

UFT Delegate Assembly Notes

Synopsis/Analysis

Delegate Assembly - May 25, 2022

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President's Report: start 4:18

Moment of silence, in recognition and for Rashid Mathis, who passed away at the age of 41. Helped us with DA, town halls throughout pandemic.

Federal Politics:

California, TX, and Buffalo, head of TX teachers union, having a bad day yesterday, and today. We all know the gun violence, have multiple resolutions for gun control, Florida, Colorado. I don't know what it's going to take to get these cowards to stand up to the gun lobby. But again, teachers were there on the front lines. Teachers shielding kids with their bodies, schools that have become professional about doing lockdown drills, 3 people killed in Buffalo were NYSUT members.

All the issues that are going on in society show up where we work. Another moment of silence for those in California, Buffalo, and Texas.

Nationally, I'm not really going to do a report. Everything becomes about gun violence and the supreme court's upcoming decision on reproductive rights.

State Politics:

In Albany, mayoral control is still happening. If we have a resolution that says we need some kind of check and balance, that would be great. That's our position.

requests folks to turn off phones

People ask, why do we support mayoral control? We support some kind of mayoral control, because we go back to very complicated situations before. We had a series of mayors who were at war with

the Board of Ed. The problem is, with the war between mayors and board of Ed, school budgets went down. This war was going on for 20 years.

One thing mayoral control has solved is budget. The mayor's responsibility is to fund the system. We cannot have a single person to announce whatever policy that want. We have evidence that does not work. One reason mayoral control happened, the city budget system was starving the school system. Other cities do have it, doesn't look like ours. They have a check and balance. Lobbying at Albany and City Council, lowering class size in NYC. All in discussion.

Also, some states trying to get out ahead of bad Supreme Court decision and state looking to do things about gun control. Local news starts with shooting. THAT's what we have been focusing on in Albany. As soon as that is done, we'll get it out to you.

City legislative session ends next Thursday. They might extend. Many issues remaining.

City Politics:

The issue of class size - we have blown up the myth that it's impossible to do it. We have mathematics, evidence. Their argument was, we don't have enough classroom space

820K students right now

Average class size is lowest since I've been around.

We have lobbied and won at fed level and at state level - have contract for excellence (tied to Title I) getting 1.3B/yr from NYS for our schools. We have the money and space, but DOE won't let go of their lie because they don't want to. They don't want to be responsible for it.

K, 1 - 20 students is the right number. 32 is insane [sic ableist language]

Should we be paying for it? The guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, etc have to pay to make their working conditions easier.

Does any other agency pay to have their working conditions done correctly? Do police pay for their guns? Do FDNY pay for AC? Does Sanitation pay for gas in trucks? You want quality- the research is there. Increase student achievement by lowering class size. The research shows this. Teachers can support students better academically, social and emotional support for students. Need social emotional support in middle school. We're not "working less" with smaller class sizes. We are working better, more effectively.

DOE will continue to lie about this. Mulgrew testified in front of City Council - all money is supposed to go to the services. Good luck, DOE is undefeated in lying and cheating the children of NYC. They don't want to stop. They claim it will bankrupt the City. They are arguing with us, and they're forcing schools to increase class sizes in their budget. They cut back on the number of seats being created by 1.6B.

And \$375 cut from education budget overall.

DOE: if you maximize your class sizes, you'll have the budget to do what you need to do.

Wave class size posters and smile. Use in your schools. Tag the Chancellor and send it to uftphotos@gmail.com. [The union printed posters around lower class size to place in local small businesses]

The DOE doesn't want to deal with class size. They would rather expand their bureaucracy.

DOE Restructure

Let's talk about the superintendents:

The process is turning into a competition, now everyone is talking to the parents, not about who is the best person to be superintendent

What have they been doing? They are there by law? Do I agree they should be? Yes,

I'm glad they got rid of the exec. Supts but now we're making every supt jump through hoops. They're just shuffling the chairs – not really changing anything.

37 Meetings next week through the 14th. Participate, and have some fun.

I hope you'll participate and have some fun, do what you need to do - push for the candidates who will actually do what will help the schools, not the legalistic types. Away we go with this system. We'll see.

