

**UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
ELECTION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE: 11/28/18**

**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  
Nicole Puglia—Chapter Leader, Staten Island  
Washington Sanchez—Unity Caucus  
Howard Sandau—Non DOE Federation of Nurses Chapter  
Michael Shulman—New Action Caucus  
Michael Sill— UFT Director of Personnel, Payroll and Special Projects  
Bruce Zihal—Special Representative, Queens UFT  
Yasmin Colon—UFT Staffer-Membership Department  
David Hickey—UFT General Manager  
Megan Murphy—Assistant to UFT General Counsel

Amy Arundell distributed the agenda for the meeting and asked for a volunteer to take minutes. Bruce Zihal volunteered.

Each committee member introduced him/herself to the committee.

Amy Arundell stated that the focus of this meeting was a general review of the election process and determining the election calendar.

Amy Arundell stated that David Hickey and Yasmin Colon were attending this meeting for mechanics and operation of the election and Meghan Murphy was attending if any legal advice was needed.

Yasmin Colon distributed an Election Notice Draft.

Amy Arundell explained that her role was to facilitate the committee meetings and stated that the Election Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Board. She explained that if the election committee agreed to the Election Notice, it would be sent to the Executive Board for approval.

Amy Arundell asked that all committee members review the Election Notice Draft.

Amy Arundell explained that with regard to the Election Notice Draft that Spring 2019 will be very busy because of the JANUS ruling and that April-June will be a very important time where the union will need to work with members to maintain the strength of our membership so that is why the proposal presented includes the election being concluded in April. She stated that there are virtually no opt outs presently because of the hard work that was done this past spring and we want to maintain that focus for this coming spring. She stated that the union believes people trying to destroy unions will hit us in May and that is the reason for the calendar.

Amy Arundell stated that the Election Draft Notice includes positions to be filled—officers, Executive Board at-large and level-based, AFT, NYSUT and NEA delegates., term of office, the membership requirement which is particularly important this year--To run for the officer positions, a person must be a member for two years prior to 2/15/19. To run for all other positions, a person must be a member for 60 days prior to 2/15/19. She stated that nominations are due 2/15/19 5:00PM.

Johnathan Hinesley asked Amy to explain joint petitions for officers and Amy Arundell explained that a joint petition is one which includes all of the officer positions on it and people sign it to nominate all of the officers on it. Johnathan Hinesley asked if January was the earliest that signatures could be secured and Amy Arundell confirmed that was correct.

Ellen Gentilviso asked if the AFT and NYSUT Delegate positions would be found on one nominating petition and Amy Arundell stated that these positions would be on one nominating form and the Election Committee would review these nominating petitions at the next meeting.

Amy Arundell explained the proposal regarding the calendar for balloting which was that ballots would be mailed to homes March 25, 2019 and were due back to AAA by 4/16/19. She explained that each caucus could run a slate or members could vote for each candidate individually. For example, a member could vote for 750 delegates individually but she stated that if a caucus has enough candidates, the caucus could run a slate and then a member could just vote for a slate and would be voting for all of the candidates on that slate. She stated that a caucus must have at least 40 candidates to run a slate. If the caucus does not have 40 candidates, members just vote for the candidates of their choice individually. She emphasized that this is important for every caucus to pay attention to.

Amy Arundell stated that Chapter Leader lists would be made available to candidates through Yasmin Colon at the Cost of \$10 and that space would be available in the 3/7/19 and 4/4/19 editions of the New York Teacher for Election Issues. Chapter Leaders would receive copies of the Election Notice at the Delegate Assembly and it would also be sent to them for posting at their schools. The 12/6 and 1/3 editions of the New York Teacher would announce the election.

Amy Arundell stated that this is not the only document regarding the election for members and that the committee could discuss communication about the election with members in upcoming meetings to remind members about voting.

Bill Linville asked if everything on the election notice was the same in terms of number of candidates needed for a slate and signatures. Amy Arundell stated that everything was the same on the Election Notice as in the past except in the last election ballots were mailed at the beginning of May and were due three weeks later. This time they would be mailed March 25, 2019 and due April 17, 2019 so the only difference is that there is one month less of election period but everything else is timed the same.

Jonathan Hinesley asked who made the change and stated that this is not in the Constitution. Amy Arundell explained that this is a proposed change subject to approval by the Election Committee and the UFT Executive Board and that the Election Committee has always set the election timeline as it is not set by the Constitution. She reiterated that this timeline is being proposed because the union needs to focus its full energy on galvanizing membership in May and June because enemies of unions are buying ad time to encourage members to opt out. She stated that we need to focus our energies on working with our members in May and June to maintain membership so that is why the election period is one month less.

Johnathan Hinesley questioned the validity of the slate rule

Amy Arundell stated that this was a long-standing rule of the union and that past Election Committees have voted for slate voting to be on every election notice.

