



United Federation of Teachers
A Union of Professionals

Motions directed to the agenda for the May 12, 2021 Delegate Assembly

Motion No. 1 — Resolution to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day (submitted by Tammie Miller)

WHEREAS, the UFT celebrates the work family child care providers do every day and especially this past year, as they provided a lifeline to families enduring this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, National Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated annually the Friday before Mother's Day and the governor of New York has proclaimed Friday, May 7 as Provider Appreciation Day in New York State; and

WHEREAS, health care systems were overwhelmed and lives were lost, yet essential workers still had to show up and keep the city together; and

WHEREAS, during the pandemic, when New York City went into lockdown and doors closed, providers kept their doors open, offering a safe haven to children and families; and

WHEREAS, a staggering 70% of child care providers remained open through these times; and

WHEREAS, no one had to tell them the safe, nurturing child care and phenomenal educational services they provided were essential and no one had to tell them to welcome the children of their fellow essential workers so they could go to work with some peace of mind; and

WHEREAS, teaching our earliest learners while facing the issue of how to stay open for business required stamina, grit and faith in their own decisions as well as in the UFT for support; and

WHEREAS, the work providers do nurture our youngest minds, preparing them for the lifelong education continuum from birth will shape and mold them into the powerful and compassionate future leaders of the world; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United Federation of Teachers celebrates and honors family child care providers today and always for being educators, essential workers and the champions of the teaching profession; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the members of the UFT acknowledge providers' dedication to preparing our children for the world on May 7 and all year round.

Motion No. 2 — Resolution in support of School Nurse Appreciation Day (submitted by Cynthia Bennett)

WHEREAS, Nurse Appreciation Day is celebrated on May 6 every year and is meant to mark the role played by nurses in the progress of society; and

WHEREAS, the United Federation of Teachers represents both school nurses and hospital and home care nurses in the Federation of Nurses/UFT and has historically celebrated them on that day; and

WHEREAS, because of the pandemic we cannot gather and celebrate their work as we would normally do; and

WHEREAS, the last year has been filled with all the challenges faced during a historic and unprecedented pandemic; and

WHEREAS, nurses had to work in environments with uncertainty and fear and still showed up on behalf of the people of New York City; and

WHEREAS, nurses are essential workers who amid the COVID-19 pandemic have sacrificed much for their communities, selflessly serving on the front lines fighting this deadly and dangerous virus, comforting the sick and being there for them when their families could not; and

WHEREAS, our nurses do tremendous work for the students and patients under their care, and they deserve to be recognized for it; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United Federation of Teachers honors and celebrates UFT school nurses and the Federation of Nurses/UFT who have tirelessly served their students and patients throughout the year.

Motion No. 3 — Motion to endorse David Weprin for New York City comptroller (submitted by David Pecoraro)

WHEREAS, David Weprin was born and raised in Queens by his Cuban-immigrant mother, Sylvia, and his Brooklyn-born father, Saul, and was brought up in a household that cherished diversity and deeply appreciated the opportunities afforded to immigrants and hardworking families in New York City; and

WHEREAS, David's mother was a teacher who taught biology, chemistry and Spanish at public high schools in Queens. When Sylvia moved to this country, she didn't speak a word of English

but after learning the language she went on to become a public school teacher and proud UFT member. Today, at 91, she relies on her city pension, which David will protect, along with the pensions of all other members; and

WHEREAS, David's knowledge of public finance, and his involvement in the civic life of New York City led him to be appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo as Deputy Superintendent of Banks and Secretary of the Banking Board of New York State during his first term in office. As part of his tenure, David was a watchdog of nearly \$2 trillion, regulating more than 3,000 financial institutions and financial service firms in New York State, including international banking institutions, mortgage brokers and bankers; and

WHEREAS, David soon put his financial background back to work for New Yorkers, as he was elected to the New York City Council and served as the chair of the Council's Finance Committee for eight years. In this key role, David was responsible for balancing the city's budget, allocating millions of dollars for nonprofit organizations, and ensuring that the city's legislative priorities were fully funded; and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 financial crisis, David was instrumental in locking away \$2.5 billion to ensure that future retirees would receive quality health care; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the City Council, David was elected to the State Assembly to continue his work fighting on behalf of New Yorkers. In the Assembly, David has authored and co-sponsored groundbreaking legislation that has helped seniors, children, low-income families, veterans and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, David firmly believes that fully funding our kids' classrooms is a no-brainer and that what requires vision is ensuring that our kids' classrooms are properly equipped to prepare them for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, David, with his vast experience and training, will dedicate the audit and investigative powers of the Comptroller's Office to ensuring that the city Department of Education is properly spending our tax dollars to give our kids the best possible education by trimming bloated administrative budgets, outside consultant sweetheart do-nothing contracts and dollars that don't trickle down to the classroom so that every classroom in New York City must be equipped with the tools our kids need to succeed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the United Federation of Teachers endorses David Weprin to be the next comptroller of the City of New York.

Motion No. 4 — Motion to move the resolution on Medicare Advantage to the top of the agenda (submitted by Peter Allen-Lamphere)

WHEREAS, UFT President Mulgrew has stated that health care negotiations are priority 1A for UFT members; and

WHEREAS, negotiation on the move of retiree health care to privatized Medicare Advantage programs is ongoing and may potentially reach a conclusion soon; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the resolution about Medicare Advantage submitted on behalf of Retiree Advocate/UFT be moved to item one on the agenda.