We work in NYC. Who's first year? You're first year, you're a few months in, you're year 5. WE're in the 5th month of this admin, they are in their year 3. They gotta move.

Is the calendar out yet? We were told it was coming out 3 weeks ago. They keep pushing it back. We get to consult on the calendar, but this is up to them, and this is insane.

WE're waiting for SBOs, business of setting up a school to run happens now, we keep getting, "the calendar's coming out tomorrow." "We need guarantees from the state." For what? Guarantees from the state about what? They said go forth with your calendar! But NYC is special... They need

off mic audience question - Yonkers?

Then it comes out, and then we have to rush. Chapter leaders are writing me about SBOs. Some we can do now, but we need the calendar. I'd prefer to do them all at one time with one vote. We keep hearing, "It's coming out tomorrow."

Principals are saying, "where's my budget?" We've heard about all the excessing that's going to happen. Next thing you know, what starts as rumors turns out to be truth about excessing. Getting emails about "My principal said, they may have to excess 1/3rd of their staff."

We said, DOE, you have federal \$\$, you should make sure you're not devastating schools. Other schools have higher population.

June 9th PD day is coming. In our consultation, I think it was 3 months ago, we were told by the DOE that they will send out in the Principals Weekly clarifying that the June 9 PD day will be handled the same way as the Election day in the fall, which is that it will be remote unless it's an absolute necessity that people come in. It didn't come out in PW for a month, and then we brought it up in consultation, and then the principals said they've already planned for that day! So they extended the deadline.

They have to inform by this Friday, May 27th if they are being deemed necessary to come in. If you don't think it's true, contact their district immediately.

Now let's do June 28th. Not the first time that the last day of school ends on a Monday. When I was a CL, we had a picnic, took pictures, kids signed yearbooks. Should be virtual, just like June 9. They have until June 14 to say whether it is remote or not. Have conversation with principals so that staff have time to put their rooms away at the end of the year.

US History Regents Cancelled

Yes, everyone's trying to figure what question made them cancel. In a Regents class, child will be given credit for passing the Regents.

City Politics

Some lines got redrawn for districts (statewide in June: Governor, Assembly, Comptroller, Attorney general). Then another primary for Congressional seats of NYS and State Senate. On the last Tuesday of August. It's a sad life to be here on that day, the only people dumb enough to be here: me and the tourists. Multiple folks we've endorsed. We have them running against each other. Nobody endorsed. Line changed, people want to run over there.

Talking to Andy Pallota, NYSUT, if we open up the floodgates, we're going to have to redo the process. Does anyone here want to redo the entire process in June? *No*. Our process is: a group of our members from the district that the race is in, interview the candidate.

Biggest one is the brand new congressional seat - right here, it's 10, this one here. I don't know how many are running. Don't have enough fingers. We have no idea. It's completely open. We're happy to have our members interview everyone now, and then we'll make that decision.

The other ones are the tough omens that you've seen in the press - Maloney vs. Nadler. State senate races that are now wide open - there was an endorsed candidate but now the demographics have completely changed.

This is going to be the key- the last Tuesday in August means that you'll have less than 5% voter turnout. Going to be very low numbers.

This all becomes about early voting and absentee turnout. High profile means 25% Last Tuesday in August, it doesn't matter who's running. Nothing will shock me if Jimmy "the rent is too damn high" gets elected.

Last thing: in case you come across it, vacation day cannot be denied because it's the month of June. June is important. What about the other 9? Vacation days are vacation days.

Go back to September, you're all leaders in your schools. Think about all those peaceful calm conversations, all the rest of this stuff. You got to December. But the brake heading into the new year the numbers were inflated due to covid. The month of the January was the worst month of the worst school year ever. Did you ever think you would be here on the last Wednesday of the month before Memorial Day?

Wave is coming back down; hospitalization is coming down. Thank you for getting the members of this union to this place. God bless.

