serving in numerous union positions, including the DFT executive board, alternate building representative, school union committee and strike captain. I am currently serving on the AFT Michigan Administrative Board, and building representative at North-western. I believe that we are at a crossroads and depending on who we choose to lead our union will determine our fate. We have many candidates willing to take on this challenge and I commend them, but when you vote in a few weeks ask yourself this one question, who do you really want leading our union during these tumultuous times? If you separate all the facts from the rhetoric and wild promises, the choice is clear, Keith Johnson and the entire UTR slate.

**WILLIAM WEIR**  
**Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

I will work to be an information source on academic decisions that affect student learning and work for teachers to be a part of the decision making process for us to deliver that instruction. I have watched our students academic skills make minimal gains as they and we are saddled with curriculum that has mainly benefitted family, friends, and book companies. We are not totally responsible for this academic decline but it is we who suffer for it. I will work with our slate to challenge academic decisions made without our input and expose curriculum not best suited for our students. Working cooperatively with ALL stakeholders we will bring back quality education to our students and vigorously challenge all who stand in the way of real academic progress for their selfish personal gains!

## Recording Secretary

**FELECIA CLARK**  
**United for Teacher Rights (UTR)**

I am seeking to continue my service as the Recording Secretary of the Detroit Federation of Teachers because I strongly believe in OUR strength. 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 promoting

professionalism in the Detroit Public Schools. I truly believe that the United for Teachers Rights Caucus is the ONLY Caucus that will Move Our Union Forward. UTR is the ONLY Caucus with the experience needed to bring back what is desperately missing at this crucial time – SOLIDARITY!

**GRADY GIBBS**  
**Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

Greetings, my name is Grady B. Gibbs and I'm your candidate for the office of recording secretary within the Detroit Federation of Teachers Executive Branch. My goal is to be an effective person to record and disseminate data and materials related to Detroit Federation of Teachers leadership and membership in a timely manner. As recording secretary I will keep adequate records of meetings including attendance at the executive board. These records shall become a part of the permanent record of the meetings. I will perform duties that are required by the Constitution and bylaws of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. This is a great opportunity and I will do my best to make sure the Detroit Federation of Teachers is taken care of. I will take the opportunity to serve the DFT membership, provide a sense of power, professionalism and profound dedication to lend my services to this union.

**BARBARA SELLEY**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

I was born and raised in Detroit. I received a Masters of Business from CMU and a Masters in Education from WSU.

A successful union requires credible managers who will not back down when faced with adversity. When members are well informed about the issues, the union becomes effective in making sound decisions. At present the DFT has many unresolved issues, including the TIP money that was hi-jacked from our pay checks. DPS should release the TIP money, and stop engaging in unfair labor practices.

DPS should negotiate in good faith without retaliations and reprisals. As recording secretary, I will do everything in my power to listen to members' needs and deal with key issues such as better wages, benefits and working conditions.

I am an individual with leadership skills and talent. Vote EON/BAMN!

## Treasurer

### **KURTIS BROWN** **United for Teachers' Rights** **(UTR)**

My name is Kurtis Brown and I am the current treasurer for DFT. I have been the treasurer for the last two years. I have taken my duties as treasurer very seriously and pride myself on being fiscally responsible. We have endured some trying times and during those times I have worked diligently to trim our expenses while still being able to provide our members with the service they deserve. I am asking for your vote as UTR continues to fight for our RIGHTS as teachers, placing the interest of our STUDENTS first. I am a believer in the UTR team. I believe we give DFT the best chance at being successful in providing Detroit students with a quality public education.

### **BEATRICE CARTER** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

I am running for treasurer on the EON/BAMN slate, and I am asking for your vote. Together we must unite and fight for our teachers and students. United we can win the war against those attempting to destroy public education and the assault against our wages and benefits. Under the disguise of educational reform students are not receiving the quality education they deserve, sitting in oversized classrooms with inadequate resources to meet their needs, and the rights of teachers are being violated. Vote for unity and dignity.

