Candidate Statements

President

Richard F. Stutman • O’Bryant HS

Thank you very much for the opportunity to lead this great organization and its wonderful, hardworking members for the next two years. Every day I embrace the opportunity to represent you. I am proud of our schools as I know you are, and I am proud to represent you, who make our schools successful places to learn.

We understand that our schools must continue to improve, but we insist we be part of the improvement plan – not merely an afterthought. Look at the many opportunities lost, where our input has been over-looked—or worse—unasked for: curriculum decisions, school closings, and how best to participate in these decisions, instead of merely to implement them. We hope over the next few years to gain more control over the daily decisions-making process as we work with the school department to improve our schools. We know there is nothing mutually exclusive about having a contract that is both good for our students and fair to our members. That’s what we’re striving for. And that’s what we’ll accomplish: a contract that is mutually exclusive about having a contract that is both good for our students and fair to our members.

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Thank you for your support, and thank you for participating in the election process. Please research the candidates, and vote on Wednesday, June 1, for people to lead us over the next two years.

(continued on next page)
Executive Vice-President

Patrick J. Connolly 8/1/06-12/31/10

Lately the tone of public comment and published opinion has been hostile to public education and public service in general and the BTU in particular. Demands for more charter schools and concessions from public employees unions have increased daily. As Vice President I have opposed these proposals and others to remove work from our bargaining unit. As school budgets cut it is important to enforce hard won contractual mandates on issues such as class size, planning and development periods, and administrative duties. The next round of contract negotiations will be more difficult given current economic conditions. I will be there to support you and to protect your rights and benefits.

I am proud to serve you and the BTU as Executive Vice President. I would appreciate and honor your continued support.

Political Director

Caren M. Carew 9/1/06

We are at a crossroads in public education. As members of a public sector union we frequently find ourselves characterized as public enemy #1. We must work together with each other and the public to show the public that education is one of our core collective actions on the continued pursuit of excellence for all of the children we educate. Our new work conditions are the children’s learning conditions. Maintaining and strengthening our voice in collective bargaining only helps us lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students

Secondary Field Representative

Jenna Fitzgerald 5/31/10

My name is Jenna Fitzgerald and I am running for the office of Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher Field Representative for the BTU. As a paraprofessional and graduate of the Boston Public Schools I am aware of the importance of public education. Our work is challenging and essential.

In these troubled times of diminishing funding, possible lay-offs and a new contract to negotiate, it is necessary that we continue to support each other and the BTU. Tough times demand experience and necessary that we continue to demonstrate our numerical strength within the BTU. With the help of the BTU we can define and secure our collective bargaining only helps us lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students we serve to lift our profession, the work, and the students

Elementary Field Representative

Carla M. Johnson 2/28/10

I am prepared to serve you as Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher Representative of the Boston Teachers Union. As a paraprofessional and graduate of the Boston Public Schools I am aware of the importance of public education. Our work is challenging and essential.

Given the opportunity, I will work tirelessly to advocate for all of us. I have represented you as a building representative, on the Collective Bargaining and New Member Recruitment Committee, as a delegate on AFT-AFSCME Local 7, as a legislator, as a member of several committees: The Peer Assistance Committee, The Negotiating Team, The State-Hoston Retirement Board, etc. My experience while serving on these committees is not only by the voice of the BTU, but to be your voice and your advocate. I will continue to return your calls, respond to your emails and work as hard as possible in the achievement of our union’s resources. Thank you for the consideration and your vote to re-elect me to the Elementary Field Representative.

Paraprofessional/Substitute Field Representative

Caren M. Carew 9/1/06

I am prepared to serve you as a Paraprofessional/Substitute Teacher Representative of the Boston Teachers Union. As a paraprofessional and graduate of the Boston Public Schools I am aware of the importance of public education. Our work is challenging and essential.

Given the opportunity, I will work tirelessly to advocate for all of us. I have represented you as a building representative, on the Collective Bargaining and New Member Recruitment Committee, as a delegate on AFT-AFSCME Local 7, as a legislator, as a member of several committees: The Peer Assistance Committee, The Negotiating Team, The State-Hoston Retirement Board, etc. My experience while serving on these committees is not only by the voice of the BTU, but to be your voice and your advocate. I will continue to return your calls, respond to your emails and work as hard as possible in the achievement of our union’s resources. Thank you for the consideration and your vote to re-elect me to the Elementary Field Representative.
... and Executive Board

Executive Board

John Allocca

Alternative Education Union

I am proud to say I have been endorsed by: Thomas Gonzell, President AFT-MA; Richard Stuman, President BTU; Patricia Armstrong, Political Director BTU; Kathy Kelley, Past President MFT/ BTU; Edward Doherty, Past President BTU.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement over the years. I would appreciate your vote on June 1st as the Executive Board Field Representative and Delegate to All Affiliated Bodies.

