

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
Executive Board Meeting
January 6, 2022

1. Call to Order

President Terrence Martin 4:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Officers

We have a quorum

3. Approval of Minutes

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

4. Treasurer's Report

Lawrence Price –the new DFT Controller, was present to meet the members of the Executive Board. The Union records have been neglected for about a year and a half from March of 2020. We are now at the point where we have a handle on everything. We are caught up on our per caps, which will enable our leaders to attend the National Convention this year. We are now current. The next challenge is the audits/financial review. We are running at a small deficit and an analysis needs to be done on the finances and the structures that we already have in place. We need to start looking at a dues increase. Nationals will be going up. We are thinking of raising dues a dollar a pay, or \$22. This is fully necessary to continue the work that we do. Mr. Price, Treasurer Broughton and the Trustees will meet to discuss the finances soon.

Treasurer Broughton gave the report for finances from July – December 2021.

5. Organizing Report

Jason Posey said that there was an increase in 34 members in December. We have an increase in Building Reps now. The next training is January 18th @4:30 p.m. We would appreciate if the Union leadership was present for this training. Please remind the Membership that Organizers are still paid the same as a classroom teacher on steps.

6. Elections Committee Report

See written report attached to January 2022 Minutes.

7. President's Report

- a. **Virtual Learning** – As of today – we are virtual. The District has made this decision based on the case rates around the community. The District began to get numbers from members who were notifying the District, letting them know that they would not be able to report back in a week. 40% of the individuals tested are positive. The 7-day average is about 14,000 per day. The bright spot is that the mortality rates are going down. Our vaccine rates are at about 46-47%. We have been here before, so we know what needs to take place. We are extremely concerned about attendance. Please do all you can to encourage your students to attend. While we want to make sure that we are all healthy when we return, it is imperative that we return. This is a tough situation. My prayers go out to all who are infected. Get rest, drink your fluids, and move your body to be sure that it doesn't set in. If students don't have devices, Principals should have let staff know what the procedures are.
- b. **Short-Term Disability** – Commerce Financial is still with us. In a pandemic, you purchase this just in case. For it to be taken is absurd. We have reached out to the District for options. We don't want people to have to go through this. Members were left with no options.
- c. **Executive Board Vacancy** – Benjamin Royal did win the election. On January 5th, at 10:12 a.m. a message was sent to President Martin that stated that Royal separated from the District. This, in fact, renders him ineligible to accept the position.

8. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Vaccine Update/COVID Testing** – This virus has reignited itself. There are approximately 600 employees who have tested positive for COVID this week. People are calling in and saying that they have lost their vaccination card. Please call 313-876-4667 and press 2, and then 2 again. You then tell them your excuse and let them know where you were vaccinated, and they will send you a new card. 80% of DFT members has completed their vaccinations. 20% of our membership – which is about 800 members – are not vaccinated, and we can't be without them. There are currently 2 exemptions – Medical and Religious. The District is going to put forms on the HUB on January 17th, for members to submit their documentation. If there is no exemption, the Union will be working something out so that we won't be negatively impacted.
Testing – Don't get caught without your COVID test. It is our strong recommendation that all members continue weekly testing. Anytime you enter a building, you MUST have been tested. We don't know how long we are going to be online. Be proactive and continue to test weekly. Testing will continue on its regular schedule beginning on Monday. Do NOT go to the drive up without an appointment.
- b. **Observations** - One of the prohibited subjects of bargaining is evaluations. It is time for Cycle 1 – which is an unannounced, unscheduled observation. One

problem is that we are at home - once again. Know that this will continue through January 28th. Please be mindful of this, and begin to think about how to get students engaged so that it is observed that you are trying to encourage student engagement. The Cycle has been extended to February 18th.

9. Old Business

- Sarah Niemi wanted to circle back to the Blended Learning Supplements. The LOA was clear that everyone in DFT is supposed to be included. Moving into the next semester, this is probably still going to come out. *TM: We should have an answer by next Thursday's meeting.*
- Vida Bonacci – in the past, when school has been closed on an EBoard meeting day, are we still going to have our virtual meeting? What about virtual General Membership meeting days when the district is closed. There was quite a bit of discussion last month about the meeting procedures. *TM: Because we are online, I would like to still have those meetings on those days virtually. We will make this announcement next week.*
- Regina Hunter – SSW got a notice last night that you have to sign in and out each day. There was also a statement saying that failure to sign out would result in nonpayment for the day. *TM: Nothing has changed on our end with this rule. Mr. Cooper sent an e-mail, but this is not official notification. The Union needs to see this directive in writing. Please do what you have been asked to do, until you have been told otherwise. We don't want anyone to be written up for insubordination.*

10. New Business

a. Mid Term Elections

- Redistricting has occurred and it is a huge shake up for the city of Detroit. Much of the westside of Detroit has moved to the new 12th District. Rashida Tlaib will not be running in the 13th, but in the 12th, which leaves the 13th open. This is important to us because the COVID money that the District has, was fought for by Tlaib and Brenda Lawrence.
- There are 4 seats up for School Board, potentially 5. Georgia Lemons, Corletta Vaughn, Angelique Peterson-Maybury, and Deborah Hunter-Harvil, and also potentially Sherry Gay-Dagnogo – if she runs for the seat in the 13th District. This is important because this next group will determine who the next superintendent is.
- In the Governor's race, they have tried to kidnap and murder our current Governor. She's our ONLY ally with the power to block the Republicans from dismantling the district and blaming the teachers. Early polls show Gretchen Whitmer up by 1% over James Craig. A lot has to happen, but this is not going to be easy. We are seeking extra money for funding towards this campaign. We will need everything we've got to help solidify those who support us and our students.

11. Good of the Order

- Marcus Walton - We need to keep in mind that COPE is important. There is a dollar amount that is attached to each and every election. We need to raise money to support members who plan ahead and are there to help us.

12. Adjournment

M2: Jason Posey (Bonacci) made a motion to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting was adjourned @ 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Brantley-Phillips, DFT Recording Secretary