



# 2022 BTU Officer Election

## Meet the Teacher Candidates



(Bios appear as submitted by candidates)

Bios and optional resumes are also on the BTU website [www.baltimoreteachers.org](http://www.baltimoreteachers.org)

### Candidates for President

#### DIAMONTÉ BROWN

**Work Site Location:** BTU

**Educational Background** - Baltimore City College High School, Inaugural International Baccalaureate Program; University of Michigan, Sports Management And Communications, B.A.; Grand Canyon University, Secondary Education, M.A.

**Employment History** - 2008-2013: St. Veronica's Head Start; Family Services Coordinator, Health Coordinator, Disabilities Coordinator. 2013-2014: BCPSS - Long Term Substitute-Algebra II. 2014-2016: Mayor's Office of Employment Development; Literacy Instructor-YouthBuild. 2016- Current: Teacher, External Assignment - Educational Associate (President of Union)

**Views and Goals** - If I am elected to be the President of the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU) again, I will continue to:

- \*increase the value of the BTU for Paraprofessionals and School Related Personnel (PSRP)
- \*exercise financial stewardship and transparency

\*make sure ALL worksites and ALL classifications of workers are protected and supported by the BTU

\*fight for the wages, benefits, and working conditions that we deserve

\*build solidarity among BTU members so that people feel empowered to enforce their contract without fearing retaliation

I believe that there is safety in solidarity, strength in numbers, and power in frontline workers being at the forefront of identifying their needs and how their needs should be met. Since there is strength in numbers, I'm not running alone. I am running with 40 other BTU members, the Union We Deserve slate, who stand ready to work relentlessly towards the goals listed. Vote for us!

#### HARRY PRESTON

**Work Site Location** #377, Green Street Academy

**Educational Background** - MsED Johns Hopkins Urban Education and Administration; MsED Johns Hopkins Admin 1; B.S. Honors Physics / Math Minor

**Employment History** - University Of South Carolina; Midlands Math And Business Academy ; Edmondson Westside High School; James McHenry; Green Street Academy

**Views and Goals** - A National Award Winning Teacher Certified in Math, Business, PLTW and Administration. Harry Preston V has taught all grades from Pre K to College. He has raised MILLIONS of dollars for Schools and Students. Harry seeks to bring that level of professionalism to the office of President. Harry works tirelessly to eradicate exclusionary practices that unfairly minoritizes and marginalizes student of color. He leverages Robotics, Computer Science, to provide opportunities for students to shine. As a Leader Harry sits on the boards of organizations across Baltimore and the Country. He will leverage his extensive network to reconnect the BTU to power centers nationwide. Harry's PROVEN HISTORY of SERVICE to the UNION as well as the COMMUNITY is an asset to the office. His efforts in the creation of a new influential Innovation Center sparked support from Major National Tech Companies, Major National Universities including, the estate of Elijah E Cummings.

## Candidates for Teacher Chair

### **CRISTINA DUNCAN-EVANS**

**Work Site Location:** BTU

**Educational Background** - MAT from Johns Hopkins; BA in History from Dartmouth College; MLS Library Science (incomplete); Advanced Professional Certificate: Secondary Social Studies

**Employment History** - Cristina Duncan Evans has been a Baltimore City educator for 15 years and has taught every grade from PK-12. The first ten years of her career were spent as a high school social studies teacher at Dunbar, Carver and Baltimore School for the Arts. She then became a Library Media Specialist, and as a resource teacher, she taught all grades at James McHenry Elementary Middle School in West Baltimore. In July of 2019, Cristina was appointed by President Brown to be the Director of the BTU PDC.

**Views and Goals** - The pandemic has made clear the dangers that we face when City Schools leadership is not held accountable. As Teacher Chair, it's my goal to work with members to determine the best ways forward to get the respect, resources, safety, and professionalism we deserve. Some of my goals for a second term include: expanding TEE Off-Cycle access, improved certification service, better procedures and policies for classrooms and schools that are too hot or too cold, facilities that aren't too hot or too cold, more teacher power in curriculum and pacing decisions, more staffing to fill vacancies and more resources allocated to support instruction and wholeness. As we move

into our second term, BTU will play an important role in holding the district accountable to spending new Kirwan/Blueprint funds in meaningful and sustainable ways. My goal is for BTU to be the leading voice in these conversations.

### **CHARNITA WHITE**

**Work Site Location #50, Abbottston Elementary School**

**Educational Background** - Bachelor of Art Degree in English, Howard University  
Master Degree of Education in Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, Howard University

**Employment History** - Charnita L. White is a 22-year Baltimore City Public School teaching veteran. She taught at William Paca Elementary School from 1999 to 2002; Coldstream Park Elementary Middle School from 2002 until the school closed in 2018 and currently teaches at Abbottston Elementary School. In 2020, Charnita completed the AFT/BTU Teacher Leaders Program researching the subject of Special Education Training for General Education Teachers. For the pass 5 summers, she has been the camp director for the ROH Summer Camp.

**Views and Goals** - Having taught 1st through 7th grade, Charnita has worked with the SWAG Program (Students with Autism Accessing General Education), implemented divergent curricula, and administered various Maryland Standardized tests. She is realistic about the everyday academic and behavioral challenges of a teacher. She is sincere about having other entities be invested in the accountability of a child's education. She is adamant about not only

improving work conditions for union members but also the work conditions for students. As the BTU Teacher Chapter Chair, "I will work with and listen to my colleagues to spark impact, inspire change and commit to the wellness and learning of our members. It is my goal to keep our members cognizant about issues and decisions that affect our profession and personal lives. It is important to me that member voices be heard, concerns be taken into consideration and beneficial member resolution be found amicably."

