

Mail Your Ballot by November 25

ELECTION EDITION

THE DETROIT teacher

Election Special



November 14, 2016

2016 Calendar for Biennial Election of Officers, Executive Board Members and Trustees

NOVEMBER 7 (week of)

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

NOVEMBER 14

BALLOTS MAILED TO MEMBERS' HOMES. VOTING BEGINS. If you do not receive ballot, call DFT office.

NOVEMBER 25

VOTING ENDS. Ballots mailed by end of Business Day.

DECEMBER 3

BALLOTS COUNTED. Votes will be counted by the American Arbitration Association at 10 a.m. at the Walker-Roehrig Building, 600 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI, 48226.

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Unofficial List of Candidates in the 2016 General Election of Officers, Executive Board and Trustees

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

DTFE — Dedicated Teachers for Fairness and Equity

UTR — United for Teachers Rights

PRESIDENT

Ivy Bailey	UTR
Nicole Conaway	EON/BAMN
Asenath Jones	DTFE

VICE PRESIDENT

Ursula Byrd	EON/BAMN
Marietta Elliott	DTFE
Joseph Hunter	DTFE
Robin Jennings	UTR
Terrence Martin	UTR
Shalon Miller	DTFE
Regina Ross	EON/BAMN
Theresa Williams	EON/BAMN
Lakia Wilson	UTR

RECORDING SECRETARY

Stephanie Griffin	DTFE
Elena Brantley-Phillips	UTR
Ingrid Rivers	EON/BAMN

TREASURER

Tracy Arneau
Michelle Broughton

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Myra Akpabio
Joel Berger
Vida Bonacci
Glenda Booker
Mary Jo Brockman
Tracy Brown
Crystal Cannon
Lisa Card
Welia Vanessa Dawson
Nicole Devezin
Brian Diskin
Gregory Dunmore
Vicki Green
Shar Willis Gregory
Allison Guy
Patricia Hopkins
Kimberly Jackson
Patti McCoin

EON/BAMN
UTR

EON/BAMN
DTFE
UTR
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EON/BAMN
INDEPENDENT
EON/BAMN
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DTFE
UTR

Quan Neloms
Sarah Niemi
Brenda Nimocks
Richard Ostrowski
Sean Perin
Jason Posey
Lisa Reynolds
Tracy Russell
Marcus Walton
William Weir
Darnese Wilkinson

TRUSTEE

Marva Needham Fletcher
Donavon Gardner
Justin Kemeny
Angela Link
Kenneth Williams

UTR
UTR
EON/BAMN
EON/BAMN
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DTFE
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EON/BAMN

President

IVY BAILEY UTR

I am running for President on the UTR slate. I have done everything that I said I would do and more. I will continue to focus on improving Union customer service, communication, and member education. A Union is only as strong as its members and an educated membership is even stronger. We must remain steadfast in our efforts to organize and mobilize. Our Union is changing. Change is hard, but in the end, it will be worth it. We have garnered the respect of parents, other unions and community members. I have been your voice, advisor and a sounding board for over fifteen years. That has not changed. Our students are our most precious resource; we must fight for them. It has been a long and uneventful two years, but we've made progress. We must continue moving forward. We can't let those who want to destroy public education win!

NICOLE CONAWAY EON/BAMN

I am a committed fighter for our union and schools. As President, I will fight for: No school closings, return EAA Schools, no more charters, safe clean schools, increase teacher salary, reduce class size now, full special education services, art, gym and music in every school! EON/BAMN told the truth about Snyder's plans to dismantle DPS and provided leadership and political perspective for sickouts and walkouts that initially stopped Snyder in his tracks, and prevented the worst parts of his bill from becoming law. We are the only leadership prepared to defend our union, our jobs, and Detroit's public schools. Our movement to defeat the racist and cynical plan for Jim Crow schools will restore democracy to our Union, our district, and this city. This is the only way to restore our schools, and our pay and benefits. We can win! With your vote, we will. Vote EON/BAMN straight slate!

ASENATH JONES DTFE

As a Dedicated educator, I possess a relentless drive to achieve life changing results. I understand that a good teaching environment is a great learning environment for our students.

As a fearless union member for the last 19 years, I seek Fairness. I started teaching in 1997, and in 1998 I marched on my first picket line. I have served as union representative for Ruddiman, Osborn and currently Cass Tech. It is my priority to restore DFT to the mighty Union it was established to be. There is power in THIS union.