Staff Director's Report: LeRoy Barr (4:57)

- PR day parade is back - flyers on the table - Sun Jun 12 - celebrate Nat'l PR Day, culture, pride, and family.
- LGBT weekend June 25-27 conference In conjunction with AFT and NYSUT culminate with the parade on June 25
- 5k run in Coney Island just happened - anybody went? *Woohoo!* We raised over \$6k
- Daniel Drom scholarship due by May 31st, acknowledges LGBTQ students, any UFT member can nominate with letter of recommendation to Rbrown1@uft.org.
- Albert Shanker award scholarship ceremony June 7 hybrid held here. We put \$1m - negotiated for this rather than getting a raise. We thank our founders for having the foresight to look out for our students after graduation.
- School Secretary Award Lunch June 11 - please tell your secretaries
- Negotiating committee June 15
- Next DA June 8

Mulgrew: I met with VP of Ukrainian Teachers Association to say thanks for the money, in solidarity and appreciation of what we sent, met . Pretty harrowing stories. 90% of teachers are still in Ukraine and refuse to leave. Teachers still teaching virtually.

Question Period (5:02 -)

Who: Olivia Swisher, MS 821, CL

Q: Actions we can take as a union in response to gun violence? My school was 4 blocks away from the shooting and were in shelter in place all day. We're the largest local, so what actions can we take?

A: So, this convo we are having; we've done massive rallies, we've done buybacks. We've been talking with other unions, about maybe a massive rally here in the city. Rally in DC? We have so much gun violence in our city, it's every day Jeff Polivitis? dealing with crazy stuff in the city, Just today there was a gun issue but an ED issue and someone just ran into a school and was running around. We want to move quickly on this and want to do something right away. We're talking to our friends in Texas because this weekend is the national NRA convention and we want to do something. Strongest groups are the mothers. We're in a battle with gun lobbies and politicians who are afraid to stand up to them. Majority of NRA members are in favor of restrictions on large magazines, etc. Citizens united means that NRA can primary Republicans who don't vote against gun control. City is infiltrated with guns.

Who: Mavis DeShwan, PS 16??

Q: If you see a soldier, shake their hand, buy them a coffee. My question is about the school day. Before he got the job, the Chancellor, he was saying, I want the day to be longer. He's still talking about that. What is the likelihood that our day is going to change? Is that going to happen?

A: In turns of us teaching longer? No. If you want to extend the time of school, we're very good and flexible about having teachers work more hours on different schedules. It's all voluntary. But the first question is why? Finland has a shorter day, and they're considered the best school system. What are you trying to doing with this? Are you going to change the curriculum? Are you going to keep

kindergarteners in school for longer so that we can damage them by assessing them, because that's because you want them to do, instead of letting them play?

Ts will work a 70 hour week for their kids. If we add 20 minutes to the day, they will lose their minds. I believe the mayor wants to make a difference. Last night I got ? about dyslexic screening - how are we going to do this? Is this going to be another SEL screening? Is a real assessment or a developmental

We all have the research, it's there. We're not trained in reading unless you have specific training.

The mayor won't be at the table when this is being done. Next week the DESSA stuff is due. Why are we doing it? Last year we came up with a plan. Last year, in July, they signed a \$18m contract to test kids. We were told that the minute you identify a student who needs outside help kids would be given it, no red tape. Every school identified kids who needed outside help. It never happened. So why are we doing this?

"Brian" will be the "voice" on the phones in place of Rashid.

Who: Margaret Negrelly, CL PS 370K D75

Q: Jun 28. Principles were told that it was at their discretion. I brought the "compelling reason to be in person" to her attention. I expressed my concerns, Uptick in Covid. As a CL, do I have any recourse to help her change her mind?

A: Yes, you're going to email David Dorger and LeRoy Barr, it did not say it's up to their discretion – Not the second one that was sent out. we have ou

Who: Bara?, PS 52, the Bronx

Q: First time this occurred, Principal called me and asked if we can get into our DOE email? We have to put a code sent to our phones. I don't have a DOE phone. Are they tracking us? Is it a satellite? What's going on?

A: Okay, that is our official response. They do not have DOE phones, therefore you cannot ask us to use personal phones. Now, what they're doing, they didn't talk to us. Everyone can say, I can't get into my email, and they say, check your phone, you can say, "you pay for my phone?"

As you might have heard, the DOE has been getting hacked. They put in a double authentication system. Fine, no problem with that, except for one thing, they don't pay for your phone. So nno, unless you can give us a stipend for using our personal devices.