## Candidates for Teacher Vice Chair

### **IRENE BOOZE**

**Work Site Location #85, Fort Worthington Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - B. S. Early Childhood currently studing for masters

**Employment History** - 14.5 years employed with BCPSS

**Views and Goals** - I am seeking office to help make the necessary changes that teachers are due. I have been fighting this cause for over 10 years. It is my heartfelt purpose to work and support teachers and staff so that their rights are always protected. I started as a PSRP and have transitioned into an Early Childhood Educator. I will continue to strive to be the best for our students and their needs.

## **FAREEHA WAHEED**

### **Work Site Location #11, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School**

**Educational Background** - Doctorate in Education (EdD) in Urban Leadership from Johns Hopkins University, Expected December 2022; Certificate in Socioemotional Learning from Rutgers University, Expected July 2022; Master of Science (MSED) in Educational Studies from Johns Hopkins University; Bachelor of Science (BS) in Psychobiology (BS) from University of California, Davis

**Employment History** - Fareeha Waheed has a passion for educational equity, community organizing, and urban community development. She continues to fight the opportunity gap that exists in Baltimore as a member of the Mayor's Trauma Informed Care Taskforce and as a current Vice President of Elementary Schools in the BTU. Fareeha Waheed has worked in Baltimore City Public Schools since 2014. She currently teaches at Eutaw Marshburn Elementary as a special educator and also helps facilitate math and special education academic content and professional development for teachers. She's held over a dozen roles in her tenure including negotiating the last two teachers' contracts, serving as a treasurer for the BTU Special Education committee and a member of the BTU Legislative and Public Education Committees as well as her leadership as School Family Council chair, lead teacher for the after-school program, member of the Instructional Leadership Team, Family Community Engagement Committee, and Grant-writing Team at her school. Fareeha has

secured over \$7500 in funds for enriching field trips, technology, and to start greening projects such as a school garden and a recycling program. She's also helped bring a playground, field, and basketball court to her school. Fareeha has appeared in Point of Hue and XenoLearn Podcast and guest lectured at Harvard University to discuss the importance of carving out time for self-care and issues of race and gender. She's also appeared on Teachers Democracy Project podcast to advocate for leveraging teacher expertise in decision making and professional learning. Fareeha's colleagues describe her as a "person of integrity, intelligence and innovation" who "tirelessly advocates on behalf of students and educators".

**Views and Goals** - As Vice Chair I will advocate to ensure that educators' voices are prioritized in decisions affecting our school district, city and state. We are at the front lines with our students day in and day out and deserve the utmost recognition and respect because we know what's best for our students. I look forward to hearing from educators working across Baltimore about issues that matter most to them and how the union can help support positive change. I believe our union can build upon the successes we've had including negotiating landmark contracts, creating more transparency and visibility across the union, prioritizing the needs of teachers, PSRPs, and related service providers and strengthening overall union operations. I am excited to use my extensive knowledge of urban schools and community organizing to be a part of the movement because when hundreds of

educators stand up and advocate together, we will win.

## **Candidates for Teacher Secretary**

### **JOCELYN PROVIDENCE**

#### **Work Site Location #415, Baltimore School for the Arts**

**Educational Background** - Currently pursuing Masters in Transformational Leadership from Towson University; MS in Educational Study with Certification in Secondary mathematics from Johns Hopkins University; MA in Environmental Policy Design from Lehigh University; BS in Environmental Science from University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Advanced Professional Certificate

**Employment History** - Jocelyn Providence has been a Baltimore City teacher for 8 years and has taught grades 8-12th grade for secondary mathematics. During those years I have taught at Digital Harbor High School, Commodore John Rodgers, and Baltimore School for the Arts.

**Views and Goals** - I have had the privilege for the past 3 years to serve as Secretary of the Teacher Chapter of the Baltimore Teachers Union and I have advocated for rights and respect of our school staff and students. There have been wins that have helped to improve the safety and livelihood of many, but there is still more work to be done. We need to make sure that we are supporting the development of the skills that we need as school staff to be effective educators. And we need to be properly compensated for the time that we use to develop our skills. As

educators we need to be given more trust and opportunities to lead. We are the most connected with students and families, so we deserve to be a larger part of the decision-making process. I will continue advocating for our needs as well as our students' needs!

#### **JEDDA QUEEN**

**Work Site Location #368, Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School**

**Educational Background** - Notre Dame University of Maryland, Master of Arts Leadership in Teaching; Morgan State University, Bachelor of Arts Music; Certified Library Media Specialist; Life Underwriters Graduate Fellow; National Life Underwriters

**Employment History** - Baltimore City and County Public Schools March 2008 – Present. Substitute Teacher March 2008 – 2010. Library Media Specialist May 2010 - Present. Continental Airlines, Linthicum, MD April 1993 – September 2003. Airport Sales Agent/Trainer/Operations Agent Golden State Mutual Insurance Company, Los Angeles, CA. September 1991 – January 1993 Sales Representative/Underwriter Sexton Realty Development Corporation, Los Angeles, CA. September 1989 – December 1990 Administrative Assistant/Manager Western Southern Life Insurance Company, Baltimore, MD. September 1980 – September 1989 Sales Representative/Underwriter/Manager.

