

UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
52 Broadway
New York City 10004

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

The agenda will be as follows:

- Announcements
- President's Report
- Staff Director's Report
- Question Period (30 minutes)
- Motions directed to the agenda (10 minutes)

Special Order of Business:

1. Resolution on UFT endorsement for city council offices
2. Resolution on UFT endorsement for mayor, city comptroller, public advocate and boroughwide offices
3. Resolution for the UFT to Actively Pursue the Longstanding Policy of Shared Governance of NYC Schools and Reforming Mayoral Control (submitted by Daniel Alicea)
4. Resolution in Opposition to New York City Council Introduction 2211 (submitted by Alexandra Haridopolos)
5. Resolution in Support of New York State Senate Bill 728 (submitted by Nat Hookway)
6. Resolution in Support of Eradicating Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Required for a quorum: 709

Tentative date for our next D.A.: November 17. Await Confirmation.
Tentative future meeting date: December 15.

RULES OF ORDER:

1. TO PLACE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE CURRENT MEETING – A motion to suspend the rules is required. IT IS NOT DEBATABLE and needs a 2/3 vote to carry.
2. TO PLACE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING – A delegate may move to place an item on the agenda at the end of the question period. One speaker is allowed on each side; a majority vote is required.
3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MOTIONS IN EITHER OF THE ABOVE CASES – A motion to add an item to the agenda of either the current or a subsequent meeting and which is more than 3 sentences long will be entertained only if the motion is written and distributed to the delegates.
4. DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE – ANY MEMBER (or group) may distribute literature at the door or before the beginning of the meeting, provided it conforms to the rules of propriety as defined in Roberts' Rules.
5. ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn is automatically placed before the body at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1 - RESOLUTION ON UFT ENDORSEMENT FOR CITY COUNCIL OFFICES

WHEREAS, the New York City municipal general election will be held on Nov. 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, due to term limits, the general election will feature the turnover of close to three quarters of the New York City Council, with more than 300 candidates having participated in the June 2021 primary elections; and

WHEREAS, of the incumbents endorsed by the UFT for the June 2021 primary and general election, 14 successfully won their respective primary races, including Carlina Rivera in District 2, Keith Powers in District 4, Diana Ayala in District 8, UFT member Eric Dinowitz in District 11, Kevin Riley in District 12, Rafael Salamanca Jr. in District 17, Francisco Moya in District 21, James Gennaro in District 34, Adrienne Adams in District 28, Robert Holden in District 30, Selvena Brooks-Powers in District 31, Justin Brannan in District 43, Kalman Yeger in District 44 and Farah Louis in District 45; and

WHEREAS, an additional 20 City Council candidates endorsed by the UFT for the June 2021 primary and general election won their respective primary races, including Erik Bottcher in District 3, Julie Menin in District 5, Gale Brewer in District 6, Carmen De La Rosa in District 10, Marjorie Velazquez in District 13, Pierina Sanchez in District 14, Althea Stevens in District 16, Amanda Farias in District 18, Sandra Ung in District 20, Tiffany Caban in District 22, Linda Lee in District 23, Shekar Krishnan in District 25, Nantasha Williams in District 27, Lynn Schulman in District 29, Lincoln Restler in District 33, Jennifer Gutierrez in District 34, Crystal Hudson in District 35, Alexa Aviles in District 38, Ari Kagan in District 47, and UFT member Steven Saperstein in District 48; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we unify and stand behind candidates we believe will win their general election and ultimately will act in the best interest of UFT members for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, the following 14 candidates won their June 2021 primary elections and/or are candidates for consideration in the general election, completed and submitted a UFT candidate questionnaire to affirm their understanding of and outline their positions on our issues, and have been recommended for an endorsement by our borough political action coordinators and their respective political teams: Christopher Marte in District 1, Sean Abreu in District 7, Oswald Feliz in District 15, Tony Avella in District 19, Julie Won in District 26, Felicia Singh in District 32, Chi A. Osse in District 36, Sandy Nurse in District 37, Shahana Hanif in District 39, UFT member Rita Joseph in District 40, Darlene Mealy in District 41, Charles Barron in District 42, Mercedes Narcisse in District 46, and Sal Albanese in District 50; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the UFT endorses all 48 candidates named above to represent their respective districts as City Council members for the 2022-2023 two-year term.