### **DAWN McFARLIN** **Teachers for Union Solidarity** **(TFUS)**

As a former Detroit Public School student, as well as a current Detroit resident and teacher, I duly accept the nomination for Treasurer. As treasurer I will be honest, reliable, and I will always exercise due diligence. A true leader cannot lead if they have never been led. A true leader cannot ask others to sacrifice if he/she is not willing to do the same. Trust that I will do all of the above. When you are marking your ballot, please check Dawn McFarlin because I will make a difference!

## Executive Board

### **MYRA AKPABIO** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

### **DELORES ALEXANDER** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

We did not become teachers for the high salaries, bountiful benefits and personal glory. We became teachers in order to positively impact the minds of young people and to facilitate their growth into productive members of society. We need to help the District officials see that by imposing punitive, disrespectful guidelines on teachers, they are negatively impacting the classrooms and the students. The goal of increased student achievement cannot be reached if the goal is not the same for all levels.

### **JOHN H. ANDREWS** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

### **IVY BAILEY** **United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been active in the union for the past thirteen years. I try to involve myself in programs and initiatives that will benefit the entire membership in the long run. I will continue to work for you and speak up for you as long as I am able to do so. I'll continue to "say what I mean, and mean what I say." We are under attack nationally and locally, so we must stay diligent and not back down. I have to believe that there is a light at the end of this tunnel. Education is still the key that opens many doors. Our students are our nation's most precious resource; our national leaders are going to have to start protecting them.

### **JAMILA BELL** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

### **THOMAS BOBOVSKI** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

### **VIDA BONACCI** **United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

For all of my 20+ years as an employee of the Detroit Public Schools, I have been a strong advocate for the DFT. I have been a building representative at Priest for many years, attending many workshops to strengthen my skills to serve the members of my building. I have also served as a delegate to the state conventions and have rallied with my union brothers and sisters supporting many causes. I can bring the knowledge and experience I have learned to the executive board. This is the time to make rational decisions about our future as a union, upholding the constitution and by-laws, instead of emotions and rhetoric. The decisions I make will always support quality education for students and the improvement of working conditions. To keep this union moving forward, we need to reelect the UTR slate.

### **GLENDA BOOKER** **United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been employed with Detroit Public Schools for 20 years. In that time, I have served as John R. King's building representative as well as the alternate building representative.

I have been an active member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers Union for the past 13 years. I have served as a Delegate for the National AFT Convention, C.O.P.E. Committee supporter, Building Representative Appreciation Dinner Hostess, and a member of the DFT Election Committee.

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

### **DAVID BRENNAN** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

### **GREG DUNMORE** **EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity** **Now/By Any Means Necessary**

Professionally, politically and practically speaking, as educators, we are at a crucial cross road in our careers and collective communities-at-large.

As a veteran teacher having dedicated the greater portion of my work to Detroit's public schools, I cannot think of anytime more chal-

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
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**EXECUTIVE BOARD***(Continued from Page 4)*

lenging, chaotic and alarming than we're facing today — right now!!! Our professional dignity, deserved wages, benefits and ability to do what we do best — educate, stimulate, and nurture students — is being grossly disrespected and devalued.

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

**DORIAN EVANS****Teachers for Union Solidarity (TFUS)**

In 1992, I made the conscientious choice to educate as opposed to adjudicate youth in our society. Twenty years later, amidst the storm some people label educational reform, I am proud of my decision. 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 from 2009-2011, I firmly believe that given real opportunity, a DPS teacher is unstoppable. As an ardent advocate for "Resource done Right," I implemented successful resource programs at Winship Elementary, as well as Chadsey and Osborn College Preparatory High schools. Everyday, side by side, with my general education colleagues, we aim to educate all children, we get the job done! I eagerly accept the nomination as a member of the DFT Executive Board. Vote and vote TFUS!