**Views and Goals** - To help our Union be the best representation of all our members and future members. One of my goals is to inspire and

rejuvenate new employees and current members to become more involved and active in the Baltimore Teachers Union.

### **Candidates for Teacher Treasurer**

#### **JACQUELINE STERLING**

**Work Site Location #15, The Stadium School**

**Educational Background** - Special Education

**Employment History** - Jacqueline Sterling is a Native Baltimorean, married 22 years and has served in Baltimore City School System since, 1993 in various capacities ranging from secretary, teacher, ELA Lead/Literary Coach and BTU building representative for 15 years. Currently serving as an IEP Team Associate. Jacqueline is certified and holds a master's degree in Special Education from Notre Dame College. A Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Coppin State University. Other certifications and licensures held include Certification in Leadership from Harvard University in Urban School Leadership, licensed Cosmetologist, Salon Owner and Restauranter.

**Views and Goals** - If I were to be elected to the position of Treasurer. I would to the best of my ability review procedures and financial reporting, as well as work with the board to create financial strategies and fundraising ideas, to assist in helping BTU become financially efficient.

#### **ZACH TAYLOR**

**Work Site Location: BTU**

**Educational Background** - B.A. Miami University M.A.T. Johns Hopkins University

Collective Bargaining Certificate - AFT/Cornell University

**Employment History** - Zach Taylor has worked in City Schools for 15 years, teaching Social Studies, Language Arts, and ESOL. He has worked at Calverton, Civitas, and Commodore John Rodgers as a middle school teacher and Building Representative. For the past three years he has worked at the BTU, focusing on negotiations, membership growth, member support, union administration, union-district interactions.

**Views and Goals** - During the last three years I've worked with union member leaders across the school system to increase transparency, build union power, and win at the negotiating table. Together, we've added the most contract protections in decades while also securing the highest raises in over ten years and safeguarding our healthcare. We've worked to increase member communications by starting the BTU Facebook group and providing access to union finance reviews and Executive Board minutes. We've also fought to ensure that members are at the center of BTU political endorsements. With the union's highest membership in over a decade, we will build on this foundation to empower broader participation in our union by increasing support to members in each and every school and worksite. The BTU is strong when members have the power to protect their working conditions and ensure students have what they need to succeed. Vote the BROWN SLATE!

## Candidates for Teacher Elementary School Vice-Presidents

### ANGELA CAMPBELL

**Work Site Location:** North Avenue

**Educational Background** - Currently pursuing a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction in Social Justice from Loyola. BS from Coppin State 2006. APC

**Employment History** - Angela Campbell is in her 20th year as an early childhood educator, including 15 as a Baltimore City educator. Currently on external assignment, Angela works on the Joint Governing Panel, consistently striving to expand access to, variety of, and timely processing of internal AU offerings, evidenced by changes to the processing of AUs for menu items and the successful advocacy of 12 AUs upon the development and approval of new AU courses for Teacher Chapter members.

**Views and Goals** - I want the union to continue expanding transparency and membership engagement while continuing to strengthen the contracts, increasing fiscal soundness, and maximizing member voice. Additionally, I strive to bring both chapters closer together through authentic relationship building, and productive collaboration. Moreover, I have been a BTU Building Representative and an active and productive member of BTU committees. I am the type of person that is not afraid to ask the tough questions or present a different perspective to help move the work forward and address potential blind spots. A vote for Angela Campbell is a vote for transparency, fiscal soundness, and

member voice; all achieved through the valuing of all union members, building on the successes of the last three years, and working with all executive board members as colleagues and partners in the fight for the union we deserve.

### KEVIN DEPEEL

**Work Site Location #368, Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School**

**Educational Background** - B.A. History Michigan State University, B.A. Academic Study of Religion Michigan State University, M.A.Ed. Michigan State University

**Employment History** - 2011-Present Teacher at HHPS #368 BCPS, 2006-2011 Teacher at Dr. MLK, Jr. #254 BCPS, 2010 CEO Summer Teacher Fellow BCPS

**Views and Goals** - Kevin DePeel is a veteran teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools but is originally from Michigan. He attended Michigan State University where he earned bachelor's degrees in history and the academic study of religion. Kevin has taught primarily middle school social studies but, as the need arose, he has also taught science, mathematics, literacy intervention, programming, and robotics. Kevin started, and coached for several years, a Lego robotics team that earned multiple local awards and state tournament bids. Kevin has provided support and leadership for his colleagues by serving as the SLO ambassador for his school, working with other educators and administrators to prepare his school's learning environment for a safer return to in person learning, and served as the BTU BR for his school from 2013 to 2019.

During that time, he maintained over a ninety percent union membership.

### RYAN GHOLSON

**Work Site Location #347, KIPP Harmony Academy**

**Educational Background** - Morgan State University BA Music, Loyola University of Maryland Masters in Education leadership (in progress)

**Employment History** - 15 years Baltimore City Schools

**Views and Goals** - If elected I would love to continue and build upon the outstanding work of President Brown's first term. President's Brown cabinet was visible and reachable. Under her leadership, we have seen historic contract negotiations including pay increases and clarity on sub and summer pay.