As a candidate for DFT President, I seek Equity for our membership. I'm committed to honoring our bylaws, being transparent and ensuring members voices are heard. For far too long we have sacrificed for this district with nothing in return. The time is now to be Restored. Reignite your momen-

tum and Renew your passion under strong new leadership!

Vice President

URSULA BYRD EON/BAMN

Brothers and Sisters, we want to be the mighty DFT. It is time for NEW LEADERSHIP. I am a strong, dedicated, COMMITTED 2nd generation union member. I am running for vice-president because I am honest and trustworthy. With your help, we will move this union forward fighting for teacher rights, smaller class size, and fair compensation. With our team, we will unite and build a movement not just a moment. We will defend our union by being transparent, ethical, and fair. It is time to for a change. If you want change, be proud, stand up now and vote the EON/BAMN Slate. Together we can win!

MARIETTA ELLIOTT DTFE

Ready for a change in leadership? Ready for your voice to be heard? Ready to fight to defend public education? It's time for our unity to be reignited! Last school year, I spent countless hours fighting for equitable conditions and pay. As one of "The Mamas," I helped mobilize our union. I was instrumental in organizing conference calls, rallies, marches, and social media groups, which led to more solidarity within our union. At the cost of sleepless nights, time missed with my family, and lost wages from the sickouts, we brought international attention to the injustices against our students and us. I challenged the mayor! I challenged the governor! I even discussed our plight in a face-to-face meeting with President Barack Obama! I have been fighting for DPS and will continue to fight back! A vote for me is a vote for fairness and equity. Vote DTFE!

JOSEPH HUNTER DTFE

I grew up in Detroit and I'm a proud product of DPS. Let's end the underrepresentation of our teachers and students and the neglect of our facilities. This union is mighty; Lansing and the district must recognize that we matter and give us what we are owed. Let's stop them from treating us as if we are pawns in a game, sacrificed for their own financial gain and benefit. Let's unify the DFT and return the respect that we deserve and the members we've lost. New leadership can restore the honor and integrity of the union and ensure the children of Detroit get the resources they need for the education they deserve. I want to fight for you to get the compensation we deserve and to solidify public education for the future. For too long things have been unfair, unbalanced and inequitable; it's time for a change.

ROBIN JENNINGS UTR

My name is Robin Jennings and I am seek-

ing the office of Vice-President. I have been a devoted and enthusiastic teacher for the past twenty-five years. I have served in numerous capacity for my union which includes building representative, and DFT executive board. I have been involved in politics for many years and I know how to build relationships. 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 continue making additional gains and that will move our union forward. UTR is the only Caucus that has the expertise, experience, and stamina to provide rational solutions to a constantly changing school system. I will help fight for the rights of our union and will always be available when called upon.

TERRENCE MARTIN UTR

I started my career as an elementary certified teacher at Lynch Elementary. While at Lynch, my leadership roles included serving as building representative and DFT Treasurer. I continued my service as a Labor Relations Administrator, and now as Executive Vice President.

Our union is more organized and mobilized than it has ever been. There has been a continued commitment to build our capacity, and to transform this Union. The DFT has become more engaged with the community. We have engaged with organizations such as the NAACP and the ACLU of Michigan.

With the negativity we face as education professionals, it is imperative that we continue to take an offensive posture by fighting against attacks on public education. We fight back by building power. We build power by engaging with community partners and other unions that support public education. The unified strength we have shown must continue. We are better together.

SHALON MILLER DTFE

I, Sharon Miller, have been a dedicated teacher for Detroit Public Schools for 16 years. Throughout my career, I have had teaching experience in elementary, middle, and high school both as a general and special education teacher. I know the challenges first-hand that many of our union members face. Challenges that have made educating our students extremely difficult. I truly believe that the livelihood of the union runs with revitalization of our schools. We must expose the willful neglect of urban public education. My

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

commitment to equitable treatment of students and staff cannot be denied. Whether it's exposing the disgraceful building conditions at Cody High School or supporting litigation that highlights students' denial of a lawful education. I decided to create the change that I wanted to see. We need our passion reignited and union member's voices restored. Vote Dedicated Teachers for Fairness & and Equity!