**UCAL FINLEY****EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary**

As a member of the DFT for over ten years, I have watched the continued decimation of our once powerful union. Fear of job security and the continuous perpetuation from politicians and the media that educators are at fault for everything that ails education must end now. The community and parents of students in DPS have witnessed firsthand what really plagues our children and understand it is not the teachers who go into those classrooms faithfully. Politicians and the news media must be forced to see that teachers are not the enemy and will not be the scapegoat. Although fear exists in us all about the future of our employment with DPS, without standing up to them, that fear will never go away. A vote for the EON/ BAMN slate will change this. Let's stand together, united on principle.

**WILLIAM GARDNER****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I am running as a candidate for the Executive Board on the UTR caucus. I will be able to assist the President and the Vice President in making the right decision to help our members. I have served two years and I am looking forward to serving on the board for two more years.

**SHERISE HEDGES PETH**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

**WANDA LUNDY-COLQUITT****United for Teacher Rights (UTR)**

Early Childhood Specialist, Prekindergarten. I have been a proud member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers for over 30 years. As a member I have served as Vice President (2012), Trustee (2011-2012), AFT National and AFT Michigan Convention Delegate (2012), Arbitration Team Member (2009-2010), Union Rep (15 years), Union Alternate, Union Committee Member. In this time of uncertainty and discord we need a strong and knowledgeable team that will move our union forward in unity and restore our professional dignity. That's why I'm committed to the ideals expressed by the UTR Slate and look forward to serving as an Executive Board Member.

**MARK MORONI****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been teaching for DPS for ten years. These have been turbulent times. I believe it would be a lot worse without strong union leadership. The UTR caucus provides strong leadership and unprecedented professionalism. We bring unparalleled experience and expertise that cannot be matched. I believe an educated and motivated union member is a strong union member. I am both. I have had the privilege to work on the Executive Board for two terms and know that this union is on the right track despite our attacks from Lansing and administration. I have been a part of tough decisions in tough times. I am confident that we will persevere. I proudly served as a building representative at Bagley, as a delegate to the AFT convention, and the AFT Michigan convention. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve you as an Executive Board member and as a Delegate.

**WENDY NEWBERRY****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

Serving on the executive board over the years has been an enlightening experience. An experience I wish to continue. I will continue to advocate for quality education and put the best interest of my union sisters and brothers first.

There have been many attacks on our union to weaken us, but I will continue to fight for the betterment of our union making it strong once again.

This present leadership (United for Teachers Rights) has the knowledge, experience, and dedication to get the job done. Once again I ask you for your support and continue to allow this leadership (UTR) to represent and serve you in the upcoming years. Please vote the entire UTR slate.

**VANESSA PARNELL****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I am a proud product of DPS, and parent of a teen currently attending DPS. I know the importance of advocating for quality education, the best learning conditions, and exemplary teachers that promote excellence in every school.

As we encounter the relentless attacks on unions, teachers, and public education, our union will need resilient leaders that are knowledgeable, professional, able to confront crisis, and trusted to make the hard decisions. I am asking for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of an executive board member. I am confident that I possess the dedication necessary to move our union forward.

I will be proactive rather than reactive as we address educational reforms, budgetary issues, and bureaucracy that threaten to weaken our rights as educators.

My service in the union includes serving as a building representative, union committee member, Labor Day marshal, MFT delegate, and preschool-kindergarten progress report modification committee member.

**STEVEN PORTNOY****United For Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

For the past two years it has been my pleasure to be your representative on the DFT Executive Board. Those who know me know that I am not shy about speaking my mind. When the Executive Board meets I am always cognizant of my responsibility to ask pertinent questions and to vote in the best interest of the

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
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**EXECUTIVE BOARD***(Continued from Page 5)*

membership. During my term I have rarely missed any Executive Board meetings or any General Membership meetings. I have been on several committees, most recently the Art and Entertainment Committee for the AFT-National Convention. During the AFT-National Convention I was a bus captain helping out of town delegates do neighborhood canvassing for Prop. 2. And I was re-elected to be an AFT-Michigan VP at the last AFT-Michigan Convention. I urge you to vote straight ticket UTR.