For over fifteen years I have developed and nurtured strong relationships with students, staff, school leadership, and the Baltimore community. I have been a strong advocate for healthy work environments for teachers, working to ensure teachers feel supported, informed, and equipped to produce the best outcome for students.

### LISA HARRISON

**Work Site Location #226, Violetville Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership Certificate; Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD; Master of Arts in Educational

Leadership Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, MD; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

**Employment History** - Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Teacher, Baltimore City Public Schools ; Adjunct Professor, Community College of Baltimore County; CEO Fellow, Baltimore City Public Schools

**Views and Goals** - As an educator with background knowledge in educational leadership and Language Arts at the elementary, secondary, and community college levels for over 10 years, I have excellent presentation, organizational, written and oral communication skills. I am a skilled leader dedicated to problem solving, program development, training and supervision. I currently possess an Elementary Education Certification and Admin 1 teaching certifications. While promoting education as the vice president for elementary schools, my primary focus is to meet with and advocate for my colleagues for fair working conditions. I will ensure that teachers are being heard and involved in the processes for improving the quality of education for the scholars. I will build the connections among PSRPs, teachers and other school based personnel. Closing this gap, this will not only benefit the staff but most importantly remind our union that we are one voice that uplifts solidarity.

**CHERYL LYNN OWENS**

**Work Site Location #95, Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - B.A. in American Studies, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA; Currently pursuing Culturally Responsive Teacher Leadership degree at Bowie State University ~ Expected graduation date: 05.20.22

**Employment History** - Cheryl Lynn Owens brings almost a decade of experience as a Maryland public school teacher all conducted in Baltimore City. She has taught at the same school, Franklin Square Elementary Middle School in the heart of Southwest Baltimore. I proudly serve BTU as Secretary of the Legislative Committee.

**Views and Goals** -

- I want for teachers to have smaller classroom sizes so that students can be seen and heard.
- I want culturally responsive teaching to be the norm rather than the exception in a culturally rich environment of Baltimore City Public Schools.
- I want reforms made to our special education system so that students needs are able to be met.
- I want teachers to continue having a voice, and becoming educational activists.
- Vote for Cheryl Lynn Owens! Smaller classes! Teacher Voices! Educational Reforms!

**JENNIFER REYES-CUEVAS**

**Work Site Location #27, Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - BA American University - Certification Johns Hopkins University

**Employment History** - Commodore John Rodgers - 4 years

**Views and Goals** - I'm excited to join union leadership in pushing the district to improve its retention of early career educators through increasing support and making the Accelerated Pathway much more accessible. As a former ESOL student and first generation college student, I also will fight to make sure BCPSS provides this growing student population with the resources they need to be successful. In addition to coaching soccer, I currently mentor early career ESOL teachers. Prior to teaching in City Schools I've worked at the U.S. Department of Education and the national office of the American Federation of Teachers, gaining firsthand experience with setting education policy and fighting for improved teaching conditions. VOTE THE BROWN SLATE SO WE CAN KEEP MOVING THE UNION FORWARD!

**BRITTANY SKINNER**

**Work Site Location #368, Elmer A. Henderson: A Johns Hopkins Partnership School**

**Educational Background** - BS in Early Childhood Education

**Employment History** - I have been working for Baltimore City Public Schools for 7 years. I am tenured and a Certified Educator in the State of Maryland.

**Views and Goals** - I view the Elementary Vice President position as a partnership with Paras, Teachers and students. If elected, the main goal would be to further unify our Union and ensure all parties have an equal opportunity to feel

valued and heard. Each stakeholder in this union is a crucial piece to our puzzle. Another goal would be to effectively and efficiently partner with the President and Executive Board to establish a community that fosters respect of differing opinions and seeks to find the commonality and humanity of it's members.

### **TANGIE SMITH**

**Work Site Location #251, Callaway Elementary School**

**Educational Background** - Ed.S Educational Leadership-Capella University; MS- in Special Education Coppin State University; BS in Special Education

**Employment History** - 2021-present-Springboard Collaborative site support @Callaway Elementary. 2014 to present -Pre-k/ K Early Learning Teacher (ELE). 2011-2014 School-Wide IEP Chair + Reading Intervention Teacher. 2012-2014 Read to Succeed Site Lead + ESY Early Learning Lead. 2009-2012 Leadership Intern for Callaway Elementary. 2012-2017 Academic Coordinator / Site Coordinator-Liberty Elementary School. 2009-2011 Special Education Resource Teacher.

**Views and Goals** - If I am elected as Elementary VP my view of the job duties will be to listen to the concerns of the elementary school teachers such as getting more clarification around the unannounced formals or to get rid of them entirely. I will also work to make sure that work conditions were cohesive for teachers such as making sure that teachers are getting their planning time (3 periods per week). I will also work to ensure that teachers would not have to

hold classes or students when other teachers are out. I would work to get the code of conduct to be revised. Last, I would work to build a better culture and climate within the elementary schools. My overarching goal would be that we the teacher and the PSRP chapters would work together to build back a better union for all of its members.