**REGINA ROSS
EON/BAMN**

Regina Ross, a Detroit Public School teacher for over 25 years. Her education includes two Master degrees earned from Wayne State University and a Doctoral of Education from Ashwood University. She has served as a DFT building representative for over 10 years in several Detroit Public Schools. Regina Ross has represented our great union as an AFT National Convention Delegate and has been an AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade Marshal. She is the Director of Keri's Korner Community Group. President of a Neighborhood Association. Vice President of Women of Wayne. Regina Ross is Community Advisory Board Council Member.

Not, only has she been honored as teacher of the year, she has been honored on the Oprah Winfrey Show. Other recognitions include being honored for outstanding community leadership and community service, which include exemplary volunteer service. Her passion for fairness led her to become an Equal Opportunity Counselor and Executive Board member.

**THERESA WILLIAMS
EON/BAMN**

Education professionals should be appreciated and held in high regard. We are entitled to the same respect and admiration as other professionals. I consider it an honor, pleasure and a privilege to represent the members of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. Detroit teachers are some of the best in the nation. We deserve better! Please vote for YOU, by casting your vote for me on the EON/BAMN slate.

**LAKIA WILSON
UTR**

Unionism has changed. We have to fight on all fronts: local, state and national. Every union member must be vocal, visible and active in their schools and respective communities. I have served as a committed Executive Board member to represent you, speaking truth to power with the highest level of professionalism, respect and honesty.

Serving as your Vice President is an honor and a challenge that I am up for—operative word being serving. My union activism has transformed from volunteer to servant. We all have different ideas to help move this union forward. Working as one unit in solidarity is my goal.

We all have sacrificed and we're still here by choice. The hard work put forward by you, this Executive Board and Officers is what's kept us alive. We are finally on our way back. Allow

me to continue serving you, to restore our rights, reputation and power.

Secretary

**STEPHANIE GRIFFIN
DTFE**

Stephanie is a veteran teacher who advocates for fairness and equity for Detroit teachers. She is appalled that politicians have waged a war against DPS teachers by supporting laws that aim to privatize Detroit Schools and obstruct our ability to collectively organize. She believes that in order to combat these divisive political forces, DFT must have a strong leadership that advocates tirelessly according to its members' will. If elected, her main goals are to re-establish unity to DFT and respect to the field of education. If you desire a leader that values transparency, fairness, and equity, I urge you to vote Stephanie Griffin for your DFT Recording Secretary.

**ELENA BRANTLEY-PHILLIPS
UTR**

I would like to be the Secretary of the Detroit Federation of Teachers because I know the job. As a former AFSCME member and past Recording Secretary of Local #542, I had the responsibility to inform the officers and the union membership of what was happening. Correspondence between locals and the parent organization are very important, and it is a job that I do not take lightly. As the Trustee, I made decisions that were best for the union, and as the secretary, know that I will always have the members wishes at the forefront with anything that is presented, keeping in mind that we are as one. Elect me and you will have honesty, integrity, and a fair representation of this, all of the time.

**INGRID RIVERS
EON/BAMN**

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress," Frederick Douglass. As a collective body, may we continue to meet and conquer any struggles that will deny and suppress the union's progressive spirit? Vote for the EON/BAMN Slate!

Treasurer

**TRACY ARNEAU
EON/BAMN**

I possess many strong qualities as a third-generation union member and educator which makes me an excellent candidate for Treasurer of the DFT. In addition to being a highly qualified educator for over 15 years, I hold a BA from Walsh College. Previously, I worked in corporate America over a decade as an account manager. Currently, I sit on a board that oversees financial planning of assets in excess of \$500,000. I am capable of balancing budgets, preparing and presenting financial statements

and documents that are required as the Treasurer of the DFT. People who know me would describe me as being very motivated and results driven. Therefore, it is my primary goal to bring total and complete transparency of the DFT's financial status to the membership at each and every DFT meeting. Vote EON/ BAMN straight slate if you truly want individuals that will fight for your rights!

**MICHELLE BROUGHTON
UTR**

We are still the Mighty DFT, with your active engagement we will win! I am encouraging Union members to become empowered by connecting with leadership that will advocate for all its members. I am an active DFT member of 26 years. I have served as Building Rep for many years and AFT & MFT delegate. I served as the Political Director for the DFT under Presidents Garrison and Cantrell. Then, Treasurer under Johnson. I believe in us; my four grandchildren currently attend Mackenzie elementary. I am currently Vice Chair of the 14th congressional District and a Precinct Delegate of 30 years. I worked as a substitute teacher and a head teller at a major bank. Currently, I'm an Ed Tech. I have a B.S. degree, a Labor Law Certification from Wayne State University and Certification in Labor management from The National Labor College in Washington D.C.