Who: Matthew Kolokurto, Delegate Pathways to Graduation Manhattan (D79)

Q: We are part of D79. Our superintendent is being forced out by the mayor. He really works well with the union and has a passion for students. What can we do to keep the good superintendents around?

A: I completely agree with your assessment of your superintendent. Work with the union means to the DOE means in the tank with DOE. to us, it means a problem solver. That superintendent has dealt with so many problems because everything that's been done usually doesn't fit in D75 and D79. We've had all sorts of crazy things, teachers being locked into jails and classrooms and he's always been there to solve the problem. In the house of cards up the street you've got to wear armor up there because I don't know what his relationship is with people there. If it was actually about his work and his ability to solve problems it wouldn't be an issue. So we are trying to work on it from our side.

Motion Period (5:19)

Motions to be added to the agenda:

1) Anna D30 IS 178 - AAPI Resolution

Motion to move 11 to number 1, May is AAPI month and it's fitting that we vote on it this month? We all know that the Mosaic curriculum is missing AAPI content. Hate crimes against APPI have jumped.

Mulgrew: I'm very sorry, you are out of order. you can't motivate for it here, your motion is to move number 11 to 1, because it is AAPI month

Speaker: Move 11 to 1 because May is AAPI month and it would be appropriate to vote this month.

Gives directions

Mulgrew: If you would like to thank Rashid for all the work he has done for us, please press 1 or A.

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
734 paid tribute		176 yes	
Totals:		Outcome	

It is unanimous. We want to thank you Rashid.

Vote on Moving Motion 11 to number 1

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
693	44	176	3
Totals: 869-47, 95% yes		Outcome: passed, moves to number 1	

2) Mike Sill, following motion to be placed second on this month's agenda

Resolved: the UFT expresses sorrow for communities affected by gun violence, unequivocally condemns these acts of violence, supports mental health services, so trained professionals can identify and intervene,

Resolved: Wear black this Friday, May 27.

Resolved: Wear orange Friday, June 3, Gun Safety Awareness Month.

Resolved: Support Gov. Hochul's ban on assault weapons, high capacity magazines and to work in tandem with AFT and other national unions

Vote to add to this months' agenda at number 2

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
717	24	177	4
Totals: 894-28, 97% yes		Outcome - passed, placed at number 2	

Resolution Period (5:29:

Resolution 1:

Ana Wanay? PS 1S 78

Mosaic curriculum is missing AAPI, 342% from 2020 to 2021, Anti-Asian crimes increased 124%

Building awareness is important

Resolved: UFT supports inclusion of AAPI in Mosaic curriculum and partners with AA Education project to develop materials

Moved, seconded.

Debate: Sung Lee, Chair of AA heritage committee, in favor: add'l demographic info: 20% Asian, significantly less than 10%, immigration is important factor in many districts.

Arguments about G&T, SpEd, ENLs, linked to AAPI immigration.

It would be helpful to have that contextually to understand current situation in NYC schools

Sandy Wong, D7 CL - Call the question

Mulgrew: anyone against? No one online or in person who wishes to debate

Vote to end debate on this resolution:

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
613	21	172	1
Totals: 785-22, 97% yes		Outcome: passed - debate closed	

Vote on Resolution Itself: Asian American curriculum resolution

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
609	26	182	0
Totals: 791-26, 97% yes		Outcome: passed,	

Resolution 2: Resolution to Stand Against Gun Violence

Amari Joe Garza, Eva Morales, names of victims these are some recent victims in schools in TX, Buffalo, CA, outside of school in NYC

So tired of the pattern. Tired of herding educator who lost their lives saving a students, tired of seeing dead children and seeing my kids and our students. Tired of hearing there were warning signs, of AR 15, tired of hearing school or Black church or some other place where people of color gather Republicans shucking and jiving, complicit with merchants of death.

Tired of nothing getting done. Tired of knowing it will happen again.

I know we have to work with our partners, with the AFt and other orgs that have been doing great work on this. But if the legislatures don't have the power and will to get this done, then the power has to rest with us, the people.

Must organize and activate against this national scourge

Seconded.

