

Action Team Resolution
June 10, 2020

Whereas the Boston Teachers Union is currently engaged in the process of forming a Collective Bargaining Committee that will also serve to guide BTU work regarding school reopening and,

Whereas issues regarding school reopening, including cuts to education budgets and safety concerns, will require rapid communication within BTU as issues are being discussed and resolved with the District and,

Whereas member to member networks have been built by many unions using this simple idea: a phone-tree-like structure, where each Contract Action Team member is responsible for staying in touch with about 10 co-workers and these networks spread out the work of member contact while building organizing capacity,

Whereas fellow social justice teachers unions such as Chicago Teachers Union and United Teachers of Los Angeles have built powerful networks of educators, families and community partners by establishing Action Teams in their membership and these action teams have been shown to be effective at both responding to immediate concerns and building the power needed to carry forward their entire social justice mission, including their contract fights,

Therefore, be it resolved

That the BTU immediately prioritize its internal organizing efforts towards establishing an action network similar to the Contract Action Committees in CTU and the Contract Action Teams in UTLA, both of which have been essential to those unions' ability to build and maintain organizational strength and unity and

That the BTU consult actively with UTLA, CTU and other sister organizations that have developed powerful action networks in order to move as quickly as possible and

That the BTU take immediate steps to provide coaching and support through its member-organizer program, building rep trainings, and other leadership development initiatives in order to specifically recruit rank-and-file Action Team leaders and support development of school-based Action Teams.