Michael Shulman stated that the following needed to be done and assumed would be discussed at the next election committee meeting but just wanted to present now:

- Email blasts about the election sent to members
- Principal's Weekly should notify principals about the election period and distribution of campaign material
- DOE should inform field counsel to ensure principals allow distribution of election materials
- UFT needs to inform DRs about the rules for election material. He heard of a situation of a DR prohibiting opposition literature being placed in mailboxes.
- We must be clear that DOE emails of members are not to be used for campaigning—in 2016 one of the caucuses sent out election materials on an email blast. We need to be very clear that there must be a level playing field.
- In 2016, a caucus did not obtain slate status and was given two pages in the New York Teacher. Will that be the same policy now?

Michael Shulman asked when nominating petitions would be available at the borough offices. Amy Arundell responded that they would be available at the borough offices the same day as the DA as well as on the website.

Bill Linville stated that he thinks that part of what we have to do is more active engagement. He stated that only 25% voted last time. He expressed his concern that compressing the timeline of the election period would not be good.

Ellen Gentilviso stated that as a Chapter Leader she preferred a more condensed timeframe as if it is extended too long, members forget to vote. She stated that in the current proposed timeframe she would be able to be able to have two meetings with her members send out a newsletter, etc. about the election and then allow them to vote. She emphasized the Chapter Leader's responsibility in encouraging members to vote.

Bill Linville stated that he had 90% of his members vote in the last election but reiterated his concern about creating an election timeline that engages members and asked the committee how do we get people to know about the election.

Ellen Gentilviso added that District Representatives will inform Chapter Leaders of their role.

Bill Linville stated that there is a larger problem of engagement.

Howard Sandau stated that there will be announcements and we are engaged to get members the information. He stated that we should keep the shorter timeframe because a longer period makes people forget.

Michael Sill stated that this committee will have the opportunity to drive engagement and Amy Arundell encouraged all committee members to bring their ideas to the committee for it to consider.

Nicole Puglia stated that Chapter Leader Training is taking place this weekend and the election could be discussed there. Amy Arundell expressed that would be problematic as the Executive Board would need to vote on the election notice first and Executive Board was taking place on the Monday directly following the Chapter Leader Training. She stated, however, there were two more Chapter Leader training weekends where the election could be presented.

Ellen Gentilviso asked if the Chapter Leader list made available to candidates for \$10 just included the name of the Chapter Leader and school.

Amy confirmed that this was the case and emphasized that the union is not allowed to distribute the email addresses of members to any caucus.

Johnathan Hinesley asked if the letter to schools regarding distribution of campaign literature was updated this school year.

Amy Arundell responded that the letter we have stands and is not updated. Any problems regarding distribution of campaign literature should be addressed to her and these problems get resolved with people getting access to school buildings.

Martha Lane emphasized that access for campaigning is to mailboxes and not talking to members during lunch periods.

Amy Arundell asked the committee members if anyone had any more questions. As there were none, she proposed a vote on the election notice. She held up the election notice that had been reviewed by all committee members. She asked all in favor of bringing the Election Committee Notice to Executive Board to raise their hands. All committee members raised their hands except Bill Linville and Johnathan Hinesley.

Amy Arundell presented another proposal which was that the UFT would send an email the following week to all non-members informing them that they must be members by January 14, 2018 to be allowed to vote. She asked all in favor of this proposal to raise their hands. All committee members raised their hands.

Bill Linville asked Amy Arundell to confirm that non-members have until January 14<sup>th</sup> to become members. Amy Arundell confirmed this

Johnathan Hinesley asked how many people opted out last year.

David Hickey responded that two people opted out and many of the past agency fee payers are now non-members.

Amy Arundell expressed that as Borough Representative for Queens, she feels there is more engagement of members, that the work of last year is bearing fruit and cited that more members are utilizing the services of the union as evidenced by increased calls to the Queens Borough Office.

David Hickey stated that there is a direct link on-line for membership sign up and Yasmin Colon stated that the member will receive an "enrollment successful" email following signing up.

Johnathan Hinesley asked if the Constitution had been changed because he stated it does not say anywhere that you have to be a member for 60 days to vote

Michael Sill read from the Constitution, Article 3, Section 3 citing the language stating that to be eligible to vote, a person must be a member for 60 days before the election. Jonathan Hinesley responded, OK.

Johnathan Hinesley stated that slates are not in the Constitution.

Amy Arundell stated that just because something is not in the Constitution does not mean that it is not proper practice.

Johnathan Hinesley stated that there are election notices that do not include slates.

Amy Arundell requested that he please bring those Election Notices to the Election Committee.

Amy Arundell stated that at the next meeting the committee would review nominating petitions, begin to address issues raised by Michael Shulman and would discuss communications regarding election materials and getting out the vote.

Committee members discussed a possible date and time for the next Election Committee meeting. The committee members agreed that January 3, 2019 would be the next committee meeting date. Bill Linville indicated that it would be tough getting to the meeting at 4:00PM so the committee agreed that it would meet at 4:15PM on January 3, 2019.