Debate:

In favor: Margaret Joyce PS 35S, Mother of two in D2 [crying]

Yesterday was a tragedy, but it's not shocking. 213 mass shootings in this country this year. Last year it was close to 700 (692-3), way too high. Even more shocking is that elected can't pass sensible gun laws.

Now guns are the leading cause of death among children. It used to be auto accidents for the last 60 years. Why can't we hand out licenses and regulate them? Most have been legally purchased and that's disgraceful. In 2018, AFT resolved that we support via voter mobilization efforts, we need to reaffirm,

I am done with thoughts and prayers. I want action, policy, change.

Motion to Amend: Ilona, Mott Hall V, D12: I'd like to make a motion to amend

Add a resolved at the end: that UFT and AFT take steps to immediately divest from companies that make weapons that have no other purpose than mass destruction, especially the AR-15.

Mulgrew: I need clarification - UFT divested a long time ago. Where are the trustees? We have already voted to divest, started a long time ago, we were one of the first to do it.

Ilona: I'm thrilled to hear that, thank you.

Online debate:

Tom Murphy: the passion of this debate is beyond belief. Those of us with long parentheses, going back to TX towers, we retirees stand in solidarity with in service folks, we are with you, it's time to act.

M: Trustees confirm, yes, we are already officially divested and the first ones to do it.

Andrea White, D75, PS 369, Para rep, Exec Bd - Call the question (seconded)

Mulgrew: Anyone against? No one in person or online to speak against.

Vote to end debate on this resolution

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
595	18	151	0
Totals: 746-18		Outcome: closed debate	

Vote on Resolution to Stand Against Gun Violence:

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
609	8	159	1
Totals: 768-9		Outcome: passes overwhelmingly	

Resolution 3:

Emily Black - Decorum Resolution

Starts with congrats on re-election.

Mulgrew: thanks everyone who ran, thank the union for handling it, Election committee

University Neighborhood HS

We are educators, should be teaching by example, we should all strive to depolarize as upstanding citizens. Not want to be a union that falls victim to polarization

We are professionals with limited time,if we don't act professionally, we waste time for volunteers, the ones who suffer are our youth, students, children, youth, etc.

Maldonado, D79 Exec Bd - in support

We bring passion, welcome civil discourse, should be mindful and respect each other, disagree without being disagreeable.

Online: Linda Acevedo, in support, PS 56 Staten Island

I work hard to bring back information, with heavy heart, because there was so much that never got voted on. Believe in civil discourse, but what happened this year, was a disaster. What matters, things were not taken care of. Left impotent in our duty. While everyone should have an opportunity to say what they need to say, work harder, smarter, pass resos, have voices heard, rep schools

Olivia Swisher MS 821, CL

3 resolved to add

In spirit of camaraderie, Chair will call on both sides

in spirit of ultimate purpose of the assembly, reports should not take longer than business of deliberation

create subcommittee for bylaws recommendations

Leroy Barr: in opposition to the amendments

This discussion is important, sides heard, is important, it's not Roberts rules to alternate, we have customs, we try to make sure someone can speak against, Second point: putting a limit on the time Presidents' reports, on a month to month basis, people came to hear the reports so they could go back to talk to their schools. Sometimes longer, sometimes shorter. Nobody would say the info we receive wasn't helpful during most critical time ever (repeats twice). People need information, I spoke against it.

Ryan Bruckenthal in favor of the amendment

Supporting the resolution, but I think ways in which we can increase democracy in the union, we're stronger when we have more debate and argument. There are different caucuses, this debate is productive, we showed we are unanimous, but we can have productive debates. I'm excited about this kind of decision making, these amendments would make us even more democratic way.

Rashad Brown - EBd member at large - call the question

Vote to end debate on the amendment

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
567	53	143	12
Totals: 710-65		Outcome CLOSED DEBATE	

Vote to add amendments to the resolution

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
287	293	30	134
Totals: 317-427		Outcome: Amendments do not carry	

Point of information; clarify what is being voted on. Repeats: just about the 3 amendments.
Summarizes 3 amendments.

Vote to Resolution, as originally written

Online yes	Online No	In person Yes	In person No
436	105	140	15
Totals: 576-120		Outcome: Passed	

DA ended at 6:09