

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
Executive Board Meeting - December 2, 2021
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:32 by President Terrence Martin.

A moment of silence was given for the staff and students of Oxford

2. Roll Call of Officers

3. Approval of Minutes

M1: Jason Posey (Booker) made a motion to accept the November 2021 Executive Board Meeting Minutes with any necessary corrections. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Michelle Broughton read the Profit and Loss Report July-October 2021.

5. Organizing Report

Yolanda King gave the report for the month of November with 44 new and recommits. There are a few locations that are still working on building committees. If you have any people who want to join or have any other general concerns, please let the Organizing team know. The next Building Reps Training will be held in January 2022. Details will be forthcoming.

Elections Committee –

The official list of the names of those individuals running for office were posted on the DFT website. The election will begin on December 10th via Survey Monkey. Voting will be open for 1 week – to end on December 17th @5 p.m. Queen Watkins, Benjamin Royal, MaryJo Brockman, Gavin Buckley, LaVar Johnson will be the candidates running for the vacant Executive Board seat.

6. President's Report

- a. **COVID Cases** – The number of COVID cases has been through the roof. Hundreds of students have been quarantined as close contacts. The ask for the week of Thanksgiving was to give the district the opportunity to clean buildings. In the month of December, the district has decided to be virtual on Fridays. DFT is asking for a simple to understand matrix for COVID and closing schools. This

needs to be clarified. Right now, we are . If a school's weekly VOCID infection rate is at 3% will be closed for 1 day. If there is an outbreak, that grade level or cohort will be closed for 10 days. If the weekly infection rate is 5%, the school will be closed for 10 days. These are based on the number of students and staff members tested in schools every day. The fear is that we are not getting a true sample of the number of students that may be ill. There has to be consideration of results in the city and the tri-county area. There needs to be an average that will give a more accurate description of what the rates really are. When there is an option to be tested or not tested. Students have to be tested. The system is faulty if there is not a clear sample of students tested. The Superintendent wants to keep schools open – by any means necessary, instead of using what makes sense. We are urging the district to use the research when making decisions. Less than half of the population in the city is not vaccinated. We are going to continue to work on the matrix so that it will make sense, but it will be a challenge. Dr. Vitti sent an e-mail out this week asking about vaccination status. We are required to do this. *Marshall Widick: There is a certain degree of uncertainty. The employer can ask about the vaccine status. There are many other employers who are asking. The district needs to keep the confidentiality of the responses.*

- b. **Virtual Fridays** - The district has agreed to have virtual classrooms on Fridays in the month of December.
- c. **Student Attendance** – Attendance is poor in a lot of schools and classrooms. Students are not coming to school. It is important that we encourage our students to log on tomorrow and each Friday this month.
- d. **Vouchers** – Right now, there are petitions being passed around that gives cash money to parents so that they can use the money to go to a private or online school. We need to be keenly aware of this and prepared to fight back against it. Hecker – it is a very real possibility. They will get the petition signatures. If they pass in reaction, the governor will probably say no, but there is a possibility that it will get on the ballot. If all else fails, we will have to go to court to try to save public education.

7. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Building Rep Survey** – All complaints about COVID and other things info.reopen@detroitk12.org. Both staff and students need to be sure to be online on Fridays this month! Calls need to be made to families to be sure that they are online. The survey is fluid and will change daily.
- b. **Retirement & Separations** - We only know about retirements and separations when people tell us. Please send an e-mail requesting that dues draw should stop.

8. Old Business

- Will Michael Rice be able to address the Union? *TM: He will not be available in December, but we are still working on it.*
- ESE leadership met with SSW's about their questions with Dr. Vitti. There is no reason stated why they took the coordination day.

9. New Business

10. Good of the Order

11. Adjournment

M2: Jason Posey(Fresh) made a motion to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED.**
Meeting adjourned @7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Brantley-Phillips – DFT Recording Secretary

Detroit Federation of Teachers