## **Candidates for Teacher Junior/Middle School Vice-Presidents**

### **COREY GABER**

**Work Site Location: BTU**

**Educational Background** - M. Ed., General and Special Education. Lesley University Graduate School of Education; M. Ed., Harvard Graduate School of Education; B.A., Philosophy, Washington and Lee University

**Employment History** - Educational Associate with Baltimore City Public Schools, External Assignment based out of the Baltimore Teachers Union (July 2018-Present)  
Member engagement specialist at the Baltimore Teachers Union, supervised by President Diamonté Brown  
Charged with gathering feedback about the challenges members face and the solutions they have for those challenges in order to improve working and learning conditions

6th Grade ELA and "Expedition" Instructor at Southwest Baltimore Charter School (August 2013-July 2018)

Students exceed growth goals on NWEA MAPs reading test annually and have the highest growth scores in the school.

Led various forms of professional development on neuroscience and structural racism.  
Baltimore Teachers Union Building Representative, 5th/6th grade team lead  
Helped found and coach the middle school boys lacrosse team, who have gone undefeated for 2 years.

Adjunct Faculty for Johns Hopkins School of Education (Summer 2018)

Taught course to incoming teachers on Race, Culture, and Equity

Part of Urban Teachers training and preparation program.

External Programs Coordinator for the Baltimore Freedom Academy Foundation, Inc. (July 2008-July 2010)

Created and oversaw more than 120 internships at non-profits and civic organizations in Baltimore City for the Learning by Service program for 11th grade students  
Planned and executed a week of alternative programming for the entire upper school titled Leadership Week including college visits, professional job shadows, leadership workshops, school beautification projects, community needs surveys, service-learning projects, a professional luncheon, a field day, and the school formal, the Barristers Ball

Raised \$15,000 to create a men's lacrosse team and served as the head coach

**Views and Goals** - If elected I would look to build on the success of President Brown's first term which included a dramatic turnaround in BTU's finances, exponential increases in transparency and communications to membership, increased expectations with a leaner BTU staff, historic contract wins including working condition language, summer and sub pay issues which were neglected for decades as well as large pay increases without giving up a single thing in terms of our health insurance and benefits.

I have fought passionately for what I believe in on the Executive Board while being willing to work across typical divides as exemplified by various amendments on motions to meet the needs of both chapters. I would continue to act as a touch point for membership ensuring that their views drive the BTU's agenda like mandating their input on political endorsements which was formerly neglected.

**MELISSA MCDONALD**

**Work Site Location #325, ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School**

**Educational Background** - B.A. in English from McDaniel College; M.A.T. from The University of Maryland Notre Dame; Model Teacher; Advanced Professional Certificate

**Employment History** - Melissa McDonald brings 13 years of experience as a Baltimore City public school teacher. Her first 8 years she taught at the Alternative Learning Center and Digital Harbor High School and now has been teaching ELA at ConneXions: A Community-Based Arts School for 5 years.

**Views and Goals** - I want to continue to organize around issues which directly impact teachers: specifically the issues surrounding the certification process and the issues surrounding the employee evaluation process. I also want to continue to provide support to new educators through the BTU New Educator Steering Committee. I have been the BTU Building Representative at ConneXions for the past 5 years and started a Union Chapter Committee. I always aim to be a voice for educators. Vote Melissa McDonald for Middle School Vice President so I can continue to work to improve working conditions for BCPSS educators!

**JOSÉ TORRES**

**Work Site Location #241, Fallstaff**

**Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - M.A., TESOL (Language Acquisition) Notre Dame of Maryland University, B.A. English Literature, Florida International University

**Employment History** - Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2001-2006; Baltimore City Public Schools 2006-Present

**Views and Goals** - My objectives everyday would focus on improving the education system and contributing to the betterment of the young people in Baltimore City Public Schools. I view this position as one of advocacy and engagement where action, not words, dictate positive trends.

**YVETTE TURNER**

**Work Site Location #341, Reach! The Partnership School**

**Educational Background** - I hold a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Special Education and a Bachelors Degree in Telecommunications. I also have certifications in both Elementary/Middle School Education; as well as Library Media Specialist.

**Employment History** - I currently work at The Reach! Partnership School as a library media specialist.

My other teaching experiences include elementary school, middle school reading, library media specialist at another school and serving as an Apex coordinator.

Additionally, I have supported my City Schools' colleagues as an original member of the Joint Governing Panel (JGP).

My work during that time included approval of professional development courses for AU earnings, AU Menu Coordinator and Union Learning Representatives (ULR) Coordinator. In prior years, I have advocated for my colleagues as the Building Representative (BR).

**Views and Goals** - My goals if elected as Middle School Vice-President, are to collaborate with members about needs and issues, and be a voice for the membership when support is required. I am an educator with many years of work experience in schools as a teacher and a Joint Governing Panel member. I understand many of the problems which you experience. I pledge my support to keep our members aware and engaged on education policies that effect our students and members. Additionally, I will advocate that educators are respected in the schoolhouse, negotiated fair wages, and provided acceptable working conditions.

## Candidates for Teacher Senior High School Vice-Presidents

### GERIMI BERLIN

**Work Site Location #480, Baltimore City College**

**Educational Background** - - Baltimore City Public School System Graduate; Bachelor of Science Degree from Coppin State University; Masters of Science in Education from Kaplan University

**Employment History** - City College (Current); Green Street Academy (2018- 2021); Rosemont Elementary/Middle School (2011 - 2018)

**Views and Goals** - As a High School Vice President for the Teacher Chapter, I will help make resources available to paraeducators, teachers, parents and students alike. I will work to ensure that Paraeducators and teachers have the training and tools they need to meet academic standards of every learner. I will work diligently to follow district level guidelines for Teachers and Paraprofessional development. I will also work in conjunction with our President to enhance the decision-making process for all Teachers. In addition, I plan on assisting the executive board and the president's decision to support all district, school and classroom policies. My goal is to seek creative ways to better assist trade programs as resources for students and their parents. As an active leader I want to support the needs of my union, district, school, parents and scholars I serve on a daily basis. I will observe and adhere to the bylaws set forth by the President and executive board.

