President Richard Stutman's Introductory Remarks to the Membership

Re. The EIT Proposal 1/14/15

(Note: The following remarks preceded a 30 minute Q and A session and a 30-minute debate period on this matter. After consideration, the estimated 800 members in attendance ratified the proposal by an estimated 4 to 1 margin. Our goal now is to make the proposal work well. Thank you, BS)

Thank you all for coming here today.

After I finish my presentation, which will include general remarks, then an explanation of each item, we will take questions from the floor. Then we will have debate. All will be done in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order under the guidance of our parliamentarian, Mike Grunko. If there is a question for counsel, Matthew Dwyer, I will call on him.

I would like to introduce and thank the union’s negotiators for their service: Erik Berg, Robert Carroll, Charles Jonas, Caren Carew, Michael McLaughlin, Josefina Lascano, Gary Fisher, and Gary. We were involved throughout negotiations by our officers and staff: Patrick Connolly, Charles Jonas, Caren Carew, Michael McLaughlin, Josefina Lascano, Jessica Tang, and Paul Tritter. All have unanimously endorsed this proposal.

I would also like to thank our Executive Board which is our governing body. Erik Berg, Robert Carroll, Brenda Chaney, Allison Doherty, Laura Lee Johnson, Cheryl Kelly, Michael Maguire, Sheryl Pedone, James Timo Philip, Mary Ann Urban, Garrett Virchick and Alice M. Yong.

For the conduct of the meeting, All speakers will be treated respectfully, there will be no booing or hissing individual speakers. This is not a safe place to speak, to be heard, and to be counted.

This is a safe place to speak, to be heard, and to be counted.

A couple of procedural items: Retirees can be present, but cannot vote. We use the honor system. If you are out of the room when the voting begins, probably around 5:30 to 6 – even for a bathroom break – you cannot come back in while voting is ongoing. If you go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting, please go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting, please go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting, please go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting, please go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting, please go to a microphone, please give your name and school assignment. 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This new year I ask you to consider a new way of thinking on the subject of corporate taxes. Not exciting stuff I know, but hear me out.

Recently on Facebook, I experienced an epiphany in an online debate I was having with my Tea Party friend. In the March, 2011 edition of the Boston Union Teacher I told the story of my dear friend who is a founding member of the Massachusetts Tea Party. (For the sake of a name, I’ll call him Gerard.)

Back then Gerard and I carpooled to a rally at the State House. We stood on opposite sides at the rally but have a strong enough friendship that we could ride home together afterwards in peace. A few months ago Gerard responded to one of my FB posts on the proposed move of Pfizer to the United Kingdom in order to avoid US taxes. My take was that any company that leaves the US for foreign jurisdictions to avoid supporting our great nation by means of taxes should be treated like an economic enemy. In short, I was appallingly indignant. Gerard asked me if I had read the latest article by Patrick J. Buchanan. I hadn’t. He shared it with me, which I then reread twice. Then light dawned over marble head.

For years I have been horrified that Americans seem blind to the long term consequences of cheap, foreign goods. I am too young to remember America’s industrial heyday, but I can appreciate the fact that importing nearly all the goods we need is a bad model for self reliance and leaves a large segment of our labor force out of work.

Pat Buchanan explained that Pfizer and others like it are just doing today what manufacturing companies did years ago: seeking lower expenses in order to maximize their profits. Since we can’t force companies to stay in America, Buchanan offers this bit of advice: become the best place in world for companies to have their corporate headquarters. Yes, they are. But they are protected by a state department more concerned with their proliforation established laws allowing for the creation of a dual school system. Both receive public funds but their operations are not identical. In an additional skill set system, teachers com pete against these newly privatized and operated schools that have an exclusive application process and the ability to release those students (not in compliance) who could lower their academic success rating on standardized test. When their students are not meeting their performance matrix, they return to the traditional school system of their origin. Most citizens are unaware of this distortion in “school equality” unless their child has suffered the charter school penalty of being counselled out before lowering their test scores!

Private sector influence has ramped up in Boston for the spread of charter schools. They see this system with its numerous types of schools as a perfect laboratory for private sector control. The loss of public education and the small number of private schools are seen as a perfect vacuum for the private, for-profit and an occasional non-profit to establish a charter school. Keep in mind that these schools are sold as alternatives in major cities and almost always in areas that equally is an issue. They filter their students that come into their schools and counsel out those that would damage their academic performance.

These new organizations have been very efficient in convincing the public that they are working in our best interest and that we are incapable of providing the service they are requesting (i.e. local government). This has helped them expand the notion that the public is always better off buying their services than fixing the government run ones established by the BTU office starting on January 14, 2015.

