

Recap of Telephone Town Hall

On Oct. 5th BTU President, Marietta English hosted a telephone town hall meeting for all members of the BTU bargaining unit which focused on teacher contract negotiations.

Ms. English stated the following information regarding negotiations:

- The state of negotiations is not good. They have been negotiating since March and no deal has been reached.
- The reason for the delay is that the school district's negotiating team has completely changed except for a few people since Dr. Santelises took over. Issues that had been thought to have been worked out were taken off the table and had to be re-negotiated.
- Major issues, like healthcare, compensation and AUs have become more about politics than negotiating in good faith.
- Certain city politicians are putting pressure on the board because city workers and other unions don't have the great healthcare that we have and they want to cut costs.
- Our contract is the richest in the state and we want to continue with a salary scale that is fair and equitable.
- What they have come at us with will greatly reduce the earning potential for our teachers and will be difficult to sustain.
- She concluded the meeting by asking members to come to the school board meeting on Oct. 11th to support the

teacher contract. Thank you to all those who attended the board meeting. Negotiations have resumed and we will keep posted on the progress.