Executive Board

MYRA AKPABIO EON/BAMN

Brothers and Sisters,
I am running for the Executive Board; I want us to be United. Together we Stand, Divided we FAIL. I want us to succeed in this War on Public Education! With your help, we will move this union forward! We will defend our union by being transparent, ethical, and fair. Vote the EON/ BAMN slate! Peace, Myra Akpabio

JOEL BERGER DTFE

I am a second-generation DPS teacher and DFT member; my mother was a building union representative for years at Howe Elementary. I am concerned about the right-wing agenda to charter and de-unionize the Detroit Public Schools, and I understand the importance of unifying DFT membership to fight against forces pushing that agenda. I believe in a two-pronged approach to fight back: first, I will push to re-build the DFT from the ground up, putting particular focus on empowering and supporting building level unions. Some of my biggest goals are to ensure that every building has a union representative, a union committee, and to ensure that DFT leadership is doing its utmost to support DFT members with their unique needs and initiatives at the building level. Second, I will push the DFT to build authentic relationships with community organizations and allies to support teachers in our battles ahead.

VIDA BONACCI UTR

I have been involved with the union for many years and am still committed to serving the interests of all union members. I am seeking my third term on the executive board. I also have experience as a building representative, served as a delegate to state conventions, participate in the annual Lobby Day in Lansing and volunteer for events such as First Book. It's important to stay politically aware of what is happening in Detroit, the state and the federal government. The union needs leaders who make decisions based on logic and reason, not emotions. I have been able to make those tough decisions and will continue to do so. We have had some difficult decisions to make but all were made to strengthen the power of the mighty DFT. The current leadership is committed to mobilizing and organizing while serving the needs of members. Vote UTR!

GLENDIA BOOKER UTR

I have been employed with Detroit Public Schools and an active member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers since November 1993. I have served as John R. King's Building Representative, Alternate Building Representative, delegate for the National AFT Convention, C.O.P.E. Committee Supporter Building Rep-

resentative Appreciation Dinner Hostess and a member of the DFT Election Committee.

I am seeking to continue my service as an incumbent for the Executive Board position. I will continue to uphold the integrity of this union and place the principles of honesty and fairness in high regard. I will continue to ensure that the morals and values that our union was built upon remain intact and seen through our union work. A vote for Glenda Booker and the entire UTR slate is a vote for ACCOUNT-ABILITY!!

MARY JO BROCKMAN EON/BAMN

Hello, my name is Mary Jo Brockman. I am currently a Reading Recovery Teacher at Marquette Elementary / Middle School. I have been an educator in the public school system for 20 years. I have been with DPS / DPSCD for 18 years. Over the years I have been a building representative and a building alternate for DFT. I regularly attended the monthly membership meetings and I firmly believe in the power of unions.

I believe that we...the MIGHTY DFT...can and will bring forth a renewing attitude of strength, pride, and transparency. When elected to the Executive Board I will vote in accordance with the By-Laws and Constitution of the DFT. I will listen and make my voice heard when it comes to the well-being of the members of this Union.

TRACY BROWN INDEPENDENT

It is with great honor that I accept the nomination to the Detroit Federation of Teachers, Executive board. I look forward to serving my entire realm of Detroit stakeholders. These are troubling times. It is imperative that teacher's voices are heard. Teachers in the schools, and in the classrooms, are on the front lines of our educational systems. We know the problems, the short comings, and our strengths. Yet more importantly, we know how to solve our various woes. For far too long that voice has been ignored. I plan to change all of that. I will listen closely to my fellow teachers and make sure their presence is ever present in every aspect. I will stand for DPS and represent our creed; "We are the union. The mighty, mighty, union!" A vote for Tracy Brown is a vote for real teacher based solutions and equality.

LISA CARD UTR

Osborne Evergreen Academy DTE
Executive Board Candidate
Teacher 19 years/ Special Education 10 years
Political and Faith Based Initiatives
Order of eastern Stars
Minister of Faith (Sacred Heart Church)
DFT/AFT active member, Phone Banking, election canvassing, Labor Day Rallies etc.
Current Trustee DFT
Building Representative

WELIA VANESSA DAWSON DTFE

We are indeed "history in the making" because this pivotal year will determine the fate of our district. We must unite to fight this great battle. As one of "The Mamas" I have proven myself to be a dedicated and strategic fighter, which is exactly what we need to be victorious. I am a 22-year veteran teacher and I hold steadfast to the belief that public education is a civil right which must be "fair and equitable." A child's education shouldn't be predicated on socioeconomic status or zip codes. If our students are measured using the same standards as suburban districts, then they must receive equitable resources and learning environments. If teachers are evaluated using statewide criteria then we deserve the same supports, teaching environments, and pay. I am determined to help fight to ensure "playing fields" are equal and fair. Vote Welia Vanessa Dawson on the DTFE Slate!

