

1. Local 2627
2. District Council 37
3. AFSCME AFL-CIO
4. Virtual General Membership Meeting
5. Local 2627
6. November 21st, 2023

**7. AGENDA**

8. Minutes
9. Treasurer's Report
10. President's Report
11. Old/New Business

12. This RingCentral meeting was called to order at 6:19 PM by President Laura
13. Morand. Laura welcomed all the members to the meeting and as always
14. thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**15. MINUTES**

**16. MOTION 1**

17. **Laura** requested a motion to accept the minutes of meeting for the
18. September 19th, 2023 with corrections. The typos were identified by Marie L ,
19. to be applied to the minutes on lines 17,46,61,63 and 65.
20. Wendy Leonardo (DSS) made the motion and Mohammad Chowdhury(CUNY)
21. seconded the motion to accept the minutes with corrections.
22. Ring central poll was taken, 65 members voted yes and the motion was passed
23. with no further questions.

**24. TREASURER'S REPORT**

25. Laura mentioned , the treasurer position is still vacant. Although at the
26. executive board member meeting we have discussed about a potential
27. candidate that has expressed interest in the treasurer position. Hopefully

28. we will have the new treasurer start by December 2023 for an interim period  
29. of six months.

### **30. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

31. President Laura announced the tax exempt status has all been caught up and  
32. the CPAs have done an excellent job by restoring the tax exempt status for  
33. Local 2627.

34. The president next reported some troubling news. Someone at Transit got  
35. access to a lot of member phone numbers and added them to a WhatsApp  
36. group. The group was not approved by Local 2627. If members wanted to  
37. remain in the group they may join on their own. It was not done by the Local  
38. 2627, we may bring charges upon the person who did, since the Local's name  
39. was used without approval. We are looking to shutdown this group and look  
40. into further details.

41. Next president shared news about the pending discussions with mayoral  
42. agencies.

43. The Local is aware that members at Transit are not so happy since their raises  
44. are delayed. Transits are a different contract. The benefits between other  
45. agency members and Transit members are different. These differences are  
46. reflected on benefits such as Transit members receive metro cards , while other  
47. Agency members don't receive a metro card. The longevity /RIP differentials  
48. are lower for a Transit member compared to other agency members, the  
49. remote policy for Transit members are different as well based off their agency  
50. work needs. Transit members get only one day of remote work at present.

51. Questions and comments from members:

52. Steven Milewski (DSS HRA) , Rafael Nunez (CUNY)

53. Steven : If we are upset about MTA organizing a WhatsApp group , local and  
54. union must communicate better as it is frustrating to not be aware of the  
55. updates on remote work.

56. Rafael: He mentioned that the person from at the WhatsApp group mentioned  
57. the member contact was gathered from the union meeting that members  
58. joined. I was added to the group , even if he was not from Transit, he left the

59.group.

60.Laura : We prefer to provide information at the general membership meeting.

61. Lot of people miss out when they are unable to join the meeting and are send

62.out on e-alerts. The WhatsApp group was not from the Union or the Local.

63.Please report the group as it was not sanctioned. We will be taking action on

64.it.

65.Saif Azad (EMD NYC Transit)

66.Longevity question- Why should I give up my Metro North? I am not getting

67. longevity and losing the benefit. Some people received remote telework email

68.but lot of people did not receive it. That WhatsApp group is helping with

69.information. I don't get remote work because I am an employee for DC37 on

70.computer specialist title. At transit I have not received a response to my emails

71.from Laura or Natasha on remote work updates or Transit negotiations.

72.Laura - People from the survey expressed they need the benefits. I was only

73.about to get the e-alert for bonus, but I could not get the email out. We don't

74.have an update since the Transit did not come back to the table to

75.negotiate. We mentioned it on the last meeting they were only agreeing to 1

76.day remote work.The group cannot use the local name for the WhatsApp

77.name.

78.Rigoberto Diaz(NYC Transit)

79.What is the next step or strategy for the Transit agency?

80.The Retro for transit, is there an update on it?

81. The level of frustration amongst the members at Transit needs to be addressed.

82.Laura : We only get 1 vote, DC37 is trying to push to get the Transit back to

83.the table.

84.We got an email the general wage increases for 2023 will be in 10/26/23

85.paycheck and the retro pay tentatively will be in the last paycheck of feb

86.2024. This information was shared at the meeting.

87. Renetta English (NYCERS)

88.I take issue/concern with the fact that someone took hold of my personal

89.information and added me to the WhatsApp group.

90.Laura : We are also taking the issue further as we do not condone it either.