### SHELLY-ANN HIGGINS

**Work Site Location #178, Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School**

**Educational Background** - Frostburg State University; B.S: Major - Justice Studies; Minor - Women's Studies; M.Ed in Health and Physical Education

**Employment History** - 2001- present: Baltimore City Public Schools - Teacher  
1998 - 1999: CUNY College of Staten Island - Intramural and Recreation Director  
1996 - 1998: SUNY Oswego - Coordinator of Intramural and Recreation

**Views and Goals** - If re-elected, I will continue to work to affect change in the everyday working experiences of the rank and file members of the union. I will work collaboratively with the executive board to ensure that all members and students are afforded fair, safe, and humane conditions/environment. To this end, I will continue to participate on various committees to address some of the challenges that our members and students face, then work tirelessly to help resolve these issues. I believe that teachers, PSRPs, staff, parents, school administration, and the community must work in tandem for the betterment of our students' futures and society.

### MICHAEL PESA

**Work Site Location #00, School Name**

**Educational Background** - M. Ed. summa cum laude in Secondary Social Studies Education from Temple University; B.A. cum laude in History from Kent State University

**Employment History** - Michael Pesa has taught in Baltimore City Public Schools for 14 years, 11 of those at his current location, Patterson High School. Michael has taught Modern World History (regular and Honors), U.S. History, American Government, Journalism, Economics, Geography, and Contemporary Affairs. He is also the faculty advisor for the Patterson Press, Patterson High School's official student newspaper.

Prior to becoming a certified teacher, Michael held various jobs, including tour guide, small business owner, tutor, after-school program facilitator, substitute teacher, fundraiser, nonprofit organizer, data entry specialist, housekeeping staff, catering assistant, and more. In college, Michael interned with Union Semester in New York City where he helped create a magazine that reached hundreds of thousands of union members. In 2006, Michael served as an international observer during the national elections in El Salvador.

Additionally, Michael has served in numerous unpaid roles for the union before and after being elected to his current role as High School Vice President. He was a building representative for several years and is currently the lead for BTU's Communications Committee. He is the editor of the Baltimore Educator (BTU's quarterly newsletter/magazine) and was instrumental in helping to create the BTU Private Facebook Group.

**Views and Goals** - Three years ago, I ran for the position of High School Vice President (teacher

chapter) because I wanted to help make our union stronger and more democratic, transparent, and accountable. In the years since I was elected, I have consistently worked toward those goals as part of the Union We Deserve team, alongside thousands of rank-and-file BTU members. My goals remain the same. Despite the many challenges we have faced in the past three years, we are steadily making progress towards becoming a truly member-run union that empowers teachers and PSRPs to take action together and make their voices heard. If re-elected, I will continue to fight for the rights and empowerment of all BTU members, in the workplace as well as within the union. Together we have the power to build the union we deserve, the working conditions we deserve, and the schools our students deserve!

### Candidates for Teacher Special Services Vice-Presidents

#### **RODRICK BINGHAM**

**Work Site Location #450, Frederick Douglass High School**

**Educational Background** - M.A.T. (Special education), MEd. At risk youth and leadership. Goucher College

**Employment History** - Baltimore City public schools, 2002 until present

**Views and Goals** - If elected to the position of vice president of special services, my goal is to make sure that special education teachers would begin to get the respect that they deserve as educators. I would seek to ensure that all special

educators are provided with best practice professional developments. I would push for general educators and special educators receive professional developments together with emphasis put on whose responsibility it is with regards to the I.E.P. and how the supplementary aids and services are implemented in the classroom. The ultimate goal would be to ensure that the students with disabilities are receiving the best instruction possible so that they can become productive members of their communities and world.

#### **DIANA DESIERTO**

**Work Site Location #7, Cecil Elementary School**

**Educational Background** - I am a proud graduate of Loyola College of Maryland where I received both my Bachelor's and Master's in Speech Language Pathology.

**Employment History** - I have been a Speech Language Pathologist in the City schools since 2007. I started my career at William S. Baer School and am currently at Cecil Elementary! I have serviced children through Infants and Toddlers, Head Starts, and multiple schools across the district including: Abbottston, Moravia, Hamilton, Gilmore, Monarch, Friendship, and Louis T Murray! I currently am on the Executive Board as VP Special Services and co-chair of the International Committee.

**Views and Goals** - As a related service provider, I get to meet and work with so many amazing educators across the City. During these past three years, I have heard so many positive comments from members about how the leadership under President Brown has been more

transparent, continues to increase participation in contract negotiations, demonstrates fiscal responsibility, and encourages committees to actually do the work. I want to continue building a Union who lifts people up – a union that continues to hold our district accountable for their decisions and to empower the strong voices of our members. As an elected member of YOUR Executive Board, I will continue to fight for related service providers to earn respect for our profession, advocate for better caseloads/workloads, and provide support for all new international educators! Vote for the Brown Slate!

