2025 BTU Officer Election
Meet the PSRP Chapter Candidates

(Bios appear as submitted by candidates)
Bios are also on the BTU website: https://baltimoreteachers.org/2025-btu-officers-and-delegates-elections/

Candidate for President

Diamonté Brown

Work site location: BTU
Educational background: 2013-2015 Grand Canyon University, Secondary Education, MA; 2000-2004 University of Michigan, Sports Management and Communications, BA; 1996-2000 Baltimore City College High School; 1993-1996 Roland Park Elementary/Middle School; 1988-1993 Harford Heights Elementary School; 1987-1988 Padonia Elementary School
Employment history: 2019–Present President-Baltimore Teachers Union—Baltimore, MD; Create and manage the union's budget and revenue strategy; Recruit and retain members; manage union staff; Represent the union at public events and key stakeholder meetings; Lead organizing efforts and strategic vision-setting; Oversee board governance and website management; Respond to member concerns and lead conflict resolution; Build and maintain internal and external partnerships; Negotiate contracts and lead quality assurance and communications; Drive membership engagement and professional development initiatives; Manage union facilities and advocate for education legislation.
2016–2019 English Language Arts Teacher (Grades 8–11)-Baltimore City Public Schools—Baltimore, MD; Taught engaging English Language Arts curriculum to middle and high school students; Provided instructional leadership and mentorship to fellow English teachers
2014–2016 Literacy Instructor -Mayor's Office of Employment Development—Baltimore, MD; Taught students aged 18–24 seeking GED certification; Instructed across all core subjects: math, reading, writing, social studies, and science; Increased literacy levels for 90% of students with high school diplomas but low proficiency; Designed the academic curriculum for YouthBuild (Housing Authority of Baltimore City)
Views and goals: During my administration, the Baltimore Teachers Union won historic contract protections for both Teachers and Paraprofessional & School-Related Personnel (PSRP). We secured the highest salary increases in more than a decade and preserved our healthcare benefits. I led efforts to restore the union's financial health by eliminating budget deficits, cutting unnecessary expenses, and growing our membership to record levels. We also fought for—and won—the right to online voting, making BTU elections more accessible.
Transparency and communication have been central to my leadership. We launched a contract tracker, shared regular updates, published board meeting minutes, and created a private BTU Facebook group to keep members informed and connected.
Looking ahead, we are focused on deepening member engagement and building a truly member-led union. Together, we will continue using our collective power to improve schools, support students, and push for the broader social changes our communities need and deserve.

Candidates for PSRP Chair

Shari Brown

Worksite location: BTU
Educational background: Associate of Science in Legal Studies; Licensed FAA in Broadcasting
Employment history: Joined the district in 2000 as Computer Resource teacher before transitioning over as a school secretary in 2004. A veteran of the United States Air Force and a former government employee working as a loan specialist for the Small Business Administration.
Views and goals: If elected, my vision is to continue the fight I started years ago. That fight was and still is, to increase PSRP wages and compensation, provide safe working conditions, job opportunities and advancement, affordable and safe healthcare as well as adherence by the district to the PSRP Bill of Rights. As a PSRP member on external assignment, I have always maintained and ensured members who have reached out to me complete transparency and resources with a quick response time for any assistance or questions. I have visited sites as a guest and as a worker to assist where needed and have also spoke before the Baltimore City School Board on issues as it relates to not just PSRPs but all staff members,

students and stakeholders. Also in my current role, I strongly advocate for fair compensation, allowance for personal and professional growth as well as questioning the district to explain itself when making policy changes that effect PSRPs.

Darrell Moore

Worksite location: 374 Vanguard Collegiate Middle School
Educational background: High School Diploma, Para Pro Test
Employment history: Baltimore City Public School System 1999 - Current ; Vanguard, Present; Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, August 2022- 2024; Stadium School, August 2018- June 2022; Vanguard Collegiate Middle School, August 2015- June 2018; Northeast Middle School, August 2011-June 2015; The Reach Partnership School, August 2010- June 2011; Chinquapin Middle School, March 1999- June 2010
Views and goals: Darrell Moore is a committed SPED Paraeducator with 26 years of service in Baltimore City Public Schools. A proud graduate of Northern High School, he began his career shortly after graduation working at various schools. Darrell has been a consistent advocate for students, parents, and staff, organized fundraisers, directed various choirs and fashion shows including Dunbar Models Inc., and supported under-resourced programs. He has united communities to ensure students have full access to enriching experiences. His advocacy extends to school board, town hall and community meetings, where he's addressed educational inequities and fought for stronger support for union members. He currently serves on leadership teams including the PSRP Chapter Executive Board and School Family Council. If elected as PSRP Chair of the Executive Board, Darrell is committed to advocating transparency, unifying and strengthening the PSRP chapter, and continuing to fight for better wages and working conditions for members.

