

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

General Membership Meeting

May 12, 2022

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call of Officers

Absent: Rachelle Green

3. Approval of Minutes

M1: Jason Posey (Broughton) made a motion to approve the April 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes with any necessary corrections. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Treasurer's Report

There was no financial report read due to ongoing audit. Full report will be given for the June meeting.

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

Gavin Buckley winning with 108 of 249 votes.

LaVar Johnson

Mary Brockman

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

- a. Swearing in of New Officers

6. PAC Report

- a. 13th Congressional District Candidates Presentation
 - i. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo
 - ii. Portia Roberson

7. Organizing Report

Yolanda King gave the report this evening. Shout out to Pulaski for electing a union representative after not having one for several years! Bunche, Davison, Gardner and Shultze for holding their elections. The role of the union committee is to hold folks accountable. Every building/worksites needs Union building representation.

Procedural Motion

M2: Vida Bonacci (Posey/Phillips) made a Procedural Motion moves that a member be limited to 2 minutes to ask a question following the President's report and the Executive Vice President's report and that no one be given a second chance to speak until all members have had a chance to speak the first time. **MOTION PASSED**

8. President's Report

- a. **Merger** – We are currently still in talks about the merger between DFT and DFP.
- b. **Mask Mandate**- Back in the summer, we voted in our LOA for a mask mandate for the entire school year. The district approached the Union to have the mandate lifted. After one meeting, the Superintendent made an announcement that the mandate would be lifted. One concern is that numbers are going back up and that is a huge concern. The second concern is that all of this must be negotiated. The District wants to circumvent the bargaining process and make decisions. All of these things need to be bargained. Our members have been surveyed at 2 different times. Before it was about 50/50. The last survey was about 60/40 to continue with masks.
- c. **Calendar** – The Superintendent mandates the calendar. This is not new for DPSCD. It is still tentative. We are still at the table with the District to discuss. Hopefully a calendar will be available to present prior to the end of the school year. Last week, we celebrated the EID calendar. Next year, it won't be recognized, but will come up for discussion the following year.

9. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Recertification** – Reminder for recertification. It is that time. June 30th is the date that our professional licenses expire. Please do not get caught without updating your information! We get a list each year of members who are slated to be terminated because of their certificate. There is a link on the HUB or you can submit your notarized copy to the 10th floor.
- b. **Reading Opens the World**- About 3 weeks ago, AFT National President Randi Weingarten was in Detroit. She had conversations about pledging to bring

something to the students of Detroit. She will be sending 40,000 books to the students. We are planning a Juneteenth event to distribute these books free of charge to students, teachers and the community. The tentative date is Saturday, June 18th. We need help putting books out and getting them out. Please watch your e-mails for information regarding this event.

- c. **End of the Year** – Building Rep End of the Year Activity is being discussed and will be forthcoming.

School is set to begin for teachers on August 22nd. Students will report on August 29th, and school is set to dismiss for summer the week of June 12th, 2023.

Q & A

- Meredith Summer (Davison) – In past years, we would have PLC meetings and we would get SCECH's. It is supposed to be built in so that we don't have to take classes. Can you find out? *LW-L – You are correct. You should receive at least 12 per year. Many of our principals don't know or care about our contract. We need to bring this to their attention. If you haven't had them, please let us know. It is in our language.*
- Tracy Arneau(Bennett) - Was able to renew in January. I went to the credit union and they notarized my certificate. I sent it to Valerie Hampton and it was done!
- Tracy Thornton(Denby) - I have been trying to reach Julie Pita for a while, perhaps getting Rhea will be better. Is there a separate MT contract that allows them to evaluate teachers? *LWL – They are DFT members, therefore they are not there to evaluate teachers at all. They can observe to give feedback, but not evaluated. Julie Pita's department is overworked and understaffed. She is swamped. This is not an excuse – it is the reality.*
- Marnina Falk (FLICS) – Do we have more days than other surrounding districts? Have we gotten more results on the audit between our district and other nearby districts. Is there any clarity on that for the upcoming calendar. *LW-L: the state of Michigan says that PD days could be used for instructional days. That day would count for an instructional day. They stopped that, but now they say that it can be used, once again in place of instructional days. Vitti's administration is unwilling to use those days. We must attend these PD days and have those instructional days. TM: Celebrating the EID Holiday, the week-long mid-winter break, many districts start before Labor Day. We are looking to get some of those days reduced. We are trying to get some of those days PD to count as instructional days.*
- Venise Borum (Cass Tech) – *TM: We have still not received our raise for Credit Recovery. Your building rep, Principal and Payroll Secretary were supposed to sit down today to determine who gets paid what. I sent a message to your rep to get the outcome of the meeting. If there is no resolution, we will move forward with a grievance. We want these pay codes to reflect that which members were hired, and that members be paid immediately.*
- Delena Parrish (Mackenzie) – are students still required to have a COVID consent form? We have a 4th grade student who has no form, and consistently does not wear a mask in class. *LWL: Students are still supposed to have the consent form.*
- Kathleen Frye (Nolan) – I contracted COVID while teaching face to face. I spoke with Ms. Moore. I have been off 2 weeks. When I called the office, I was told to quarantine