AGENDA ITEM #2 - RESOLUTION ON UFT ENDORSEMENT FOR MAYOR, CITY COMPTROLLER, PUBLIC ADVOCATE AND BOROUGHWISE OFFICES

WHEREAS, the New York City general election will be held on Nov. 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this election will feature candidates for the citywide offices of New York City mayor, New York City comptroller, and New York City public advocate; and

WHEREAS, the election will also feature candidates for borough president of each of the five boroughs, Manhattan district attorney and Brooklyn district attorney; and

WHEREAS, Eric Adams successfully won the Democratic Party primary for mayor held on June 22, 2021, Brad Lander won the Democratic Party primary for city comptroller held on the same day, and Jumaane Williams the Democratic Party primary for public advocate held on the same day; and

WHEREAS, UFT endorsed candidates Vanessa Gibson for Bronx borough president, Donovan Richards for Queens borough president, Alvin Bragg for Manhattan district attorney and Eric Gonzalez for Brooklyn district attorney, all of whom won their June primary elections and/or are candidates for consideration in the general election; and

WHEREAS, all candidates that the union newly considered for endorsement in the Nov. 2 election submitted a UFT candidate questionnaire and participated in candidate interviews conducted by union interview committees comprised of UFT members who represent the diversity of the union membership; and

WHEREAS, Eric Adams has pledged to prioritize the well-being of workers, fight for working people and defend the rights of union members; and

WHEREAS, as borough president, Eric Adams, supported public schools in Brooklyn, including our United Community Schools, with millions of dollars in capital grants for repairs, upgrades and new construction; and

WHEREAS, as council member, Brad Lander has a track record of support for public schools, including leading the campaign to secure air conditioning in all city classrooms and \$100 million in funding to renovate decrepit school bathrooms across the city; and

WHEREAS, as city comptroller, Brad Lander promises to protect the retirement security of UFT members while making smart pension fund investments to improve the resiliency of our city's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, as council member, Jumaane Williams was a vocal supporter of public education and was the lead sponsor of the Paid Vacations Act, which would require that all New York City employees receive paid vacations; and

WHEREAS, as public advocate, Jumaane Williams promises to support our teachers and draw attention to the inequality in education by improving the quality of public education for students with a focus on ending the practice of chronically underfunding public schools that serve minority and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Mark Levine won the June 2021 Democratic Party primary to be the next Manhattan borough president; and

WHEREAS, Mark Levine is a former bilingual math and science teacher and a former UFT member who pledges to be a staunch advocate for public schools and is committed to address overcrowding, underfunding and understaffing in city public schools; and

WHEREAS, with years of campaign experience, Mark Murphy is running a formidable campaign to be the next Staten Island borough president after winning his June 2021 Democratic Party primary; and

WHEREAS, Mark Murphy is committed to working with city labor unions and has pledged to support public schools and advocate for the needs of educators, students and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the UFT unifies and stands behind candidates that it believes will act in the best interest of its members over the next four years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the union's political action team, the UFT endorses Eric Adams for the New York City mayor, Brad Lander for New York City comptroller, and Jumaane Williams for New York City public advocate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the borough political action coordinators and their respective political teams, the UFT endorses Mark Levine for the Manhattan borough president and Mark Murphy for Staten Island borough president.

AGENDA ITEM #3 - RESOLUTION FOR THE UFT TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE LONGSTANDING POLICY OF SHARED GOVERNANCE OF NYC SCHOOLS AND REFORMING MAYORAL CONTROL (submitted by Daniel Alicea)

WHEREAS, the UFT has a longstanding policy, since 2013, to support a Board of Education, aka, the Panel of Educational Policy, which consists of 13 members of which five are appointed by the mayor, in an attempt to place limits on mayoral control of New York City public schools; and

WHEREAS, this policy was part of the recommendations set forth by the 2013 UFT School Governance Committee, and was accepted as the UFT's standing policy regarding reform of mayoral control in a resolution passed by the UFT Delegate Assembly in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the UFT president, in recent weeks, has publicly expressed the following sentiment: "We need a change. Parents and educators need more voice. A single person in control, with few checks and balances, is not good for our school system;" therefore be it

RESOLVED that a UFT subcommittee should revisit and update the 2013 school governance policy recommendations based on current realities and present data, and in consultation with school community stakeholders, for consideration by leadership, and subsequently, this body, if deemed necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UFT make an endorsement in the 2021 mayoral election conditional upon the candidate committing to the tenets of the UFT's policy for NYC school governance, which seeks to place checks on mayoral control, and that the UFT endorses state legislators and other candidates for elective office that support this goal; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UFT will create and present an action plan, in cooperation with other city schools' stakeholders, to lobby the State Legislature and the governor to implement proposed changes before the statute of mayoral control expires in June of 2022.