**LESLEE PRZYGODSKI**  
**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

This is my 13th year as a DPS teacher and my 4th year as the building rep for Clippert Academy. I am running for executive board because I would like to be part of a change in the direction of the DFT. 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 be rebuilt. Instead of petty squabbling, we need to focus on bringing people back to the union and empowering members to understand that they are a strong force to be reckoned with.

**LISA SCOTT****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

Hello DFT members! My name is Lisa Scott and I am requesting ongoing 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 even in a climate that has been anti-teacher far too long. Some of my most important experiences included having served 12 years as a union representative/alternate, and having served as an executive board member for 4 years. Because we are facing times as never experienced before, it is imperative to support those with a proven track record and a vision. I am a proud school social worker ready and willing to continue to provide outstanding service.

**LaSHAWN SIMS****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I am an Instructional Specialist at John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy. I have served as a Building Representative as well as a Union Committee Member. I am currently serving on the Administrative Board of the American Federation of Teachers Michigan. Having served on the Executive Board for the Detroit Federation of Teachers the past two years, I have learned the importance of having proven leadership. The United for Teachers Rights caucus has the experience necessary to move our union forward. We are focused on continuing our fight for students as well as teachers. UTR represents the entire Detroit Federation of Teachers membership; we have members from preschool through high school, social work, psychology, and each subject area. I am asking that you please give us the opportunity to represent you for the next two years.

**ALVERA SMITH**

**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

**Trustees****JOSEPH ARFRE**

**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

**APRIL CHAMBERS**

**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

As a teacher, it sometimes helps to reflect on what you, yourself, have been taught. I've always been taught when faced with an issue that impacts my life so greatly that it cannot be ignored, it is much more effective to become a part of the solution than to complain. This foundational teaching has driven me to run for DFT trustee on the BAMN ballot. As a committed educator and mother of school-aged children, I feel it is my duty to become more active in the effort to remedy the issues that affect both staff and students within the Detroit Public Schools district.

**MARILYN MCCORMICK**

**EON/BAMN – Equal Opportunity**  
**Now/By Any Means Necessary**

No statement.

**VANESSA RASHEED****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been teaching for 25 years and in the Detroit Public School system for 17 years. I am a special education teacher. My union activities include:

- Working the phone banks
- School union committee member
- Alternate building representative
- Building representative
- Chairperson of the special education chapter
- Delegate to AFT Michigan Conferences
- Delegate to AFT National Conventions

As an incumbent for the Trustee position, I continue to support honesty, integrity, and hard work to ensure that the morals and values our Union was built upon remain intact and seen through our union work.

**MARCUS WALTON****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been a teacher with DPS for 18 years. 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. We need to be the catalyst for the change that our profession needs. I am running for Trustee, on the UTR slate, because I believe in the power of our union and the strength of our teachers. I have served as: Building Rep, AFT National Delegate, and AFT Michigan Delegate. 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 DFT Caucus that has the experience, strength and professionalism to provide solution driven unionism for the challenges we face.

**BEVERLY WILKERSON****United for Teachers' Rights (UTR)**

I have been employed with Detroit Public Schools and an active member of Detroit Federation of Teachers since October 1992. I have been committed to serving my union brothers and sisters and have served them in various capacities. Some of the capacities include:

- Alternate Building Representative
- Building Representative
- Delegate to American Federation of Teachers Michigan Conventions
- Delegate to American Federation of Teachers National Conventions
- Election Committee Chair and Member
- Work Stoppage Captain
- Trustee

If re-elected to the position of Trustee, I will continue to uphold the position with honesty and integrity.