91. Vanessa Caughman (OATH)

92. Thank you for having an ear and listening. I faced issues coming back to work  
93. as there were approvals pending from two commissioner offices. I had to out in  
94. two days personal leave before joining back work.

95. Premnath Ajodha (HRA ITS)

96. Status on remote work at HRA ?

97. Laura : We just got the plan finalized, going live on December 18th, 2023. The  
98. remote work policy is on the Local website. You will receive an email from the  
99. agency. The Opt-in deadline for the agency to send the email was November  
100. 21, 2023. I will find out why the email to opt-in did not go out from the  
101. agency to the members.

102. CUNY :

103. Bargaining committee will be meeting CUNY on 2 pm - 5 pm on Nov 29th,  
104. 2023.

105. NYCHA:

106. Nov 30th meeting. There were two high executive meetings with DC27  
107. general counsel. Looks like there is a tentative agreement, that they are now  
108. ready to meet and discuss. None of authorities got anything on remote work  
109. so far.

110. SCA - Bargaining meeting is expected soon.

111. Other information:

112. We reimburse the passed certification exam as long as you submit , limit is  
113. \$600. You can now directly apply to the Local for reimbursement.

114. DC37 will increase the tuition reimbursement \$1500 for each semester.

115. Classes should be approved by New York State Education.

116. Summer of 2024 , we will be moving to the Barclays office. Hopefully by  
117. June/July.

118.Health insurance changes :

119.Blue cross blue shield will be gone and replaced with United healthcare, was

120. suppose to roll out in January, may happen sometime in February or march

121.2024.

122.Vanessa J Caughman (OATH)

123.So may ways to get your information with just your name.Its our obligation to

124.protect our information.

125.I was told that college aide work at research foundation cannot be bought

126.back on retirement.

127.Response from Norlita DeTaza (Lele) : Research foundation is off grant given

128.to the city, it's not from the city. I will give you my email and we will talk

129.about it offline.

130.Natasha response : The pension unit at DC 37 recommends preparing for

131.retirement 6 months to 1 year in advance. You can call 212-815-1200 from

132.Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

133.Vanessa J Caughman (OATH):

134.How long are we stuck with delta dental ? Horrific experience still trying to fix

135.the issue with the dentist. They did not provide me with anything.

136.Louis Pereira (DOF):

137.Dental plan : Is there a way to find if they pay more money when we submit

138.the claim? They pay so little.

139.Laura : Its based on what we get from the city \$1750 which is low but it needs

140.to be discussed on the bargaining. Make sure you mention the demand/

141.concerns on the survey that goes out before a bargaining contract.

142.Ralph DiBello: United healthcare coverage, is ti similar to Blue Cross Blue

143.Shield.

144.Laura : It is similar if not better, city is renegotiating better care

145.Janelle Blount (HRA) : They are not picking from the list, we are not getting

146.the same raises.

147.They are not bringing in city employees, replacing positions with consultants,  
148.are you aware of it?

149.Laura : It's not true.

150.Natasha : Legal wants to know, if they replaced union workers with

151.consultants at OTI, Parks and others

152.Sanitation : Got them to agree two days last week

153.David Kuris (Transit NYC):

154.CSM titles that have disappeared so there is no career development for  
155.developers.

156.Laura: We just got CSM for NYCHA and DOE. 60 of them came in last  
157.month.

158.We are going after Transit and CUNY next.

159.Natasha : The other locals have high numbers thats why the agency had to  
160.talk.

161.In January 2024 Computer Systems Manager and Computer Operations  
162.Manager exams are expected to open.

163.Open competitive and Promotional . Prep classes are coming up.

164.We are trying to get the RIP , longevity and salaries for the IT Titles.

165.Transit : ignored our requests so we need to file a litigation for recognizing  
166.the CSM titles.

167.CUNY:

168.Within last 30 days, lot of people disqualified on IT Assistant ...open

169.competitive and promotional exam. They were able to help members.

170.Hopefully in the next 12 months the IT associate exam will be given by them.

171.**Laura** : Discount for members on courses : CISCO and other certifications,

172.access to equipments and labs.Laura asked for an email from Premnath

173.Ajohdha, if there are some recommendations. So Laura will try to negotiate

174.some discounts for the members and look further into it.

175.Link for VMware shared by Laura on chat:

176.<https://www.stanly.edu/academics/it-academy/vmware-it-academy/vmware->

177.it-academy-class-descriptions.html.

**178.OLD/ NEW BUSINESS**

179. None

**180.MOTION 2**

181.Laura requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anthony chambers (CUNY)

182.made the motion and Kalpesh Patel seconded.Votes (33) were taken and the

183.motion was passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

184.Happy Holidays to everyone