



**General Membership Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2021**

[www.utswc.org](http://www.utswc.org)

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. 4:30PM (Marty, UTSWC President)
  
- II. Roll Call – shall be done on sign-in sheet**
  
- III. Approval of Agenda - APPROVED** without objection
- IV. Approval of Minutes from May meeting - APPROVED** without objection
- V. Approval of 2021-2022 Executive Board - APPROVED** without objection
  
- VI. Welcome and Introductions – role of Building Representatives:**
  - a. Be the face of UTSWC
  - b. Helping members connect with the larger membership unit
  - c. Help conduct elections
  - d. Attend 8 meetings (7 of 8 for \$400 stipend)
  - e. There is a Building Representative packet and training in the works.
  
- VII. Reports**
  - a. Membership
    - i. Updated site lists of members/non-members will be sent out again this week
    - ii. Recruitment of new members
    - iii. Preschool unit
    - iv. As of today, 1263 between both units and 93 non-members
      1. The membership numbers are down – typically 95-97% UTSWC membership—numbers now are about 93% membership
    - v. People coming back from leaves will need to sign-up new again—forms are available—contact Marty F. or Adam H. (Membership)
      1. Please reach out if someone is not a member and would like to be or are a member but are not on my member list or receiving communication.
      2. Down members due to budget cuts, retirees, members on a leave of absence, and staff members who have resigned.
      3. Adam Hayes (Membership) will create and share helpful ‘talking points’ related to the power of belonging to UTSWC.
  
  - b. Treasurer – financial report
    - i. Dues – 16 paychecks starting October 15

- ii. UTSWC rent for the Ed MN space is up \$11.00 (from \$585 to \$596/month)
  - iii. UTSWC was awarded a \$40,000 Ed MN grant for UTSWC Officer release time.
- c. Member Rights
  - i. Check your step/pay in ERMA (ex: "Step R" is the top step)
  - ii. 121 Benefits bought by BRI (Benefit Resource)
    - 1. New web portal and new cards
  - iii. Schedules – prep and lunch (travel if crossover)
  - iv. Social Media
    - 1. Please be careful about what you post on social media. There are some gray areas for your first amendment rights with freedom of speech and not interfering with your work duties
    - 2. When in doubt, do not post it.
    - 3. While at work you must remain neutral.
- d. Negotiations
  - i. Update
    - 1. Marty F. commented that negotiations are "getting close" and was unable to share more details. It was felt that negotiations to date have been productive using a "dialogue" approach from both sides.
    - 2. Much better work with negotiations with the smaller amount of people. No school board members, or attorney. Solving problems and getting things done are much quicker, and nicer with conversations.
  - ii. Will start preschool after licensed unit complete
- e. Government Relations
  - i. Funding
    - 1. 2.45 and 2.0% added to state funding formula
    - 2. This is an "off year" for state funding bills
  - ii. Election 2021
    - 1. Early voting started Sept. 17
    - 2. Referendum – 2 questions
      - a. (1) levies and (2) technology
        - i. Two questions – We NEED to support both, but the first one is crucial.
      - b. Question 1:
        - i. Not renewing the levies so quickly (10-year renewals instead of every 2 years)
        - ii. Adding in inflation into the levy
      - c. Question 2:
        - i. Tech Levy
        - ii. Update the technology that we have bought
      - d. If the questions don't pass they will try to renew the current levies
- 3. School Board
  - a. 5 of 9 candidates responded and participated in the screening from the Union

- b. One did not show up for their screening
- c. 4 did not respond at all
- d. Cannot endorse the ones who did not participate in the screening
- e. UTSWC screening committee voted to endorse Katie, Pat, Michael, and Sharon
- f. More information to come from Marty on this
- g. More campaigning information is coming out from Marty soon
- h. Tracy Burnette is stepping down and not going running again.
- i. The UTSWC Executive Board voted to endorse FOUR 833 School Board candidates: (1) Katie Schwartz, (2) Patricia Driscoll, (3) Sharon Van Leer and (4) Michael Bestler.

**VIII. Information/Discussion Items**

- a. UTSWC voting process
  - i. Discussion in favor of electronic voting option where/when appropriate.
- b. Staff shortages
- c. Social/Racial Justice
  - i. PD offered through Ed Mn and District 833
  - ii. District equity policy
- d. Medical Emergency Pool
  - i. Sick days only - one or two PAL days may be used to join or continue in the pool
- e. MEA – will be virtual and in-person, sign up on Ed MN website
- f. COVID – booster shots for frontline workers (Pfizer)

**IX. Other Items/Questions**

- a. Sexual Harassment training
  - i. Possible options for completion on November 2 workshop/non-student day.
  - ii. PD sent out by James Magee (save for later – You will have time on Oct. 25 and November 2nd)
- b. Conferences
  - i. The conference schedule is a site -based decision
- c. Staff shortages
  - i. Short bus drivers, food, and nutrition – Be patient!
  - ii. Trying to recruit with signing bonus and reaching out to the community
- d. Social/Racial Justice
  - i. PD offered through Ed MN and District 833
  - ii. Flag the email so you can find it later.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. 5:37 (Marty Fridgen, UTSWC President)