BTU Welcomes You Back to School!

2020-2021
Today’s Agenda

● Welcome by Jessica
● Signed membership cards-BTU ALL-IN!
● Our Fight for a Safe Restart
● Info on BTU events for the year
What does it mean to be a BTU member?

The BTU believes in building POWER!

Professional growth and expertise. Organizing with our students, parents, and community. Workers’ rights and labor solidarity. Equity, inclusion and social justice. Respect for our profession and members.

Has everyone signed a Union card?
Safe School Restart: What did we hear from members?

**BOSTON EDUCATORS WILL NOT SACRIFICE THEIR LOVED ONES...**

- **64%** of BTU Educators surveyed live with or care for folks who are **high-risk** for COVID-19.

**BOSTON EDUCATORS DO NOT FEEL SAFE...**

- **87%** of BTU Educators surveyed do **not** feel safe returning to school buildings.

**BOSTON EDUCATORS ADVOCATE FOR REMOTE LEARNING...**

- **75%** of BTU Educators surveyed believe that **remote learning is the best plan** for BPS when given a choice between fully in-person, hybrid, and fully remote.
Safe School Restart: What are we fighting for?

- See full document Creating the Schools Our Students Deserve: Aspirations, Proposals, and Priorities of the Boston Teachers Union for a Safe Restart
- Full remote start and phased-in approach to in-person learning with clear public health metrics for physically reopening buildings
- Clear protocols for testing, contact tracing, quarantine, and re-entry
- Improving remote curriculum through project-based learning, competency-based learning, and ethnic studies with PD opportunities provided
- Providing students with physical learning materials
- MCAS moratorium
Safe School Restart: What actions have we taken?

- July 29th: Nurses Sit Down for Safety at City Hall
- August 3rd: National Day of Resistance: BTU Forum on Fighting for Fully Funded Schools
- August 13th: BTU Safe Reopening Caravan to City Hall
- August 19th: BTU/AFT/MTA Safe School Restart at State House
- Ongoing testimony by BTU members and allies at School Committee and City Council meetings
Safe School Restart: What have we won so far?

- Professional Development time for school staff from Sept. 8 - Sept. 20th.
- Staff does not have to report to school buildings Sept. 8 - 11, but must report starting Sept. 14
- Remote start for students on Sept. 21.
- Phased in re-entry for students starting on Oct. 1.
Safe School Restart: Next Steps

BPS says the buildings will be safe.

- BTU negotiating team pushing for walk throughs, data and evidence to verify safety

If Safety Is Not Verified, We Will Take Action Together

- We Want to work but it must be safe
- As a school, we need at least 80% of our members to commit to collective action.

Who's In?
How do we keep building power?

- Build Contract Action Teams (CAT) in every school: who wants to learn more?
- Continue our own internal anti-racist work as a union: who will attend a racial justice training?
- Monitor health and safety at our schools
- Vote! And identify members for taking electoral action at every school.

Stay tuned for dates on trainings for each of these!
Each year, the BTU endorses and supports political candidates, and also sometimes coordinates support for candidates endorsed by AFT-MA and national AFT. Our endorsement is stronger when members help candidates!

This fall, there will be opportunities to engage with the presidential race and other down-ballot races, remotely at first and possibly in-person depending on the pandemic. Sign up for the Political Activist list HERE.

Questions? Reach out to Johnny McInnis, Political Director, or Roberto Jimenez, Political Organizer.
BUILDING REPS: Complete the Report Back Form

One per school
Let us know how this presentation went at your school!
What else is coming up?

- **September 9**: First membership meeting of the year, 4:30 pm.
- CAT Team Training on.....
- **September 24 - 26**: Back-to-school book fair
- **November 3**: Vote in general elections
- Watch for other important dates in the BTU Bulletin.

*When will our first Faculty Senate/school-based union meeting be?*