

July 6, 2018 - General Meeting Agenda
5pm to 7pm @ Whole Foods on Houston St.
95 E Houston St, New York, NY 10002

ATTENDEES: Abbie, Bob, Quinn, Melinda, Merna, Jackie, Lydia, James, Eric, Poonita

AGENDA:

- Statement on Danielson Rubric (Bob R.)
- Janus: What is next for us
- Wanted: Writers for Blog
- Wanted: Members Able to Distribute Informational Material at October Delegate Assembly (date to be determined)
- Getting mobilized for 2019 UFT elections/Unity vs Independent Caucuses, looking at RT election results (Claudia)
- Status of YouTube videos and Post Card initiatives

MINUTES:

DANIELSON: Bob and Abbie are reflecting on fairness and equity in the teacher eval system, Danielson lacks these quality. Abbie spoke to Alice Cooper-Jackson regarding the eval systems back in 2011. The UFT “choose” the Danielson Rubric.

You can play around with the numbers and math involved in VAM (Valued Added Measure) Figures. What merits “Highly Effective” for some admins isn’t “Highly Effective” for others. Danielson sued the NYCDOE because her rubric was not being used fairly. She wrote it to “help teachers help themselves.”

James proposed that the Solidarity Caucus’s focus on the Danielson Framework of teaching should be eliminated and maybe we should go back to the S/U system. We need to have strong CLs and support them if they confront principals about Danielson. It could be a way for us to get support from schools. Annual Performance Option was a research method that many teachers used in the past.

There are too many observations permitted under Danielson. Principal are not required to respond to an APPR complaint or a rebuttal.

Whenever we try to bring up a statement at the UFT Executive Board complaining about the observation system, it gets shot down by Unity. What teacher wants to be observed six times a year.

OUR CAMPAIGN:

- We are totally against Danielson and want to abolish it. It is not used in the way it intended by the author.
- We need to minimize observations.
- Test scores should not be used at all in the rating of teachers
- Annual Performance Option needs to be reinstated.
- Unity argues that there are fewer “ineffective” now then there were under the “old S/U” system. Only 11% of ineffective teachers can get an appeal.
- Master, Highly Developed Teachers should be involved in the creation of an evaluation system that affects us.
- This is not appropriate for SPED Teachers.
- All teachers should have the right to appeal a rating.
- Observations are a tool of workplace bullying.

We can FOIL the DOE for the numbers of teachers rated under “developing” or “ineffective” ratings.

JANUS:

How did DeVos and the Koch brother get access to sending members info about dropping union membership?

- We need to get access to DeVos email to teachers asking them to drop union membership?

Poonita says we need to educate members about the benefits of the unions. Young people don't see the value of a union. They may be the first to go.

Chris will make a statement on the blog. We want to include the following key points:

1. We stand behind our to a deferred pension (you are guaranteed to a pension with benefits) and a TDA.
1. If we want to change things in the union and be able to vote, you must stay in the union.
1. Janus will make it hard for the UFT leadership to vote on and support progressive causes for fear that conservative members will leave. Wedge issues will divide us more than ever.

WRITERS FOR BLOG:

Thanks to Jackie for writing blog post!

If you want to write an article for blog, please send to Eric, Quinn, and Claudia.

- Eric Severson ericwseverson2006@gmail.com
- Claudia cfigiordano@gmail.com
- Quinn Zannoni quinnzannoni@gmail.com

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY HELP NEEDED:

James proposed an idea for a postcard initiative to distribute to all Chapter Leaders. We will be mailing postcards to UFT Chapter Leaders to share with their membership. Lydia found an ap to help design a postcard.

Poonita proposed our using emails. There are some fuzzy legal ramifications for using DOE emails to send out union materials.

Quinn proposed we use the “UFT union proud” logo on our postcards.

Keep things positive to sway members to us: “This is what we will do...” and “Nobody gets left behind!”

We are the Union! The union proud logo will help us get rid of this myth.

Poonita is interested in helping design a postcard. James will collaborate with Poonita.

Lydia will share Poonita’s email with James. Poonita Beemsigne can be reach at pbeemsigne@yahoo.com

We will look at cost of postcards. Vista Print offers the best deal for printing but postage might be pricier. We

Poonita proposed listing meeting dates on the postcard. James proposed adding a link to the videos.

Lydia will reach out to Quinn regarding petitions for getting Solidarity on our slate.

YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

3 min videos:

1. Explaining the election process: teachers don’t know about caucuses, that Unity is the power, and how to vote. The power is in your hands. The union is democratic; you need to participate and push the UFT hierarchy to listen to our demands for reforms.

1. Compares Unity with Solidarity

We will release Topic based videos as the year progress (ie: ATR, disciplinary etc).

Jackie proposed we use positive, pro-teacher language in videos.

James will help with script. He is looking for 3 speakers.

Bob will help James with the video. We are looking for people willing to film. Jackie wants to help; she's retired but wants "fresh blood"/active members to be in the video.

Abbie proposed that we have a Unity-turned Solidarity member featured in video.

Links to videos will be on postcard. Postcards will be sent out in October.

Eric S (ewseverson2006@yahoo.com) will post on blog for presenters.

Due date for presenters: July 21 (James and Lydia will collaborate).

GETTING MOBILIZED FOR 2019 UFT ELECTIONS:

We are looking for members to run on our slate. We prefer members to be active and tenured. Retired members are wanted as well! Please refer members to run for the Slate to Chris Wierzbicki edcservicesinc@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Probationary period needs to be reduced to 3 years again. UFT Solidarity will push this issue.

It used to be 2 years! Claudia

QUESTION:

- When does the nomination/pledging/petition period open for the Election?
TBD . . .
- How can we FOIL the DOE for the numbers of teachers rated under "developing" or "ineffective" ratings? *Might be in news already . . .*
- What kind of funding do we have in the Solidarity "bank account"? *\$70*
- Is the donation tab operational? *Works.*