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**THE BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS**

Acting President: Joan Knowles-Turnquest

Secretary General: John Musgrove

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Affiliation: Education International (EI), Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT) & National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU)

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## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE September 19, 2016**

**TO:** All Members  
**FROM:** The Executive Committee

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**Dear Members,**

**Please be advised of the following:**

### **1. ELECTIONS**

The election scheduled for Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 2016, has been postponed by a court order. The appeals of Belinda Wilson, Lorraine Knowles and Mizpah Munroe **MUST** be heard at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee must make a decision on holding a Special General Meeting (S.G.M.) for the purpose of hearing the Appeals of the three members listed above. This venture is estimated to cost \$100,000.00. The Bahamas Union of Teachers has already held a S.G.M. in February and the Annual General Meeting in June. The cost of both meetings was in excess of \$450,000.00.

### **2. SHOP STEWARD ELECTIONS**

As per the Constitution, the elections for Shop Stewards **MUST** be completed by the third week of September. Members should be given the opportunity to nominate persons at all workplaces and to vote by secret ballot for the person of their choice.

### **3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

During the June 9<sup>th</sup> Elections, the positions of President, Treasurer and Trustees were not voted for. Hence, as per the Constitution Sister Joan Knowles-Turnquest is the Acting President and Brother Charles Adderley is the Acting Treasurer. The Executive Committee at its August meeting appointed Brother Dion Johnson, Executive Member and Sister Rosemary Burrows, Executive Member as interim Trustees.

### **4. CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS**

We are currently planning to get an early start with the Christmas Vouchers. Therefore, we request that Shop Stewards compile a list of all teachers, along with their employment numbers and turn it into the National Secretariat as soon as possible. This will also help with the updating of information on each member.

### **5. READINESS OF SCHOOLS**

The Acting President along with other Executive Officers visited numerous schools throughout New Providence and many Family Islands.

The main challenges were teacher shortages, insufficient furniture, overcrowded classrooms, electrical and plumbing problems.

The Executive Committee met with the Minister of Education, the Director of Education and Deputy Director to address these concerns. Many problems were addressed however, the vexing issue of vetting of the new teachers by law enforcement agencies is a major concern. The problem of teachers shortages was compounded by the unexpected exodus of many teachers in late August and early September. The Ministry will attempt to hire supply teachers to help with this problem.

## **6. PENSION PLAN TRUST FUND**

The Pension Trust Fund has been established. As of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, complete operations regarding the pension is handled by the Plan Trust. The Pension Plan Trust is located upstairs of the National Secretariat.

Any concerns or suggestions regarding your pension will be handled by the Pension Plan Trust.

## **7. THE BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS (B.U.T.)/BAHAMAS EDUCATORS MANAGERIAL UNION (B.E.M.U.)**

B.U.T. and B.E.M.U. are in the process of forging a relationship. This is to ensure that our members receive the best representation and professional respect by all.

## **8. TEACHERS' MART**

The Teachers' Mart will now be open on Saturdays from 10:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. We will be having a clearance sale at the end of September. ***Everything will be priced to go!*** Thank you for your patronage thus far and we look forward to your continued support.

## **9. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

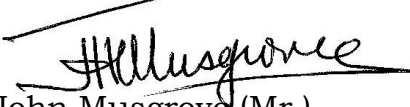
In a bid to keep abreast of current trends and best practices, the B.U.T. will host various professional development activities. We ask that you take advantage of these sessions. The dates, venues and time will be announced.

B.U.T. is planning its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Educational Leadership Conference in February, 2017. Topics and papers for submission can be sent to the Acting President at [ejoanknowles@yahoo.com](mailto:ejoanknowles@yahoo.com).

***Solidarity Forever!***  
***Long live the B.U.T.!!!!***

Sincerely,

**THE BAHAMAS UNION OF TEACHERS**

  
John Musgrove (Mr.)  
Secretary General

***JM/kf***