Bradley Smith, BTU's Secretary-Treasurer
A grievance is a statement which says that a teacher’s rights have been violated due to a BTU contract or most recent contract of the contract. A grievance must be filed every time an individual teacher’s rights are violated, and every BTU member. The contract itself as a document is only as good as the enforcement of it at the school level by each and every BTU member. If all of our contract is ‘overlooked’ it can set a dangerous precedent not only for the individual, but for the membership at large.

In addition to a primary program area (PPA), do I also have an active alternative program area (APA) in BPS if I have a current Mass. license on file at Court Street in want to transfer into a position using that certification? N o. In addition to having an active license on file at Court Street in want to teaching in, aki your primary program area (PPA), you must apply for your other current license(s) on file to become an active teacher in Boston. To do so, you must fill out an ‘Application for Additional Program Area(s) in Boston Public Schools’ Superintendent’s Circular (attached to: https://www.bps.org/hr/hrdocs/Superintendent'sCircular-HRS-17 “Staffing, Reassignment and Hiring of Personnel & Professional Teachers for School Year 2015-2016” which must be submitted on or before January 15th. In order for the active license to be considered a APA in Boston, one of the following must be true with the teacher filling out the application and submitting the aforementioned application:

Your state certification must be five years old or less. This means you need to have obtained it for the first time, not just re-certified it, within the last five years. Submit 15 course credits (grad or undergrad) with a GPA of 2.0 or better in the subject area you are currently teaching in. Submit 20 course credits (grad or undergrad) with a GPA of 2.0 or better in the subject area you are currently teaching in, in order to verify this, you must obtain and submit with the application, a letter from your principal detailing the specific courses and grades taught in the past ten years. Two years of teaching experience within the last ten years. Teachers applying to transfer in order to teach in an available space that is heated adequately should be employed. The BTU grievance with the Principal as well. If the School Department wanted too much heat restored. Teachers should file a Step 1 grievance with the Principal as well. If the entire school building is without acceptable heat level, each building has an alternate plan in case of emergency. If the heating issue can’t be fixed quickly, then the emergency plan for relocation should be employed. The BTU members at the affected school should file a Step 1 grievance at the school in addition. If the entire school is without heat and it has been reported to the School Department, please contact the BTU office as well.

Who’s responsible for plowing school parking lots? T he contract states, “the School Committee shall guarantee that snow is plowed from school yards used for parking at no expense to bargaining unit (BTU) members.”
BTU Holiday Party
December 12, 2015 at BTU Hall
BTU Children’s Holiday Party

December 30, 2015
at BTU Hall
**WE’RE LEARNING HERE**

**A project by Amika Kemmler Ernst, Ed.D.**

**Rogers Middle School**

The Rogers, one of only five middle schools left in Boston, is right off Hyde Park Avenue near River Street. It’s a three-story brick building with no elevators—great exercise for teachers and students, if a bit of a challenge for me! ELA teachers Barbara Keller and Kathleen McGonigle invited me to do a feature on their school when I stopped in the office en route to visit Hale students last month.

During my visit I was escorted by Principal Intern Donna Cross and by two 8th graders, Shylenne and Kaleya. Gym teacher Tim Levert encouraged me to visit his rowing class. With rowing machines and the support of a coach from Community Boating, students learn how to row properly and in tandem. They’ll get to go rowing on the Charles River in the spring!

Students at the Rogers have a “double dose” of ELA and Math each day, and most classes I saw reflected that. Many classrooms had Smart boards! During the first term of the school year, character education was at the heart of Carolyn Miller’s ELA instruction, as students read and discussed *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

Social Studies, Physical Education, and Theater Arts are specialty subjects. I especially enjoyed visiting the colorful Theater Arts classroom with a rack of costumes and a variety of puppets on display. I watched a small group of students using finger puppets to enact a scene from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* for the class, while their teacher Kathleen Doyle looked on and offered occasional prompts.

I loved seeing “Bio Boards” on display outside one classroom, posters created by students to describe themselves and their dreams. I hope 2015 brings some of your dreams to fruition—please invite me to visit!

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**Anika Kemmler Ernst, Ed. D.**

[Amika Kemmler Ernst is a recently retired BPS New Teacher Developer with extensive experience as a classroom teacher, curriculum developer, and graphic artist. Her “We’re Learning Here” Project features images of everyday learning in our public schools, along with the words of the students pictured.]
RTC Executive Board Minutes November 8, 2014

Members Present: Marie Broderick; Mary Cahalane; Sandy Carle; Donna Cooley-Híkon; Larry Connolly; David Donovan, Chairman; Marilyn Marion, Secretary; Linda McNamee; Leonard Miraglia, Vice Chairman; Mary Jo Murphy; Anne Marie Adduci; Ruthanne Kennedy; Paul Tenney; and Walter Wood.

