



UNITED TEACHERS OF DADE

2200 Biscayne Boulevard ■ Miami, Florida 33137 ■ Tel: 305-854-0220 ■ www.UTD.org

February 1, 2011

Dear UTD Bargaining Unit Member:

Many of you have received a letter from Enid Weisman, Miami-Dade Schools Assistant Superintendent on the topic of our contract negotiations.

This tactic of communicating directly to you, using cherry-picked information, is the oldest trick in the book, and an attempt to break our unity and desire to stand for what we deserve. Obviously, this will not work. The statements by Ms. Weisman stop short of telling the entire story.

We have listened very carefully to members of the UTD Bargaining Unit. In our bargaining survey, 93% of you told us to stand firm for step movement and that the bonus scheme offered by the District was unacceptable.

We declared impasse in December because you and your families deserve answers and the impasse provides for a time certain for resolution of bargaining. We are able to continue to meet and bargain during impasse. If the District is serious about working with UTD, they would have already settled health insurance with us and held open enrollment for our bargaining unit, as we have requested.

Ultimately, the School Board members will vote to decide our contract, unless we are able to settle our issues before that final hearing.

As the Legislature prepares to meet, it is a very critical time for anyone employed in the public sector, especially public education. Threats of cuts to funding and our pensions are real. Senate Bill 736 repeats many of the same proposals as SB6 of last year.

No matter how successful we are in fulfilling our responsibilities as educators and education support professionals, the District continues to expect that you will accept more and more mandates without appropriate compensation. We do not consider that a sign of respect.

If you are already a member of UTD, we thank you for standing with us and speaking up for your professions. If you have not yet joined, now is the time.

In Unity,

Karen Aronowitz
President

Artie Leichner
First Vice-President

Fedrick Ingram
Secretary Treasurer