

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2023

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:36 p.m. by President Lokia Wilson-Lumpkins

2. Roll Call of Officers

We have a quorum

3. Approval of Minutes

M1: Sarah Niemi (Fresh) made a motion to accept the January 2023 Executive Board and Special Executive Board Meeting Minutes. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rodney Fresh read the Profit and Loss and Balance reports from July 2022-January 2023.

5. Election Committee Report

Meeting report was given by Chair DeVette Brown. Nominations for the election of 1 Executive Board seat and 4 Election Committee seats opened on January 30, 2023 and will end on February 8, 2023. At this time, there is one nominee for the Executive Board seat and no nominees for the Election Committee at this time. Procedures for voting will be outlined next week at the General Membership Meeting. At this time, the Election Committee will ask for assistance from the Executive Board to assist with the duties during the election.

6. PAC Report

Marcus Walton gave the report this evening. There are 5 points from last month to this month. Tyre Nichols, Dr. King, Ron DeSantis, DFT Political Action Committee, Democratic National Committee are all connected to political action. When we don't hold people accountable, we will continue to have people mistreat us. We have to be the line to say, "not anymore." Without knowledge, society loses itself. When we stop teaching, we forget what happened and are in danger of being on the loop to allow these things to continue to happen. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Democratic party, see me. In order to vote, you must be a Precinct Delegate, but please attend.

7. Organizing Report

- Lokia Wilson-Lumpkins reports that there were 5 applicants who applied for the Organizing position. Three have moved to the second round. Of the 3 interviews held, it has been decided to put a hold on filling the position of Organizer at this time. Please know that the work done in this capacity is very sensitive, so we take this position very seriously. We will continue to monitor to find a replacement for this position.
- Yolanda King reports that there are 9 new/recommit members to the DFT. I am reaching out to people and trying to keep people on track. The next Building Reps Training Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28th @4:30 p.m. Information will be forthcoming as to the meeting's location (virtual or Zoom).

8. President's Report

- a. Right to Work** – We are wall to wall in Democrats! How long will we have this favor towards educators? Everything is moving at lightning speed. I have been in contact with some to participate in a campaign/video as to the repeal of Right to Work. Some members will be featured in a publication with Meghan Douglas to speak with Detroit teachers on their feelings about the need to repeal Right to Work.
- b. Contract Campaign** – We are at the ready of a new contract. Our current contract expires on June 30, 2023. As we move into this campaign, we will be meeting with different members, Executive Board Members, committee members and Building Reps to get information. We will also be putting out surveys to help gain an understanding of all the nuances that need to be addressed in the coming contract.
- c. Grievances: Blended Learning, Headstart, EDIC, Project Find** – The District has provided information of members who have been paid for Headstart/EDIC/Project Find. There were other members who do not work in some of these places who were paid and did not work. The Blended Learning Stipend is a bit more nuanced. Our attorneys are still going back and forth with this issue. It is because we do not agree that we are still working.
- d. Organizers** – I am hoping that people take advantage of the Union Building Institute and take an interest in learning about Union building. We want the next shoes in this position to be the right fit. No applicant mentioned discounts, or even the liability insurance that Union membership offers. This is where we are with our Members and how much they actually know about the Union.
- e. Southeastern H.S.** – Staff and students have been online since January 9th. The school may not be back to in-person learning in May. They are currently preparing Frederick Douglass to accept Southeastern, as the district does not want to lose any more students. AFT will show their appreciation to the staff of Southeastern HS with a special presentation this Saturday at the DIA event of the Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks. Be there early, as the reception begins at 6:00 p.m.
- f. We are S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. Together!** – We need to realize that we are stronger together – regardless of our differences in opinion and strategies in getting

things accomplished. We need to be strategic in how we proceed. In the end, we agree on education and on kids.

9. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Survey** – AFT President Weingarten sued the Department of Education during the Trump Administration about loan forgiveness. The ask is for more transparency, better communication and an easier and clearer process for loan forgiveness. She has the ear of President Biden and wants to give him more data about loan forgiveness, so we are going to be asking members to complete a survey on loan forgiveness.
- b. **DFT Committees** – Committees are ways of engaging with our members and building capacity. Some are very active and our goal is to have Executive Board Members on each committee to help build capacity.
- c. **Regions** – Five years ago, this was brought to the forefront. We have had some starts and stops with this, but we need this in place to keep reps informed and to get information back.

Q & A

- Robin Jennings would like to be on the Elementary (3-5) committee
- Everett Whitfield would like to be part of the PAC. He will also chair the Middle School Committee.
- Lisa Card asks if a meeting can be held for all committee leads to set ground rules and eliminate any confusion as to duties.
- Marcus Walton – what are the hours and location of meeting tomorrow. *JP:12-4 at AFT Michigan 2661 E. Jefferson. Rosa Parks event is Saturday at the DIA. Bring a laptop to the training tomorrow to AFT Michigan.*
- Dwan – Where do we send items that we want to send out in regards to information about our committee? *LW-L: Submit all to the DFT Office.*

10. New Business

Fletcher – What is going on Saturday? *JP: The AFT Michigan Union Building Institute at U of M Dearborn – 4901 Evergreen Rd.,*

11. Good of the Order

- Bring laptops tomorrow for training
- Survey was sent yesterday – please submit
- Keep basketball player from Northwestern in our thoughts and prayers

12. Adjournment

M2: Crystal Lee (Jennings) made a motion to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectively Submitted – Elena Brantley-Phillips, DFT Recording Secretary