NICOLE DEVEZIN DTFE

We will only exist, if we exist! We are the Union the mighty, mighty, Union. We must reignite our mighty to be our Union. I am "Mama" Nicole Devezin, I am ready to reignite our Union. I'm ready for the change of fairness and equity for all of our members. All of our members must receive fairness and equity for us to be that mighty Union. I have been an educator for 20 plus years in the district, I'm planning for our Union to be reignited. The rallies, marches, conference calls, and more were a start to achieving our mighty status and with DTFE it will be reached. Your voices will be heard, your actions will be addressed, and your thoughts will be considered. I need you in the Union. I will speak loud and clear for the Union. Reignite the Unity in our Union, remember, WE ARE THE UNION..."

BRIAN DISKIN DTFE

For over twenty-five years I have been teaching at DPS, and I've been a proud member of the DFT. I am passionate about our profession. I know that we face efforts to undermine and devalue our profession, and because of this, we need a stronger union. Our present election is pivotal. The foundation for our success, going forward, must be mobilizing and empowering union representatives and committee members at each school to affect change at the building level. We learned last year, that building-level action created a groundswell of support within the community. Capitalizing on that support with newly elected leaders, who understand that unified, empowered, and energized unionists are vital in every local school, we can begin to defend our profession, restore our schools, our union, and our city.

GREGORY DUNMORE EON/BAMN

Professionally, politically and practically speaking, as educators, we are at a crucial crossroad in our careers and collective commu-

nities-at-large.

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 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!

VICKI GREEN
DTFE

I attended Detroit Public Schools for my entire education. Both of my children graduated from Detroit Public Schools. I have been a dedicated DFT member since September of 1998.

The success of public education in Detroit will be an integral part of the resurgence of our great city.

I am most concerned with fair wages and great working conditions which would draw and retain great teachers. Having a great teaching force is the ONLY way to ensure the success of the district overall.

SHAR WILLIS GREGORY
DTFE

I am a product of the Detroit Public Schools, a proud mother of three successful, productive graduates from DPS, a lifelong Detroit resident, and a twenty-eight-year member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. I believe in fairness, unity, and equity in education. And I will fight for our schools, our children, our union, our jobs and our respect.

KIMBERLY JACKSON
DTFE

Hello, my name is Kimberly Jackson aka Mama Jackson. (Yes, I'm one of the Mamas). I have been working in Detroit Public Schools for 23 years and am currently teaching at Paul Robeson Malcolm X Academy, where I have the honor of serving as the Building Representative. What a year this has been! Dr. King said it best, "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty of the bad people, but the silence over that of the good people." We proved that when we made our voices heard and took action, things began to happen. You heard me on the conference calls, you saw me at the meetings, rallies, marches, and even on Let It Rip. We've seen what real solidarity looks like and with us all working together what we can achieve. I want to help reignite that fire, passion, and most of all unity. Vote for DTFE!

PATTI MCCOIN
UTR

My name is Patti McCoin and I am currently teaching 6th grade Math at Clippert Academy, home of the Aguilas! I have been at Clippert since the 2011-2012 school year and have seen firsthand the positive impact of a stable school community. I am running for an executive board seat because I would like to be part of the necessary change the DFT needs to embark upon in order to save ourselves and public education in the City of Detroit. The DFT must become a cohesive unit with a common goal and every member must be committed and active. While I am not afraid to express my opinion or communicate my dissatisfaction I am able to work collaboratively with others once a decision has been reached. I have been involved in the fight for public education in Michigan for many years and I am an active member of the DFT.

QUAN NELOMS
UTR

As a lifelong resident of Detroit and a Detroit Public Schools Community School District teacher for 12 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 interest of the 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 part of a team that aims to develop educated members, strong schools, strong communities and a better Detroit.