Michael J. Maguire

Boston Latin Academy

I believe that the role of the Executive Board is to give guidance to the elected leadership of our union. As a Board member I have brought the issues we face in the classrooms and schools to the attention of the BTU Officers. With your support on June 1, 2011, I will continue to serve you and our union.

Recently, I have had 20 letters published in the Globe and Herald. Each letter was in support of the work we all do on behalf of the children of Boston. Too often the intelligentsia uses teacher as scapegoats for the life of today’s society. I believe it is our responsibility to set the record straight, especially when the public doesn’t want to hear it.

As a BTU member and as a candidate for the Executive Board, I also believe that this same level of honest scrutiny must be applied to the public schools and to our union leaders. Because of the work we all do within the BPS, we have first hand knowledge of both the good and bad in our schools. It is up to each of us to demonstrate leadership in order to build a strong public education system.

Like many of you, I have a child in the BPS. I support public education as both an adult and as a teacher. Our efforts to improve education need not devolve into an Us-versus-Them mentality; but it does require integrity and steadfastness. I believe I have provided you with my record of work and my vote on June 1st. I shall continue to put our ideals forward.

Evangeline Karidakis

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Allison Doherty-LaCasse

(Boston area)

Urban Science Teacher

I have been a member of the Boston Teachers Union since 1999, a BTU building representative andmandated district facilitator since 2004. Since 2004, I have also been a member of the BTU New Member Committee, which prepares and gives workshops to new members at the annual Admitting Contract which is necessary to build a strong union. I would appreciate your vote for me Executive Board and for Delegate on June 1.

Karen L. McCarthy

Brighton HS

When I entered this profession, like many new teachers, I was not sure that having a strong union and participating in collective bargaining issues for students were correlated. I was wrong. The future of the largest collective voice of teachers and an advocate for our students. We need to strengthen our message and to define ourselves rather than let others define us. We need to emphasize the link between our teaching and our students’ success. We don’t want to be associated with “rubber rooms” or “educators” who are not as important as the services, professions, Unions and the rights and we, and before us, have fought for are under attack. We need to restore the faith in the education effort that are permeating the national discourse and finding our way into the political agenda, around the country, and provide an education to all students the standard, that have the highest student achievement in the nation. I’d like to tear down the stereotypes that teachers cannot be unionized and effective. If elected I will fight for the dignity and that keeps teachers in the profession and allow us to continue to do our jobs effectively. I am currently a building rep. at Brighton High where I have taught English and special education for 25 years.

Garret Vircich

Brighton HS

As we enter this election season, union members and public employees are under attack like never before. TheBTU is facing a philosophical question: education is being called into question. So called “reformers” have been using misinformation to undermine our schools, our unions and public schools, offering solutions that take teacher voice out of the equation. When electing our Executive Board, we need to ensure that our public schools are the best in the nation. We need to understand the complexities of the issues and will advocate for progressive solutions to the problems we face as working professionals.

As an Active Member of the Boston Union Teacher; I have advocated for real teaching and learning as opposed to the mindless test prep that has come to dominate our schools. As member of the negotiating team we have helped to effectively bargain a contract that is fair to all of our members. As a member of your Executive Board, I will advocate for our union to join with other unions and community organizations in the fight against the attacks on teachers and public education.

Pursuant to new membership policy, election as delegate does not guarantee participation in future AFT Teach Conferences (formerly called AFT QuEST).

Karen Seun-Hines

Thaddeus HS

My passion in life is to teach, but it is becoming harder when politicians try to rob us of our sacred duty to provide a high quality education for all students.

As a member of the Executive Board, I will voice our commitment to maintain bargaining and protecting the hard-fought benefits we earned. I will work to make our union more responsive to the needs of neither teachers or students.

As a union member, I am proud to be a union activist who practiced law for 15 years and for the past 11 years taught English language arts at the Timilty Middle School. I have been an active union member, and serve on the BTU’s Collective Bargaining Committee, and the Professional Issues Committee. I am also a Teach Plan Foundation. As such, I co-wrote a proposal to reform teacher evaluations while at the same time providing a framework for all teachers, a model for the rest of the nation. Boston Public Schools have been innovative in education; they have been a large part, due to the hard work and diligence of the members of the Boston Teachers Union.

