



Bermuda Union of Teachers

2017 EDUCATION AGENDA

The Bermuda Union of Teachers (BUT) strongly believes that education is the building block of any successful and progressive society. We believe that the delivery and the management of education is of utmost importance and needs to be managed with meticulous attention to detail. The BUT is asking that the next Government be responsive to the needs of our students by becoming legitimate advocates for public education and engaging with ALL stakeholders. The BUT is asking the next Government to adapt and commit to this agenda and ensure that our students receive the first class learning experiences that they deserve.

The Bermuda Union of Teachers is specifically asking the next Government to:

ESTABLISH HIGH SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

The BUT believes that all teachers and students have the legal right to a safe and healthy working and learning environment. The current physical condition of our schools is cause for great concern. The Government must take steps to bring our schools to a high standard of safety and health and implement measures to maintain a high standard.

- Before the commencement of the school year, all schools will be provided with a certificate of occupancy from the Occupational Health and Safety Officer based on the following annual assessments:
 - o Air quality
 - o Vermin infestation
 - o Operational utilities
 - o Potable water
 - o Food service preparation areas
- Online publication of each school's certification rating and relevant reports;
- Access to appropriate safety and health equipment;
- Safety and Health Committees in each school as legislated.

ENSURE ADEQUATE STAFFING AND HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The BUT believes that our students deserve access to high quality educators and support services personnel.

- Needs assessment to provide adequate staffing based on the needs of each school;
- Appropriate level of support staff to meet the increasing needs of our diverse population;
- Instructional coaches in every school;
- Effective and responsive human resource management;
- Adequate ratio of school psychologists to students, whose role is to identify students who require additional testing and services;
- Ensure an adequate number of certified substitute teachers.

EXPAND CURRICULUM OPTIONS AND ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

The BUT believes that the curriculum must meet the diverse needs of the student population so that all students have an opportunity for success. To support the curriculum; high quality instructional resources are essential to the learning process.

- Teachers are supplied with modern and relevant resources and appropriate materials of instruction to effectively deliver the curriculum;
- ESL (English as a Second Language) students and other special populations are provided the resources to fully engage in the curriculum;
- Expand curriculum options to meet the needs of diverse learners;
- All students should have access to system program offerings regardless of school.

REVIEW, REPAIR AND MODERNIZE BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

The BUT is gravely concerned about the condition of school building infrastructure as demonstrated by the three school closures this academic year. The government must take steps to readily address identified issues.

- Audit of all Bermuda Public Schools;
- Swift response to school building needs;
- Accessibility for all disabilities;
- Schools identified with special needs populations are fully equipped and maintained.

INVEST IN TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, RESOURCES AND TRAINING

The BUT believes that the government must position our students to compete globally. Access to modern technology and systems of thinking is imperative to the success of a 21st century learner.

- Adequate ratio of students to working technology devices and printers;
- Termly assessment and repair of all interactive devices;
- Adequate ratio of teacher access to working printers, copiers and scanners;
- The ability to integrate and infuse technology in all instruction;
- Trained technology leaders in each school;
- Adequate number of technicians to service the upkeep of equipment and software;
- Wi-Fi access in all schools.

COMMIT TO SUSTAINED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALIGNED WITH SYSTEM GOALS

The BUT believes that all students should be taught by highly skilled educators. This requires a government committed to investing in meaningful professional development based on the needs of the system.

- Designated budget for the system and individual schools;
- High quality that is commensurate to the needs of the system;
- Relevant and sustained training that will be given the necessary time to be implemented effectively.

The BUT insists on having a Government that is committed and invested in Public Education.