for 5 days. I am still having symptoms after 2 weeks. Are we still entitled to be covered in line 15 of our contract? *LW-L: Your situation is being addressed. If you have not submitted your information regarding your days, please do so they can address it, and then we can get it corrected.*

- Monica Drake-Howard – (DSA) – How does this new start date affect those who have already made plans prior to Labor Day? We have a person in the building that consistently being baited with false claims/accusations, making it a hostile work environment. What is the procedure in getting this woman out of the building? *LWL: If you have made plans, please submit this information to both myself and President Terrence Martin. Reach out to Ms. Cade who is the director of the nurses. Denise.cade@detroitk12.org.*
- Maria Davis (Charles Wright) – *LW-L: Submit your information to the union office as soon as you can. Each case will be determined on a case by case basis.*
- Felicia Benson(Cass Tech) – After school Tutoring. *TM: It is my understanding that the District is aware of this situation. I need to follow up with the District on tomorrow and find out when you can expect your retro pay.*

10. New Business

- Renee-Rosa Esperanza (Law) – I have a concern about school numbers for next year. The numbers are impacting staffing for next year. Has this been something that has been heard or discussed, and if so what is our recourse? *LW-L: Superintendent likes to evoke fear in our membership. I hope that our class sizes will be smaller, so that this talk is geared to lower enrollment. TM: we need you to send us any information that you receive in writing so that we can take it to the table.*
- Michele Myers (Mumford) – Back in November, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease where I could receive additional sick days. Is there a program where I can retire with a disability. *LW-L: I am putting Patrick Falcusan's number in the chat, please call him. Days donated can be worked out if you satisfy the qualifications for a catastrophic event.*
- Regina Hunter (Charles Wright) – In our building, they have taken all of our printers and everyone is forced to use one copier. Safety issue in the building. I was told that we are not allowed to call DPD – we have to wait for the district's police department – and we have no turnaround shorter than 1-2 hours. *LW-L: Each administrator makes the choice as to how they spend the money. Dr. Vitti cannot tell you not to call the police.*
- Stacy Jackson (Randolph) - Is there an organized effort to address these issues that we have as a follow up to COVID. There is not a strategic plan that addresses the needs of the students to put pressure on Vitti and the School Board. *LW-L: I need 50 willing workers to attend the next Board Meeting and address the school board about the issues that our students need.*
- Que'Meicia Hicks (Drew Transition Center) – Will we need to come in to be tested prior to coming back to work in the summer? *LW-L: We will let you know and get alternative put in place.*
- Queen Watkins (J.E. Clark) - Pay for summer school for AI's – do you know what it will be? *LW-L: We have started on the LOA, so we are working on it.*

- Tracy Arneau (Bennett) – Will the pay for teachers be increased for summer school? *LW-L: We are in a better place with this LOA, so the coins are looking pretty good. They are unwilling to change the pay for PD.*
- Nicoa Wells (Westside Academy) – We have had many staff members who
- Raquel Parsons (Mumford) – In Michigan, we are doing 1,300 hours and all that are required are 1,080. *LW-L: The calendar committee has addressed this as well. The District is unwilling to change the instructional times/hours. We are still at the table and working to decrease time for teachers.*
- Faith Sorrell (Bennett) – With all the money that we have for COVID relief, can we get buildings that don't have air, some type of relief? *LW-L: I have an administrator who got air conditioners for his building. I will get the directions and will have them at the June meeting. We have to help them because they are new and they don't know.*
- Lenore Ellery (Jerry L. White) – Will students do weekly COVID testing next year. *LW-L: Vitti is asking for more money, but we will have to see what that looks like for next fall.*
- Merrill Grosfield (Greenfield Union) – Where is my DFT t-shirt? *LW-L: I will give some shirts to your rep.*

11. Good of the Order

- Michelle Broughton – Cynthia Matthews is a DFT Retiree just lost her husband. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Jason Posey - Bookstock is from May 15th -22nd at Laurel Park Place where you can go and get books. Bring your ID and you can get 50% off.

12. Adjournment

M3: Rodney Fresh (Posey) made a motion to adjourn. MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elena Brantley-Phillips, DFT Recording Secretary