Public education and unions has been under attack by those who want to dismantle public education and unions in general. In our capacity in the labor movement, many of us believe that the public education and unions in general have come from all parts of society. I have been a teacher for over twenty years. I have been a union activist for many years. I have fought for our rights and the rights of our students. I am a proud union member and will continue to be.

Eileen A. Weir

Makos Park DHS

As a member of the Executive Board I will continue to work with our students and parents to create a positive working environment for our members. I believe that teachers must have the opportunity to make the choices that will best serve our students and parents.

We are in a time of economic crisis in the public sector overall. It is important that we come together and provide a clear and steady vision for the future of Boston public schools. I believe our union, in collaboration with our parents and families, should take the lead in determining what changes should be made to best educate our students and improve our schools.

Jessica Tang

Jonathan H-8K

Education inequality has been said to be the new civil rights issue in our country, is not a choice. As a teacher, I have taught in all levels of public schools in the Boston area to be more active in the labor movement. It is my hope that this re-elect opportunity will encourage other working men and women have become our union.

Boston is the birthplace of public education, and should be a model for the rest of the nation. Boston Public Schools have been innovative in education; they have been a large part, due to the hard work and diligence of the members of the Boston Teachers Union.

As a candidate for election to the Executive Board, I will continue the fight for our students. I am a proud member and will continue to work with other BTU members as an advocate for ourselves and the students that we teach. We need to be a voice of reason and reality for public education and organizing for our future. In our country, we need to educate, organize and mobilize our members and the general public to protect and promote the rights and opportunities for all children.

As a union member, I believe that the work we do on behalf of the students and their families is the backbone of our society and the greatest equalizer for many. Without educators and those other BTU members who work in the schools shaping policy at the school and city level we risk a great deal in how our students are educated and the conditions under which they learn. I ask for your vote for the Executive Board and as a Delegate to All Affiliated Bodies on June 1st.

Karen Wood-Hocker

BHS

As a candidate for election to the Executive Board and Delegate to All Affiliated Bodies, I believe that the work we do on behalf of the students and their families is the backbone of our society and the greatest equalizer for many. Without educators and those other BTU members who work in the schools shaping policy at the school and city level we risk a great deal in how our students are educated and the conditions under which they learn. I ask for your vote for the Executive Board and as a Delegate to All Affiliated Bodies on June 1st.

Sterling Cook

BHS

As a candidate for election to the Executive Board, I will work with the same rigor to ensure that the BTU Executive Board and Delegate, as a member of the Executive Board, I will voice our commitment to maintain bargaining and protecting the hard-fought benefits we earned. I will work to make our union more responsive to the needs of both teachers and students. For example, newer teachers need assistance and resources, which effective teachers deserve recognition and to be tapping for our considerable skills and knowledge. Why not have effective veterans mentoring more novice teachers? It would be a win/win situation, and something I would advocate for with all my heart.

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Candidate Statements for E-Board & Para Council

Executive Board

Mary Ann Urban

Mary Ann Urban is a long-time member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to please support me in my candidacy for E-Board with the BTU. I have served as your representative for the past three years. It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today as the BTU is in a time of great challenge and change. We face some very difficult issues as a collective bargaining unit. I have been a member of the BTU for over 20 years and I have seen many changes in our union. I want to see our union continue to be a leader in the education field.

Michael Crain

Michael Crain is a member of the Brighton High School staff. He is writing to ask you to support him in his bid for the E-Board with the BTU. He has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and he is seeking re-election to this position. He states that he will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Alice Yong

Alice Yong is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the E-Board with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Paraprofessional Council

Lynette Harrell

Lynette Harrell is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the Paraprofessional Council with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Josefina I. Lascano

Josefina I. Lascano is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the Paraprofessional Council with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Debra Brown

Debra Brown is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the Paraprofessional Council with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Christine Buttiigliari

Christine Buttiigliari is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the Paraprofessional Council with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.

Maureen Sutherland

Maureen Sutherland is a member of the Boston Teacher Union. She is writing to ask you to support her in her bid for the Paraprofessional Council with the BTU. She has been a member of the union for the past 10 years and she is seeking re-election to this position. She states that she will continue to work hard for the rights of all workers.