AGENDA ITEM #4 - RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCTION 2211

(submitted by Alexandra Haridopolos)

WHEREAS, young people have endured mental health challenges throughout this pandemic including but not limited to depression, suicide ideation, grief and trauma; and

WHEREAS, young people have lost family members to COVID-19 and will need to be supported through the grieving process in order to learn; and

WHEREAS, an ACLU report found "over 71 percent of students in New York attend public schools that fail to meet the nationally recommended ratios for the number of counselors to students," meaning schools will need to have a greater capacity for supporting students transitioning back to in-person learning; and

WHEREAS, the New York City DOE cut \$700 million from this year's education budget, but is planning to spend \$20 million to hire 475 new school safety agents; and

WHEREAS in NYC schools there are 5,200 school safety agents, but 3,000 counselors, 1,800 social workers and 1,400 school nurses; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the UFT urges the City Council Committee on Education to vote no to Introduction 2211 as it will transfer over 400 school safety agents to DOE authority without hiring more counselors, teachers, social workers, counselors, nurses or librarians; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT supports hiring more teachers, social workers, counselors, nurses and librarians before hiring any more school safety agents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT supports long-term, holistic recovery for school communities from pre-pandemic criminalizing practices and pandemic-exacerbated inequities with investments including but not limited to the arts, extracurricular programming, counselors, social workers, restorative justice coordinators, nurses and librarians, to ultimately facilitate opportunities for our youth to discover gifts, talents and positive contributions to school communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we notice the DOE making decisions for schools in unilateral, undemocratic ways.

AGENDA ITEM #5 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL 728 (submitted by Nat Hookway)

WHEREAS, there has been much progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS, there still needs to be a tool to allow more access to life-saving medication known as PreP and PeP; and

WHEREAS, the Ending the HIV Epidemic plan was announced in 2019, aiming to end the HIV and AIDS epidemic by 2030; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, New York saw 2,481 new HIV cases; and

WHEREAS, this increase demands new policies to target at-risk populations with preventative treatments; and

WHEREAS, pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PreP, has been on the market under the name Truvada for a decade as a long-term daily pill that is highly effective at preventing new HIV transmissions; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S728, sponsored by New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, was introduced for the 2021-22 legislative session and was referred to the Higher Education Committee on Jan. 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S728 would allow pharmacists to dispense the medication before the patient receives a doctor's prescription for a 60-day prescription; and

WHEREAS, this would allow people to access PreP even if they do not have a regular doctor, waiting for an appointment, just moved to a new place, or just became sexually active; and

WHEREAS, people of high-risk populations are unlikely to have a regular doctor and do not know how to gain access to the medication. This bill will allow New York to expand access to more residents, which will further reduce infections; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UFT will continue to advocate for its members who rely on these medications daily as a way of treatment or prevention, by continuing to negotiate the prices of our prescription drugs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT will contribute to the decline in new infections and eradication of HIV/AIDS by 2030 by continuously pressing the DOE to educate our students with appropriate and updated HIV/AIDS curriculum; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT will continue to educate and inform its members of their healthcare benefits and affirms its commitment to the HIV/AIDS community by supporting this bill and urge its state affiliate NYSUT to help the UFT by pushing to get this bill passed in Albany.

AGENDA ITEM #6 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ERADICATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, there are thousands of (often unreported) incidents of domestic violence and intimate partner violence every day in New York City; and

WHEREAS, with more than 1.1 million students, New York City is the largest K-12 public school system in the United States with many of its students affected by domestic violence and intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence and intimate partner violence have resulted in countless occurrences of physical, emotional and psychological harm and even death in New York City; and

WHEREAS, 12.1% of high school students in New York State reported having been physically hurt (excluding sexual violence) by a significant other in just the past year and 11.8% reported experience sexual dating violence; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by a significant other; and

WHEREAS, countless numbers of students and educators fall victim to domestic violence and intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, a variety of conditions caused by the ongoing pandemic have resulted in increased rates of domestic violence and intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence and intimate partner violence have myriad negative effects on individual victims, family units, communities and young people; and

WHEREAS, in October 2021, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and announced an additional \$6.5 million in funding that will allow state-licensed service providers to offer survivors of domestic violence and their families with options for assistance and support; and

WHEREAS, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia already offer training to educators on domestic violence indicators and interventions, and such training in New York City public schools would ensure that New York City adheres to best educational practices for ending domestic violence and intimate partner violence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the UFT will work with the City of New York and local coalition partners to educate young people, UFT members and New Yorkers at large about the dangers of domestic violence and intimate partner violence and to offer resources to combat, prevent and eliminate these violent incidents in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT will disseminate to its members and other educators information and resources to fight and end domestic violence and intimate partner violence; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UFT will provide members, caregivers, students and others with opportunities designed to help recognize and eradicate domestic violence (including, but not limited to learning warning signs, forms of domestic violence, patterns and interventions to eliminate domestic abuse, teen dating violence and intimate partner violence); and be it further

RESOLVED that the UFT will work with the DOE to identify and assist students who are victims of domestic violence or live in households where incidents of domestic violence and intimate partner violence occur; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the UFT will continue to work with the UFT Member Assistance Program and other dedicated personnel to offer counseling and other resources to assist victims of domestic violence and intimate partner violence and to work to eradicate domestic violence and intimate partner violence in the future.