

# DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

### May 5, 2022

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#### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order @4:34 by President Terrence Martin

#### 2. Roll Call of Officers

**We have a quorum**

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

**M1:** Jason Posey (Jennings/Walton) made a motion to accept the April Executive Board Meeting Minutes as printed with any necessary corrections. **MOTION PASSED**

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

There will not be a financial report this week because we are in the middle of an audit.

#### 5. Elections Committee Report

DFT Election Committee Report May

Results of the April election for Election Committee are as follows:

1. DeVette Brown received 169 votes
2. Melzitta Davis 161 votes
3. Mignon Pierce 149 votes
4. Nastassia Szpaichler 116 votes

Abstain means some voters did not want to select 4 candidates. Results for the Executive Board vacancy was Gavin Buckley winning with 108 of 249 votes.

We opened nominations for Delegates to the AFT MI and AFT National Conferences. The following will be delegates by acclaim with only 9 submitting nomination forms:

1. Frank Donner
2. Yolanda King
3. Melzitta Davis
4. Dena Calhoun
5. Cassandra Davis
6. Stacy Jackson
7. Santha Varghese (MI only)
8. Jeff Wasilewski
9. Mark Duffy

Congratulations to all of the newly elected members. It has been a pleasure to serve.

## 6. PAC Report

Report given by Marcus Walton. Looking at Roe v. Wade – this is why PAC matters. Trump appointed 3 justices in 4 years and now these decisions being made are changing history and affecting women's rights. Next week, there are 2 candidates who would like to speak to our membership. Portia Roberson and Sherry Gay-Dagnogo.

## 7. Organizing Report

39 new members and recommits back to DFT. We are asking each member to bring to the May and June meetings – members who don't attend. Building Rep elections are underway. The information was sent to each rep, and to members in places where there is no representation. Training will be on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. Link will be sent out shortly. Shout out to Pulaski who has elected a rep.

## 8. President's Report

- a. **Merger** – We are ready for action items to move forward. We want to establish a committee to work on the collective Constitution and Bylaws. I have asked Dave Dobie from AFT Michigan to talk about this merger. These talks started with all 3 AFT locals and now it is only 2. A new name for the new local will have to be decided by the combined unions. There is concern that everyone may not have an equal voice. Presently, we must amend the 2 Constitutions into 1. The time that it makes sense to do this is in October. The vote to accept this document would vote in December for new officers, so that AFT Detroit would begin in January 2023. There would be 2 separate contracts – where only members of that respective unit would be allowed to vote for that contract. Marcus Walton called for the question.

**M2: Jason Posey(Fresh)** made a motion to move forward with the DFT/DFP merger talks. **MOTION PASSED.**

- b. **Mask Mandate** – we have a requirement that lasts the entire school year. The District has come to us several times about approaching staff about it being optional, even knowing that there is a LOA in place. Any change in the LOA must be bargained. A survey was sent to our membership that said that 60% wanted to keep the mandate, while 40% were willing to come up with some other options. The Superintendent has made the decision to lift the mandate. Any changes have to be bargained. This is about the health and safety of our members, as well as protecting the rights of our local. These processes have been here long before us and we cannot allow them to be circumvented. COVID is still raging – it is a roller coaster ride and we must remain vigilant with what we are doing.

## 9. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Recertification** – It is getting close to June 30<sup>th</sup>, is the expiration of certificates and licenses. In advance, it is May and each year, we get a print out from the

District about members who have been terminated because their license or certification has expired. Please do not wait! Contact [rhea.jackson@detroitk12.org](mailto:rhea.jackson@detroitk12.org) if you are having trouble with SCECH's. All members should get their certificates copied, notarized and taken care of before the

- b. Reading Opens the World** – Our National President Randi Weingarten visited about 2 weeks ago. She went to Spain and Coleman A. Young. She was excited about the enthusiasm of the children that she is giving away books to both schools.
- c. End of the Year** – We would like to recognize our Building Reps this year in a face to face event. This is still under discussion.
- d. Building Reps** – Please hold nominations for your buildings! Do not just make decisions – even if no one wants to do it – you must still follow the process of nominating.

#### **10. New Business**

- State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice will be at the June Membership Meeting.

#### **11. Good of the Order**

- When is the first day of school?
- Why do we not know the start date of the beginning of the next, or coming school year, at the start/beginning of the current school year?

#### **12. Adjournment**

**M3:** Jason Posey(Jennings) made a motion to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted-

Elena Brantley-Phillips, DFT Recording Secretary