

Greensheet

December 2021

# **DFT Executive Board Members**

Thank you to everyone that voted in the DFT Election on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be welcoming some new members to our Executive Board.

Name	Email
Jane Mazza	jmazza@dft681.org
David Atkins	atkinsd@dearbornschools.org
Kathi Martin	martink@dearbornschools.org
John Bayerl	bayerlj@dearbornschools.org
Erica Chaboneau	charboe@dearbornschools.org
Joseph Sicheneder	sichenj@dearbornschools.org
Hussein Beydoun	beydouh1@dearbornschools.org
Diana Goodhue	goodhud@dearbornschools.org
Nicole Wozniak	woznian@dearbornschools.org
Ammerah Saidi	saidia@dearbornschools.org
Bruce Liepe	liepeb@dearbornschools.org
	Jane Mazza David Atkins Kathi Martin John Bayerl Erica Chaboneau Joseph Sicheneder Hussein Beydoun Diana Goodhue Nicole Wozniak Ammerah Saidi

## **New DFT Executive Board Members**

## Ammerah Saidi – Rep. at Large

I am elated to start my term as Rep at Large for DFT681. This election is a historic win for many reasons and not only for the number of voters, but also for the diversity elected to our eboard.

As far as my research shows, I am the first Yemeni-American elected to this eboard and I could not be more honored by the privilege to serve my colleagues in this space. My parents immigrated to this country from Yemen--my father in the late 60's and my mother in 1982 while pregnant with me. My parents grew up in a small agrarian village in Ibb and success meant caring for your family and your neighbors. My parents brought these values with them here and instilled them in their children. Growing up, my siblings and I were not only tasked with caring for our education but also tasked with caring for our community. We were enrolled in Muslim organizations and campaigns that advocated for human rights, near and far. I hope to further nourish this legacy and elevate our union to one that not only fights for every single member but for our community as well.

### **Diana Goodhue – Elementary Rep.**

I am honored to have been elected as Elementary Rep for DFT681. It seems that I may be the first African American person elected to the e-board and, as someone who genuinely believes that representation matters, I am proud to see this diversity coming to the forefront in our union. I am a long time union member who comes from a long line of teacher union members. I have seen first hand how powerful the union can truly be. I absolutely believe in the power of our union to ensure safe and fair working conditions for teachers, and therefore students. My hope is to engage our union membership in advocating for ourselves and the community that we serve.

#### Joseph Sicheneder – Secondary Rep.

I am excited to get to work on the DFT-681 E-board. I strongly believe in the power of solidarity and collective action to improve our workplaces. My favorite saying is 'teacher working conditions are student learning conditions'. There's no more vital labor than that of educating and preparing the youth for life. Never before has the profession been so volatile. My goal is to work to make the union become stronger and better so that both students and teachers can benefit. As a Dearborn resident, I am invested in building a healthy and just community, for the present as well as the future. Together, we can achieve that, both inside and outside of the district. Finally, I want to thank everyone who voted for me, and everyone who campaigned on my behalf. Without your ongoing support, this work would be impossible. Thank you.

#### **Public Service Loan Student Loan - Summer**

If you have Federal Student Loans please check out the AFT program Summer! This program needs to be applied for before November 1st, 2022. Please see the below information provided by David Hecker. Additional information can be found at <u>www.aft.org/benefits/summer</u>

AFT is working to keep members informed about the recent changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness and how to use Summer to get help to borrowers. Summer is a trusted online platform that can help you simplify and navigate your student loan debt. Using Summer's online student loan management platform, AFT members who enroll in this free member benefit can:

- Enroll in income-driven repayment plans and manage annual income re-certifications;
- Complete the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Employment Certification Form and manage PSLF certification and application process;
- Find other options for loan forgiveness, and get assistance in applying for them;
- Talk through options with Summer's borrower success team so they can understand how to best maximize their loan repayment and forgiveness options.

You can start using Summer, and other union benefits, by creating and logging in to your AFT Member Benefits account – www.aft.org/member-benefits

#### **AFT-MI Nominate a Member**

If you know a hardworking and deserving teacher you can nominate them for the AFT Michigan Member Spotlight. <u>Please</u> <u>visit the AFT nominate a member website</u> for more information and to nominate someone.

I hope everyone has a wonderful break! Please enjoy this time off to recharge and take part in activities that bring you joy!

Merry Christmas! See you in 2022, Jane