SARAH NIEMI
UTR

As a Speech Pathologist in DPS for 19 years, I've seen the deliberate, continuous attempt to dismantle and privatize public education in Detroit. We're being attacked by Lansing politicians whose sole ambition is re-election. Their campaigns are funded by right-wing millionaires from western Michigan who are driven by an ideology that sees children as a commodity. Their attacks will continue, but if we're strategic and unified with our fight, we will win. As an executive board member, I'll fight for an equitable education for all the children in Detroit. That fight starts with honoring and respecting teachers, and providing the resources it takes to effectively educate our kids. I'll also work to help build consensus in our Union. We might not always agree on everything but we can definitely find some common ground as long as we keep the best interest of all the members and students in mind.

BRENDA NIMOCKS
EON/BAMN

Greetings, brothers and sisters, my name is Brenda Joyce Nimocks. I accept the nomination for a DFT Executive Board position.

My decision to run was solely based on the fact that substitute teachers, support staff, and students don't have a "voice" in the union or district. Substitute teachers are not just a body in the classroom due to an absence or vacancy, we are educators and members of DFT Local 231. Growing up, I was taught the importance of a union by my mother, father, grandparents, who were AFL-CIO and UAW members. I also admired and received guidance from various union leaders as well.

I will fight for decent wages, cost saving benefits, classroom resources, and safe working conditions for all employees of the school district. I will also fight for reliable public transportation, safe neighborhoods and a high-quality education for all students. Thank You for this opportunity.

RICHARD OSTROWSKI
EON/BAMN

Dear DFT members, I'm seeking your endorsement for the DFT Executive Board because I believe in equity in a free and public education, based on evidence-supported decision making.

Education is a social service and we, as educators deserve to teach in public institutions that uplift students, families and communities. As we are some of the primary agents in the intellectual, social and emotional development of schoolchildren in the city of Detroit, we owe it to our students to use our empirical evidence, experiences and perspectives to construct a system of coordination that delivers a quality education; as opposed to our current system of confusion, alienation and fragmentation.

Activist and author Alice Walker wrote, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." Let this not be the fate of our students, their educators, and/or free and public education in Detroit.

SEAN PERIN
UTR

Sean Perin is an education advocate for students enrolled in Detroit Public Schools Community District. What happens to our children happens to US? As a candidate for executive board my goal is to expand the sphere of educational, vocational, and artistic influences that will serve as the catalyst for the rebirth of Detroit. I began my career with DPS in August, 1998 and throughout my time I have experienced the low of striking to the high of reaching step ten on the pay scale and back to the low of a ten percent pay cut being forced upon us all. I desire for us to work in a positively enriched environment in which we are truly compensated our full value. I know the best is yet to come. So, I say yes to students; Yes, to my colleagues; and yes, to substantive outcomes. Vote for the entire UTR slate.

JASON POSEY
UTR

My name is Jason Posey. I currently serve on the Executive Board. I teach 3rd grade at Noble Elementary-Middle School. I am currently in my 14th year of teaching. I am proud member of the Detroit Federation of Teachers. I have been the building representative at Noble for 4 years. I have previously served as building alternate and union committee member. I am an Education Advocate and Contract Action Team member. I have had the honor of being a two time AFT Michigan Delegate and an AFT National Delegate. Serving on the Executive Board during the past two years was challenging, but also the proudest time of my career. I think we need to continue to work together to improve the conditions for our students and ourselves. WE are the UNION. I look forward to continuing to serve you as an Executive Board member. Thank you for your consideration.

LISA L. REYNOLDS
DTFE

I am a life-long resident of Detroit. I am DPS as a graduate, parent and educator. My undergraduate and graduate degrees in education are from Marygrove College. I have been a member of DFT since 1999. I believe in the unity of solidarity and while we don't always agree on how to do something, we all can agree on doing what is best for children. I believe we are stronger together. I believe we have taken a beating legislatively, socially and financially. However, we are still here. This moment in time requires us to think critically about the future of our union, the future of our city and most importantly the future of our children. I want to become more fully engaged in this process and lend my service, time, talent, intellect and energy to make a victorious stand for education. Together we will win!

MARCUS WALTON
UTR

Battle tested and Strong in Our Resolve ... DFT will be victorious in our fight against those in Lansing who seek to destroy Public Education. I have personally experienced the baptism of fire that many DFT experience: attacks from Lansing, stupidity from DPS central office, internal conflicts among DFT membership. I remain strong in my determination that UTR is the only caucus that has the experience, temperament, strength and professionalism to provide the solutions to the challenges we face. I have served my DFT brothers and sisters as: Building Representative, Executive Board member, Trustee, AFT MI Administrative Council – AFT National Delegate and AFT Michigan Delegate. Detroit Teachers demand dignity and respect! I have the courage to speak out against injustice and the wisdom to solve the conflicts we face as teachers and the determination to organize our Mighty DFT onward to victory!

