Professional Learning Advisory Board
The Professional Learning Advisory Board (PLAB) is a working group of Boston Public Schools educators dedicated to the advancement and improvement of professional learning in the district in order to improve the learning and well-being of our students. Members of the PLAB are jointly appointed by the President of the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston Public Schools Central Office. The PLAB’s responsibilities include:
- Advise the BTU Director of Professional Learning
- Guide the work of the Professional Learning Initiative
- Advise BPS central offices on matters related to training and professional learning of BTU members
- Advise BTU and BPS on professional issues related to educators’ practice

Being a member of the PLAB is a long-term commitment, a minimum of three years. Empty seats on the board will be filled at the beginning of each year through a rigorous application process.

Please contact Director of Professional Learning Paul Tritter, ptritter@btu.org for details.

Elected BTU positions: Building Reps, Delegates, Executive Board, and Staff
There are several teacher-leader positions within the Boston Teachers Union. At each school, members of the BTU are elected each year to serve as Building Representatives. These representatives perform an important role as liaisons between our members at schools and the union leadership. Delegates are elected to represent the membership at conventions and conferences. There are twelve elected Executive Board members who meet monthly with the staff that make decisions and guide union policy. Lastly, there are seven elected leaders at the union: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Elementary Field Representative, Secondary Field Representative, Para/Substitute Field Representative, and Political Director. All of the positions are elected every two years. The next election is June 2019.

Ad-hoc Teacher Feedback Opportunities on Policy
Oftentimes, members are needed as “experts” to review and give feedback for both district and state policies and initiatives. If you are passionate about a specific issue or policy area, please let us know so that we can contact you for these opportunities.

Other School-Based Teacher Leader Opportunities
- Faculty Senate Chairs
- Lead Teacher Roles, began in SY 2012 as part of the new BTU/BPS contract
- School Site Councils
- Instructional Leadership Teams/Educational Leadership Teams
- Grade Level and Content Facilitators
AFT/BTU Teacher Leader Fellows Program

The AFT Teacher Leaders Program identifies and brings together a select group of educators each month throughout the year to learn how to take active leadership roles in their schools, unions, and communities. Since 2011, the program develops a cadre of 15 teacher leaders in over a dozen locals across the nation to help build and strengthen relationships with the community as well as generate support for public schools and their unions. This group works on policy issues and meets with policy leaders as part of action research projects.

Please contact Director of Professional Learning Paul Tritter, ptritter@btu.org for more information.

To apply, please visit: http://bit.ly/TLPApply

Organizing Committees for Professional Issues and Outreach

These ad-hoc committees are ways for our members who are concerned with specific issues to work together to advocate for shared goals. Here are some of the committees addressing common issues:

- **Climate Justice**: Works in support of a growing network of city-wide activists on climate change and has supported the Boston Student Advisory Council on climate justice curriculum and green schools/facilities.
- **Early Educators**: Advocates for early education needs in our schools.
- **ELL Committee**: Advocates for best practices in ELL education.
- **Immigrant Rights**: Works with the Student Immigrant Movement and guidance counselors to support immigrant and undocumented students.
- **Less Testing, More Learning**: Works with community members, parents, and students addressing concerns over the negative impact of over-assessment on students and offering alternatives to standardized testing.
- **LGBTQAA**: This committee has created the LGBTQAA brochure with GLSEN and advocates for safe and welcoming schools across the district.
- **New/Early Career Educators**: This committee plans and outreaches for the bi-monthly New Educator Underground events and local venues where early educators meet for both social and support networking.
- **Parent Advisory Committee**: An initiative at the BTU to facilitate and improve parent-teachers relationships and advocacy. The group also works with the Boston Education Justice Alliance.
- **Restorative Justice Organizing Committee**: Collaborates with the BPS and Code of Conduct Advisory Committee to bring PD on the restorative practices to BPS educators.
- **Social Emotional Learning and Wellness Committee**: Advocates for best practices in SEL implementation in the district.
- **Social Studies and History**: Works with the BPS History Department to advocate for access to quality social studies and history curriculum across the district.
- **Special Education/Inclusion**: Works on concerns about special education and inclusion implementation in the district and advocate for thoughtful implementation.
- **Visual and Performing Arts**: This group advocates for the need for more quality arts education in BPS.
- **Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA)**: A coalition of parents, teachers and students working together around education justice issues including funding, testing and democratic voice in our schools.
- **Hub Community Schools**: Advocates for more full wraparound service model schools for BPS.

Please contact Director of Organizing Farah Assiraj, fassiraj@btu.org if you are interested in joining one of these organizing committees or forming your own!