#### **BRITTANY JOHNSTONE**

**Work Site Location #432, Coppin Academy**

**Educational Background** - Ed.S. in Child, Family and School Psychology from the University of Denver; Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP)

**Employment History** - Baltimore City Public Schools August 2016-Present

**Views and Goals** - If reelected as Teacher Chapter Special Services VP, I will work over the next three years to continue to foster the growing advocacy of my fellow Related Service Providers to ensure our unique needs and concerns are given the attention we deserve. As a member of the UWD caucus led by President Diamonté Brown, I believe the BTU is made stronger through our efforts to continue make this a member-run union that centers our work around an understanding that as educators we are also community members who recognize that our progress is aligned and tied to the progress

of our students, their families, and our communities. Our amazing union can continue to lead on issues of social justice and racial justice within Baltimore City in ways that impact the happiness, health and safety of BTU members and the students and communities we know and love.

**LORIA MCINTYRE**

**Work Site Location #210, Hazelwood Elementary/Middle School**

**Educational Background** - Syracuse University I received a Bachelor of Arts degree; Temple University I received a Master of Education

**Employment History** - I have been a teacher with Baltimore City Public Schools since 2006. In 2020 I became an Opportunity Culture Multi Classroom Lead at Hazelwood Elementary Middle School.

**Views and Goals** - Loria McIntyre was a 2021 Semi-Finalist for Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She has an Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education and Middle School. As a former BTU Building Representative and Organizing Committee Member she is aware of the protection the union provides for its members. She is a member of the Educational Issues Committee and worked on teacher recruitment efforts with the BTU and Temple University.

"If elected as Special Services, Vice-President, I would work tirelessly to communicate the needs of the BTU paras, teachers, and school related personnel who work with our special student population in the school district. I want to be a

voice of support to help reenergize our members after a two-year pandemic. The educational landscape has changed and I want to show my commitment to the Special Services faculty and staff in these challenging times.

**STEVEN MENDICK**

**Work Site Location #454, Carver Vocational-Technical High School**

**Educational Background** - Masters in Social Work, from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work.; B.A. in Psychology, from Brooklyn College; Licensed Clinical Social Worker

**Employment History** - Steven Mednick has been a Baltimore City School Social Worker for 18 years. He has worked on the Elementary, Middle and High School levels and has been a BTU Building Representative in numerous schools.

**Views and Goals** - If reelected, I would continue to support President Brown's austerity BTU budget plan, which has dramatically curtailed staff expenses, this coupled with the historic increase in membership, has led to turning a large deficit into a profit. Regretfully, the reduction in revenue was due to the Supreme Court's Janus decision and the increase in BTU expenses was attributed to the former BTU administration's decision to renovate BTU Headquarters for 3 million dollars. This ill-conceived project, by the Progressive Party, was not even finished, due to being extremely over-budgeted. There were also roof leaks that led to a mold situation.

As an advocate for the rights of BTU members, in the numerous schools that I have worked over

the years as a BTU Building Representative, I have made your needs a priority in skillfully negotiating positive changes in schools for you, with principals.

**Candidates for Teacher Vocational Education Vice-President**

**CAROL BRETT**

**Work Site Location #405, Patterson High School**

**Educational Background** - B.S. in Criminal Justice from University of Baltimore; M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Maryland; Advance Professional Certificate; Administrator I Certificate

**Employment History** - Carol Brett has been an educator in the Baltimore City School System for 22 years. She has spent her entire career at Patterson High School as a Career and Technology Education instructor. During this time, she played a large role in the creation of the Law and Leadership pathway the district now offers in several schools. Currently she is the instructor for the Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (Law Enforcement) pathway.

**Views and Goals** - Our union is only as strong as those that make it up. A priority for me is increasing membership engagement with the union. I would work to increase teacher knowledge of the contract and in doing so, increase teacher voice in that same contract. I would work with the membership and the

district to offer city school students what they deserve—a first class educational experience.

### **NICHOLAS MCDANIELS**

**Work Site Location #410, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School**

**Educational Background** - B.A. English, Secondary Education, Marquette University; M.S. Educational Administration and Supervision, The Johns Hopkins University; J.D., The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

**Employment History** - Teacher (2009-Present) English, Law & Leadership, Mergenthaler Vo-Tech High School, #410  
Attorney-at-law/Managing Partner (2015-Present) LewisMcDaniels  
Broker/Realtor/Owner (2016-Present) Union Preferred Realty, Union Preferred Management, Union Preferred Properties

**Views and Goals** - As Teacher Chapter Vocational Vice President, I would bring a perspective acquired from more than a decade as a teacher in Baltimore City Schools. I would advocate zealously for my fellow rank-and-file union members, especially my vocational sisters and brothers. Many years as an attorney and as the BTU Building Representative at Mervo have provided me with the knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to the expansion and enforcement of our rights under our collective bargaining agreements. Which side are you on?

**Candidates for Teacher  
Members-at-Large**

### **KELLY HOPE**

**Work Site Location #405, Patterson High School**

**Educational Background** - Bachelor of Science in Biology, Towson University; Master of Education in Educational Leadership, Grand Canyon University; Certified in: Biology (7-12 grades)

**Employment History** - Kelly Hope brings 15 years of experience as a teacher in Baltimore City. She has taught Biology for the last 16 school years and at various times been a facilitator for City Schools for science curriculum and practices. For the last three years she has been teaching sheltered instruction Biology to ELL students.