WILLIAM WEIR
UTR

My name is William Thomas Weir. I'm running for a position on the Executive Board on the UTR slate. I chose the UTR slate because I've canvassed, marched, letter written, and phone banked with most of these committed people from the leadership to rank and file. I see the big picture beyond petty politics and I want to do the work needed to strengthen our union and serve our students as educators. These brothers and sisters share my view and they work and that is what we need. We need workers who will strive to get membership back involved in their union. We need workers to help organize our communities to help us fight for their children. I want to be a part of that work as this is the only way to restore respect for our profession and to serve our students in the equitable manner they deserve.

DARNESE WILKINSON
UTR

I am an Instructional Specialist at Bagley Elementary. I've been employed with DPS for 21 years. I am a strong advocate for the Detroit Federation of Teachers and have served as Building Representative at Brewer Academy. I also serve as an Executive Board Member and as a DFT Delegate for AFT Michigan/National Convention.

I am known to be a fighter that stands for equality and fairness. I am an educator who values academic success for our students and the lives of educators who make it happen. As a member of the UTR slate, my goal is to be a part of the voices that are making sure teachers' rights are not being violated.

I am running as a candidate for DFT Executive Board. I am dedicated in supporting quality education and improvements with our working conditions. Please support the UTR slate in this move towards building a stronger union.

Trustee

MARVA NEEDHAM FLETCHER
UTR

I, Marva Needham Fletcher, accept the nomination for the office of Trustee for the Detroit Federation of Teachers on the UTR slate.

For most of my teaching career, I have been an adult education teacher. In addition, I have served as a union chapter president, building representative, 13th Congressional District Precinct Delegate, and UTR delegate to the MFT convention.

Today, I am the building representative at the Adult Education - West Campus. With the East Campus building representative (Mark Canti), we have registered more than 90% of our teachers to the union. We have registered our students to vote and distributed campaign literature.

In this role, I vow to work tirelessly to serve our

students, teachers, schools, and the greater Detroit community.

Humbly, I ask for your vote as Trustee for the DFT on the UTR slate. DFT and UTR forever! Thank you.

DONAVON GARDNER
UTR

My name is Donavon Gardner. I have been a DPS employee, and DFT member since 2006. I am a Special Education Resource teacher. I am the Union representative at Mason Academy. During the 2015-16 school year, I was a part of a special task force within the DFT called the "Education Advocates." I participated in neighborhood canvassing and helped to inform the community of the deplorable conditions our students and teachers face in various school buildings. I was able to meet with Senator Geoff Hansen, and various state representatives on several occasions. We were successful in getting politicians to push bills through that would secure the funds needed to keep DPS schools open, and secure teacher positions. The war for quality public education and competitive salaries is far from over. However, I am honored to have played my part in the battles we have won.

JUSTIN KEMENY
EON/BAMN

My name is Justin Kemeny and I am running for Trustee of DFT. Many people have come to know me as Bob Beans or John Smith on Facebook. I have spent years trying to make sure membership has been informed and not left in the dark. My goal is to bring transparency and honesty to all members and to provide complete information to membership every step of the way as we fight the war for what our teachers and students deserve. Those who have been paying attention have seen that I come with an arsenal of information and will always fight hard for the benefits of our members. I look forward to this opportunity to serve our membership; to help gain back all that we have lost under state control. Vote for the EON/BAMN slate and a movement towards positive change.

ANGELA LINK
UTR

I have been teaching for Detroit Public Schools for over 25 years. I have taught some of the greatest minds in this world as well as worked with the greatest. Since working closely with the union this last school year, I realized being in a leadership role is extremely exhausting, grueling, and time consuming. People are going to persecute you even when you are really fighting for them. It is imperative that everyone get involved any way possible to understand the obstacles that the leadership faces. Instead of sitting back criticizing those elected to serve, I decided to help and get involved. I had the pleasure of escorting a few of my students to Lansing to speak with the Republicans regarding their quest to destroy DPS. Never would I have imagined the pressure and negativity from those who were on the same team. Lansing is enough! GET ACTIVE! STAY COMMITTED!