

PARKER ATTACHMENT 5



Washington Teachers' Union

Local 6 of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

George Parker
President

April 9, 2010

Ms. Randi Weingarten
President
American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Weingarten:

This letter is written in response to WTU General Vice President Nathan A. Saunders' written complaint regarding the WTU Executive Board's appointment of Volunteer Representative Assembly members to serve on the WTU Election's Committee for the 2010 general election. Please note that the appointments were not unilaterally made by me as WTU President, as incorrectly implied by Mr. Saunders. Contrary to Mr. Saunders' assertion, the issue was discussed with the WTU Representative Assembly, with my making the recommendation that the Executive Board make the appointments. Accordingly, Representative Assembly volunteers would serve as 2009 Election Committee members.

This action was necessitated by the Executive Board because the WTU does not have a constitutionally elected 2009 elections committee based on two constitutional requirements that were not met by the 2007 election committee members who had responsibility for conducting the 2009 election of Election Committee members, Delegates to AFT Convention, Maryland State AFL-CIO Council and the DC Metro AFL - CIO Council. The appointment of the election committee by the Executive Board was a genuine effort to ensure that the 2010 general election could proceed in May with the highest quality of integrity in the absence of a constitutionally elected 2009 WTU Election Committee. To further ensure the integrity of the May 2010 general election, the WTU Executive Board also voted at its March 25, 2010, meeting to request that the American Federation of Teachers oversee and monitor the 2010 WTU general election.

However, given Mr. Saunders filing of a complaint in opposition to the Executive Board's actions, I request and believe it is in the best interest of our members for the AFT to intervene and assist the WTU in resolving this issue. I am confident that the WTU Executive Board will accept and adhere to your recommendations in order to assure all WTU members that WTU's general election of officers will be conducted with the highest degree of integrity and transparency.

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Ms. Randi Weingarten

With regard to Mr. Saunders' complaint concerning voting eligibility for teachers who were separated from DCPS, a change in voting eligibility would require a change in the WTU Constitution that limits membership eligibility. This constitutional practice has been in effect since the 2004 revision of the WTU Constitution. As WTU President, I have not taken any actions to deprive any members of their constitutional eligibility to vote.

Thank you for your immediate attention and assistance in resolving this important matter.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Parker".

George Parker
President
Washington Teachers' Union