

DETROIT FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:39 by President Lakia Wilson-Lumpkins.

2. Roll Call of Officers

Glenda Booker, Marva Neeham-Fletcher, Sarah Niemi, Kaira Gandy, (absent - all excused)

There is quorum

3. Approval of Minutes - M1: Elena Brantley-Phillips (Fresh/Jennings/Mitchell) made a motion to accept the April 2023 Executive Board Meeting Minutes with any necessary corrections. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Rodney Fresh gave the financial report April 2023.

5. PAC Report - Marcus Walton gave the report this evening.

- Thanks for coming to the last School Board meeting. Please give to our COPE fund. If everyone gives \$1 per week, that's \$52 a year. Please check with the reps and see if they will give the same. It is our hope that the members in school will also give to COPE.
- Board Member Jennings - Went to the State of the Schools meeting on the westside - Brightmoor. It was excellent! They want to know what they can do to help us. We shared the problems that we are having in our schools. We let them know that there should be no layoffs. We also asked that they attend the next school board meeting. It was nice to know that teachers from all over the state are experiencing the same issues that we do.

6. Organizing Report – Given by EVP Posey this evening. There were 4 new and recommits. Building Reps Training will be on May 23rd at 4:30 p.m. Elections - per C&B, anyone running should not be running their own election. The goal is that every school identify a person not running for any office to conduct the election. Please check with your Regions and see who will be running the elections at each building. Packets will be coming out soon.

7. Region Reports - Jason Posey says this format was brought to the forefront so that the Executive Board can reach out to schools and bring it back. Reports can be

reported however they want. If you want to e-mail a report, then please do so. Just let us know that there was contact with the Building Reps in your regions.

8. President's Report

a. **Legislative Updates** - Today was Lobby Day. There are 4 prohibited subjects or bargaining. Teacher placement, transfer, discipline and termination cannot be discussed. We want these things taken off so that once again we can grieve/bargain these subjects. Angela Whitwer represents Grandledge in Eaton Co, who is a Democrat and she was not in favor for us removing this language. People are in teacher jail based on things are subjective. You have to wait for Dr. Vitti to make a decision. Reports have been bogus and it is ridiculous. We can't grieve it or set parameters. President Biden has announced that he's going to run again. We are still dealing with the effects of Trump - abortion rights and court appointments.

2a. **Pershing HS Schedule Change** - Dr. Tracey Baker and Sonya Griggs presented a schedule for next school year. The bell schedule has an hour lunch and has proven to be problematic. There is too much idle time given to students at lunch time. Students will be given a 30-minute lunch with an Advisory class to follow to help with academic and behavior issues. The staff has voted for the second option that will help with several different issues. **M2:** Elena Brantley-Phillips (Walton) made a motion to accept Option 2 presented by the staff of Pershing HS to begin in the 2023-2024 school year. **MOTION PASSED.**

Principal and Dr. Feagin will be notified that this was heard and that the request passed.

3a. **Steve Conn Resolution** – Brother Conn has submitted a resolution that needs to be heard.

- b. **SOS Meetings** - The last of them are today. Rodney and Mark are representing us this evening. We are building capacity with the community by attending these meetings so that we can get assistance with these contract negotiations. Whenever we speak publicly, I don't want the voice of the union to get blurred. We all need to say the same thing.
- c. **Contract Negotiations (Layoffs)** - Currently, we have sent back the attack on Attendance Agents. No agents will be laid off. We are still working on the CTA's. All compensation packages are currently on hold. There has been language submitted in a LOA to extend to June 1 for those being laid off.
- d. **Board Meetings** - We need to be at the next Board Meetings. May meeting is at Western HS on the 16th of this month.
- e. **Education Policy Meeting**- AFT Policy meeting on Saturday, May 20th and begins at 8:30 a.m. at U of M Dearborn. This is how we build capacity and momentum. We are not 1 trick ponies and we need to be strategic. We have the least amount of layoffs of any other bargaining units. Vitti is punitive. We

need to be strategic in how we move forward. We need to leverage our power by doing what's best for all.

9. Executive Vice President's Report

- a. **Weingarten Rights** - We review this multiple times a year. If a meeting is disciplinary in nature, you have the right to stop the meeting until you can be represented.
- b. **Re-Certification Process** - Folks can be terminated if they do not follow the re-certification process. It is electronic. Please take care of this before your certification expires in June! Questions - go to Valerie Hampton. There is information on the HUB. Fill out the survey.
- c. **Open Transfers** - Now open. Information is on the HUB. There is no guarantee that you will be able to transfer, but give it a try. There is an etiquette that should be adhered to. I need a change, I need a new challenge. Be mindful of the language you use when speaking of your current location. During board members and speaking publicly - they have written comments. Very few go off the cuff successfully. Take your time and make notes of your comments.

10. Election Committee Report - DeVette Brown gave the report this evening. A meeting was held with new members. The C & B was given to them and we discussed the present language. Some members who are recommended don't know what the job entails. We are in the process of working on our election handbook. It should be ready by September. We need members who will be committed and stay on this committee past one term. Meeting will be scheduled prior to June 15th.

11. New Business

12. Good of the Order

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectively Submitted –

Elena Brantley-Phillips, DFT Recording Secretary