Excused: Anne Broder and Martha Cotton.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 10:15 a.m.

Reports
Secretary’s Report: The report was read and accepted.

Treasurer’s Report: The report was read by the Chairman and was accepted.

Chairman’s Report: The Chairman reported that Jennifer Kenney from the Alliance of Retired Americans wasn’t able to attend due to the midterm elections. He will invite her to the December meeting. Raymond Lee has been to the office twice and met with Jonathan, the technician, to assess our needs. It was noted that we are in need of a new computer. One has been offered to us. In addition, Raymond will take over our newsletter; update our system and our link on the BTU website. It was noted that prior to the newsletter being released that it should be reviewed by the chairman and the president of the BTU. Report Accepted.

Vice-Chairman’s Report: It is still slow; however, things will pick up once COBRA ends for many. Report Accepted.

Committees
Benefits: The Benefits Chairman met with Segal, who negotiated with Delta and that our benefits will remain the same. Report Accepted.

Scholarship: The chairs are still waiting to meet with the Union’s scholarship committee. Report Accepted.

Remembrance: The Remembrance chair is waiting for the list from the City. Report Accepted.

Social: The chairs are preparing for the fall luncheon. Report Accepted.

Travel: Upcoming trip to Lake Winnipesaukee was sold out very early. The following trips are: Freedom Trail and Venezia’s winery on November 18 and the Christmas Memories at Lantana on December 24 and Mount Washington from December 9-1.

Legislative: The committee is preparing to attend the Retirement Board’s November meeting. Co-Chair, Sandy Carle, made the following motion: to accept new member, Marilyn Marion, on the Legislative Committee. The motion was unanimously accepted. Report Accepted.

Data Processing: Chair, Paul Tenney, has been out ill and was welcomed back. He will work with Raymond Lee. Report Accepted.

Membership: We are over the 3,000 member mark. Report Accepted.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Due to a meeting of the AFT Retirees in Washington, DC, the December meeting will be held on December 8, at which time Ms. Kenny from the Alliance of Retired Americans will attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn F. Marion, Secretary

Next meeting: December 8, 2014.

Speech of Matter

I feel proud of the Joseph Lee School because we spoke up to stop the disrespect of our color. We all were born equally. We all should have the right to speak up. A lot of people are afraid too because they think they will get shot at or killed for no reason like Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Mike Brown etc. All killed for no reason. Why do the cops have to judge people for being you. We all are the same in the inside so why should we keep our mouths closed? I think all people should have the right to speak for themselves. I got one question for the cops why do you do this? We are equal to you. How come we can’t have freedom to live. You are not to be a dragnet to us you are here to keep us safe not to kill us. If you respect us we’ll respect you!

-Samya Guir

#blacklivesmatter Protest at the Joseph Lee School

On Tuesday, December 16, more than 80 middle school students and several staff members from the Joseph Lee School walked out of school in solidarity with the people of Ferguson, Missouri. Students walked to the corner of Blue Hill Ave. and Talbot Ave. where they chanted “Black Lives Matter,” “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot,” and “I Can’t Breathe, Get Off of Me.” The walkout was student-led and organized and students who participated had parental permission to join.

(Submitted by Natalia Caudia-Saez, Social Studies Teacher, Joseph Lee School.)
When I tell people I have a beehive in my classroom they always hesitate and say, “A real beehive?” Ya, a real beehive, I respond.

When students see the beehive for the first time, they say, “What do bees have to do with math?” I say that we will learn trigonometry by studying bees and that we will research everything about bees such as the queen, pollination, and honey production.

I teach math at Fenway High School and started teaching the unit “Why do bees build hexagonal prisms?” (Interactive Math Program curriculum) since 1995. The real hive wasn’t added until 2010, when I met Ms. Jeneera Williams from Mission Hill Elementary school at an educators conference in New Orleans. She had a hive in her classroom and I immediately fell in love with the idea of having hive in my classroom.

Safety is a big part of getting a hive in a classroom. Not only does the hive itself have to be built correctly, but the community has to be consulted on student health concerns, informing visitors, and student awareness of how to treat a hive. It is worth all of the work though. On any one day, I may have outside visitors, students who are definitely bug-phobic and groups of restless boys peering at the hundreds of busy bees making honey, laying eggs, and just being awesome!

— Benadette Manning, Fenway High School

Mr. John Leads Ohrenberger and Beethoven Students at a Local Christmas Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long