

**UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
ELECTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: 3/25/19

ATTENDEES:

Amy Arundell—Election Committee Chairperson
Margaret Borrelli—Special Representative, Bronx UFT
Ellen Gentilviso—Chapter Leader, Manhattan
Johnathan Hinesley—Solidarity Caucus
Martha Lane—Special Representative, Brooklyn UFT
Bill Linville—MORE Caucus (By Phone)
Nicole Puglia—Chapter Leader, Staten Island
Howard Sandau—Non-DOE Federation of Nurses Chapter
Michael Shulman—New Action Caucus
Bruce Zihal—Special Representative, Queens UFT
Yasmin Colon— UFT Staffer-Membership Department
Beth Norton—UFT General Counsel

Amy Arundell stated that Michael Loeb had contacted her to inform her that he submitted campaign material for the UFT newspaper by the deadline but his material did not appear in the first run of the campaign material. He had sent the material by email but the email address was incorrect. He submitted an independent petition with no caucus affiliation but between submission of materials and submission of campaign materials, he named the Inspire caucus. We talked about the fact that there was no definition of a caucus.

Beth Norton stated that a caucus is not a slate. One does not mean the other. An individual person can be a caucus.

Amy Arundell stated that when the email went out with links for caucus campaign material, Inspire Caucus was at the end and the email could be read as that the caucus was running a slate. Because of this the message was adjusted. It is clear on the UFT website and in the newspaper that Inspire was not running a slate and that Michael Loeb is running as an independent candidate. The Inspire Caucus will not be on the ballot because it was named too late. There will also be a few other independent candidates on the ballot. Yasmin can forward those names.

Michael Shulman asked if any independent candidate had indicated a desire for a statement to be published in the NY Teacher?

Amy Arundell stated that the answer to this was, “no.”

Martha Lane asked if Michael Loeb was running for an elected office. Amy Arundell responded that he was running for Middle School Executive Board so he will be in that group on the ballot. He met the requirement of 100 signatures.

Beth Norton stated that we cannot censor the materials for candidates. Independent candidates have the same access and we cannot say that we will not provide the resources. What one candidate gets, all get.

Michael Shulman asked, “When does there have to be a designation there is a caucus? He stated that from the second paragraph of the Election Committee minutes for 1/3/19 it states, “... Yasmin and her staff will bring boxes of petitions , we can look through them, will check which have met requirements for slates and will designate slates.” He stated that by “x” date, caucuses should name themselves and that we were only aware of four caucuses—Unity, MORE, New Action and Solidarity.

Amy Arundell stated that Michael Loeb name himself a caucus after the meeting Michael Shulman referred to.

Beth Norton pointed the committee back to the 1/3/19 minutes and stated that we did designate slates. We cannot designate what a caucus calls itself.

Michael Shulman stated that he though it was legitimate that by a date caucuses should be declared or designated.

Ellen Gentilviso stated that we cannot change the rules at this point, that this was something for next time. This is a unique circumstance, something that we wouldn’t imagine would take place.

Beth Norton stated that when petitions were submitted, he was still just Michael Loe. She stated that next time we could consider requiring caucus designations on the petition and if not on the petition, cannot declare a caucus.

Nicole Puglia cited Office of Labor states that we do not have any control over what the campaign literature states.

Yasmin Colon stated that Michael Loeb wrote “Independent” on his petition which is why she did not bring up a caucus for him when the committee met previously.

Bill Linville stated by definition that a caucus has to be more than one person.

Beth Norton stated that a caucus does not need to be more than one candidate. It must be more than one person and Michael Loeb had that.

Bill Linville stated that he thinks a caucus is a group of people running.

Amy stated that ICE is a caucus and is not running. She stated that maybe the election committee needs to define caucus in the next election. She stated that one of the things this Union has been accused of is shutting down democracy and this year she does not know that this year the Election Committee should be telling Michael Loeb and the 100 people that signed for him that they cannot be a caucus. She stated that there is no definition of caucus and campaign material cannot be altered. She stated that the Inspire caucus does not have a slate and the caucus will not appear on the ballot at all. She asked the committee what impact the designation of the Inspire caucus would have on the actual election.

Bill Linville stated that independents may have not gone unadvertised.

Beth Norton stated that any individual candidate could have share campaign material the same way.

Amy stated that independents have advertised before so there is no reason to believe they didn't know about this.

Beth Norton stated as a union we do not pick and choose which candidates put information in the paper. If we email blast, all campaign material has to be put up.

Michael Shulman stated for the record that he is adamantly opposed to an individual to be constituted as a caucus. He stated that one individual is almost a mocking of this process.

Nicole Puglia asked if we knew that Michael Loeb was alone in his caucus.

Amy Arundell stated that Michael Shulman was assuming that Michael Loeb is a caucus of one but he could be a caucus of at least 101.

Michael Shulman stated that one person is gaming the system.

Amy Arundell stated she understood we did not expect this but she didn't think we could go backwards on this. She asked what election this would have on the election since the Inspire caucus did not have slate status.

Bill Linville stated if running as a caucus, there should be more than one person.

Amy Arundell stated that Michael Loeb is not on the ballot as a caucus because the ballots were printed prior to stating there was Inspire caucus so what we really are talking about is campaign material.

Beth Norton stated that we cannot do anything about campaign material.

Amy Arundell asked if anyone wanted to make a proposal. No committee members made a proposal.

The meeting concluded with Amy Arundell stating that there was a text message last Friday. There will be one more additional newspaper which will have the Michael Loeb add in it. She stated that there will be robocalls regarding completing and mailing ballots and that "I Voted". She stated that we would not be able to do as many text messages due to the expense.

Yasmin Colon stated that campaign material will be in the newspaper April 17th in the newspaper and will be on the web on Wednesday and please posts were sent to Chapter Leaders and Functionals.

Amy Arundell stated that she would send an email to Election Committee members about observation of the vote count.

Johnathan Hinesley asked if we had the number of ballots sent out.

Amy Arundell stated that we are getting that.