**Views and Goals** - I love teaching. I want the union to support teachers and PSRPs in enforcing the contract, increase membership engagement and work with the district to make sure City Schools students are being provided the education they need and deserve. I am not afraid to roll up my sleeves and get dirty to help with improving these things. A vote for Kelly Hope is a vote for everyday educators that want to be appreciated and supported so they can be the motivational teachers City School students deserve.

### **LEILANI JONES**

**Work Site Location #405, Patterson High School**

**Educational Background** - Goucher College AP Calculus AB Certificate, Summa Cum Laude (4.0); Coppin State University Administrator I Certificate, Summa Cum Laude (4.0); M.A. Teaching, Summa Cum Laude (4.0)

B.S. Management Science, Magna Cum Laude (3.6)

Essex Community College; A.A. General Studies, Cum Laude (3.59)

**Employment History** - Patterson High School, Baltimore, MD August 2019 – Present  
Forest Park High School, Baltimore, MD July 2015 – July 2019

National Academy Foundation of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD November 2013 - June 2015  
Bluford Drew Jemison S.T.E.M. Academy-West, Baltimore, MD March 2011 – Nov 2013  
SEED School of Maryland, Baltimore, MD February 2010 – June 2010  
Friendship Collegiate Academy, Washington, DC August 2009 – November 2009  
Frederick Douglass High School, Baltimore, MD October 2004 – June 2009

**Views and Goals** - If I were to be elected in the position of Teacher-Member-At-Large it would be an honor as it has been the last three years to dedicate my service to our almost 8,000 members by making decisions solely based upon the wants and needs of our members. My goals are to ensure the voice of our collective membership is heard loud and clearly to the School Board, Dr. Santelises, and all of Baltimore City's elected officials, including, but not limited to the endorsement of candidates. In my three years as Teacher Member-At-Large, I have voted according to the views of our membership even when those views were in opposition to my own because I believe in our democratic process. We have made historic changes in the last three years. Imagine what we can do together in the next three.

**FRANCA MULLER PAZ**

**Work Site Location #480, Baltimore City College**

**Educational Background** - Goucher College, Baltimore, MD, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology Major, Cognitive Studies & Latin American Studies Minor, May; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Masters of Science in Education, Urban Teacher Program

**Employment History** - Teacher in Philadelphia Public Schools 2010 - 2013, Teacher in BCPSS 2013 - Present

**Views and Goals** - If elected, I want to work with educators to further their voices and decision making power within our union. As rank-and-file members, we best understand the conditions on the ground and the priorities we know our union must take. This can be accomplished by expanding opportunities for the full BTU membership to vote on meaningful decisions that impact our lives as educators and the wellbeing of our schools and communities.

I also want to support our union in their work to strengthen the political voice of Baltimore's educators, students, and families. The solutions and improvements needed in our education system must be led and built by those who are the most directly impacted by it. I am excited to get to work building the strength of our union through working towards shared goals and struggles with parent and student organizations.

**SHURNIA REAVES**

**Work Site Location #16, Johnston Square Elementary School**

**Educational Background** - B. Mus. from Howard University and a M. Music from Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University.

**Employment History** - over fifteen years of service in the Baltimore City Public School System

**Views and Goals** - As a Member at Large, I will support the executive board to ensure all member of the Union are fairly represented.

**CAROLINE SCHMIDT**

**Work Site Location #403, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute**

**Educational Background** - University of Minnesota - Twin Cities - BA English; Johns Hopkins University - Masters Secondary English Education; Johns Hopkins University - Masters Liberal Arts

**Employment History** - BCPSS - 2006 - Present  
2006-18 Digital Harbor High School  
2018-20 The Reach! Partnership  
2020-Present - Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

**Views and Goals** - My Goals for BTU:

\* To continue to build on the the great progress that President Brown has made in fiscal repair, growth, and transparency in regard to our union's finances.

\* To build a bigger, broader coalition of our members, students, and families in order to be a greater force for education and equity in Baltimore City as whole; this means I would work to strengthen relationships on within the Executive Board, with building reps, PCAB,

student activist, and new educators, paras, and related service providers.

\* To continue to work with COPE (Committee on Political Education) and build a more transparent, inclusive process for all our members to participate in the official BTU political endorsement process.

**MIKE STANIK**

**Work Site Location #410, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School**

**Educational Background** - BA Temple University. MS The Johns Hopkins University

**Employment History** - In teaching since 2005 taught in Baltimore City Schools since 2015

**Views and Goals** - Mike is a father, a husband, and accomplished unionist teacher with experience in education since 2005. Since 2015, he has brought his ceaseless energy and dedication to working with students of all types teaching Special Education, Social Studies and Advanced Placement at the City's largest high school Mervo. In all that he does, his focus is the betterment of the young people he works with as a tireless advocate for student success and growth.

When not working with his students in the classroom, he can be found supporting the daily operations of Mervo, supporting the Special Education team through Professional Development sessions, and incorporating technology improving IEP case management efficiency, and mentoring new teachers.

Direct practice and experience guides him as a vocal advocate of the power of our union as a unified force fighting on behalf of our members as champions of the students we work with daily.