Motion No. 5 — Resolution calling for the UFT to rescind its endorsement of Scott Stringer
(submitted by Ariela Rothstein)

WHEREAS, since the UFT announced its endorsement of Scott Stringer, Mr. Stringer has been credibly accused of sexual harassment and workplace bullying by multiple women; and

WHEREAS, the UFT is a union of professionals, and a professional workplace is one without sexual harassment or bullying; and

WHEREAS, the UFT can endorse multiple candidates in this inaugural ranked-choice voting year, and there are multiple qualified candidates for mayor who have not been accused of sexual predation, harassment or workplace bullying; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UFT rescinds its endorsement of Scott Stringer for NYC mayor.

Motion No. 6 — Resolution to increase union participation and build a stronger union through hybrid in-person or virtual participation and voting options (submitted by Daniel Alicea)

WHEREAS, the recent use of virtual technology has significantly increased member participation in our Delegate Assemblies and town halls; and

WHEREAS, our union is currently utilizing secure electronic voting at our virtual Delegate Assemblies and for other procedural votes such as school-based options; and

WHEREAS, this year's voting for chapter and delegate candidates will happen by means of electronic voting, via phone; and

WHEREAS, an electronic voting option would increase member voter turnout and promote greater democratic participation in light of our triennial general elections being typically underrepresented with only about 25% of the total membership casting a paper ballot; and

WHEREAS, other public sector unions are now conducting their general elections safely and securely through mail-in and electronic means, and it may be a more cost-effective means; and

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 crisis began, 14 major union organizations, including our umbrella organization, the AFL-CIO, asked the National Labor Relations Board to allow for an electronic voting option within private-sector unions and the subsequent, Protecting to Organize Labor Act, recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, asks for electronic voting as a provision to be codified into law; and

WHEREAS, increased member voter participation fosters trust and empowers democratic voice to build a stronger union; and

WHEREAS, this hybrid approach allows for more inclusive and equitable opportunities for those with disabilities, accessibility needs and/or demanding workload schedules to participate in our processes through these multiple means; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we continue to actively promote hybrid options that include in-person and virtual participation to increase overall union participation beyond the COVID-19 emergency since it also fosters increased trust in our democratic process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that beginning in 2022, UFT general elections for its officers and at-large executive board members, will henceforth be conducted safely and securely by means of a mail-in and electronic voting options for all members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that electronic voting also continue to be a hybrid option given to our chapters when conducting chapter and delegate elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that an electronic voting hybrid option continue to be offered and used when conducting union business such as for Delegate Assemblies and school-based option voting.

Motion No. 7 — Resolution for transparency in health care negotiations with New York City
(submitted independently by David Price, William Russell, Caroline Sykora and Alex Reich on behalf of Retiree Advocates/UFT)

WHEREAS, Retiree Advocates/UFT is an umbrella group of concerned activists within the UFT Retired Teachers Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Labor Committee (MLC) is an umbrella group comprised of representatives of New York City's nearly 100 municipal labor unions, including the UFT; and

WHEREAS, the MLC negotiates health care benefits with New York City on behalf of its rank-and-file members; and

WHEREAS, the MLC is tasked with finding cost savings for the city — to the tune of \$1.1 billion during the current negotiation period (2018-2021) — including \$600 million in fiscal year 2021 alone; and

WHEREAS, the effects of those cost-savings affect the health and welfare of 70,000-plus UFT retirees as well as the UFT's 130,000-plus in-service members; and

WHEREAS, the MLC is currently engaged in negotiations that may change the quality and amount of Medicare Part B reimbursements to UFT retirees (or eliminate them completely); and

WHEREAS, the MLC's negotiations occur behind closed doors, without transparency to UFT membership; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that UFT leadership will regularly report on MLC negotiations to its members (both in-service and retired) at Delegate Assemblies and RTC general meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that UFT leadership will keep its members apprised of proposed changes in Medicare Part B coverage, particularly changes that may diminish the quality, limit the quantity and increase the individual costs of health care coverage to its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT leadership requests that a moratorium be placed on the final decision regarding this proposed change to Medicare Part B until such time that the membership is informed of all the details involved with this change, a full discussion has occurred and the membership has been able to give input into the decision.

Motion No. 8 — Resolution in support of school libraries at summer school sites (Submitted by Roy Whitford)

WHEREAS, each school is required, per Commissioner's Regulations Section 91.1, to maintain a school library; and

WHEREAS, the UFT and NYSUT have passed resolutions calling for staffing of all school libraries by a certified school librarian; and

WHEREAS, all New York City public school students have the right to have access to school libraries staffed by certified professionals; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has issued guidance for summer schools stating, "Schools offering any course other than driver and traffic safety education are required to provide library services in accordance with Part 91 of the Commissioner's regulations;" and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education estimates nearly 800 schools will be open for summer school programs, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UFT demands every summer school site has a fully functioning, appropriately staffed school library per State Education Department guidance and that the city Department of Education's summer school hiring practices reflect this demand.