Candidates for PSRP Vice-Chair

Arshay Bacon

Worksite location: 217 Belmont Elementary School
Educational background: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Employment history: BCPSS 2005 - Present
Views and goals: Arshay Bacon was born in Baltimore and earned her Bachelor of Science from Coppin State College. She began her journey with Baltimore City Public Schools in 2005 as a Pre-K Paraeducator at Belmont Elementary, where she continues to serve with dedication. At Belmont, she holds dual leadership roles as the PSRP Building Representative and School Family Council (SFC) Chair. A proud and active member of the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU) for over 20 years, Arshay was elected Chair of the PSRP Committee for two years and served two terms (six years) as the PSRP Elementary Vice President on the BTU Executive Board. She is known for her strong advocacy for members and community engagement. Arshay's leadership continues to make a meaningful impact at both the school and union levels. She hopes to bring her passion and experience to a new role on the Executive Board as PSRP Vice Chair.

Lisa Ross

Worksite location: North Ave
Educational background:BA, Business Administration
Employment history: I have proudly served Baltimore City Public Schools since 2003, beginning my career as a Technical Support Person (TSP) assisting the IEP Chair. In this role, I was responsible for organizing, scheduling, and managing confidential special education records and data to ensure compliance with both a court-ordered Consent Decree and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) regulations.
In 2005, I transitioned to the role of Data Staff Associate within the Area Office. There, I worked directly with IEP Chairs and Principals across 28 schools, conducting pre-audits of special education records and ensuring all student folders contained accurate and complete documentation aligned with digital records.
The following year, I joined the District Office as a Staff Associate in Special Education, where I coordinated the hiring of 1:1 aide for the entire special education student population. This position required careful vetting of agencies and thoughtful matching of aides to students based on individual needs, along with support for transportation logistics and re-engagement following suspensions.
Since 2017, I have served as a Prevention Plan Staff Specialist within the Office of Related Services. My current responsibilities include assigning assessments and services, and analyzing data related to the delivery of special education supports. Over the course of my 22 years, my responsibilities and expertise have grown significantly, refining my skills in communication, organization, problem-solving, and leadership.
Views and goals: As a proud graduate of Baltimore City Schools, I am deeply honored to give back to the community that shaped me. I believe in the transformative power of a quality education, and I am living proof of its impact. I fondly recall the dedicated teachers and administrators who helped guide me—some of the best this school system has ever had.
As PSRP Chapter Vice Chair of the Baltimore Teachers Union, I will advocate for fair wages,

professional development, and a stronger voice for paraeducators. I am committed to fostering respect, equity, and unity among educators and staff. My goal is to ensure our vital role in education is recognized, valued, and supported. I will work to improve communication, amplify member concerns, and push for policies that uplift our profession.

Candidates for PSRP Secretary

Martise Brown

Worksite location: North Ave
Educational background: Studied Teacher Education at Towson University and Business Administration at Morgan State University
Employment history: Mr. Brown has worked with Baltimore City Public Schools for the last 16 years holding various positions throughout the district. Positions include Temporary Support Professional III, Secretary, Assistant Business Manager, Staff Associate, and now Staff Specialist. Mr. Brown also served as Co-Director of Hip Hop Congress-Baltimore and briefly served as tournament support staff with the Baltimore Urban Debate League.
Views and goals: UNION STRONG! Carrying over from last term, if elected, I would continue to strive for a more perfect union by participating in events and displaying concerns from members to the forefront. I always believe that we can work together to achieve the dream of a near perfect working environment.

Tekela Callens

Worksite location: 86 Lakewood Elementary School
Educational background: GED/Bachelors Degree Business Admin (in progress)
Employment history: 2015-2021 Muscogee County School District
Views and goals: Tekela Callens was born and partially raised in the historic city of Selma, Alabama. Her greatest joys include reading, traveling, and spending quality time with her family. In 2021, she relocated to Baltimore to begin a new chapter with her family and joined Baltimore City Public Schools as a PSRP in 2022. She currently serves as the school secretary at Lakewood Elementary School, where she is known for her commitment to service, support, and growth. Tekela brings valuable insight into the daily challenges members face and is deeply dedicated to uplifting her peers. She is pursuing a degree in Business Administration, showing her drive for continuous personal and professional development. Now running for PSRP Secretary of the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board, Tekela is focused on ensuring that PSRPs are heard, respected, represented with integrity and strengthen the connection between union leadership and its members.

Candidates for PSRP Treasurer

LTanya Brooks

Worksite location: 405 Patterson High
Educational background: Some College
Employment history: 19 years
Views and goals: If I'm selected as Treasurer for the PSRP Chapter, my goal is to bring clarity, transparency, and care to how our chapter's finances are managed. I believe in leading with integrity, being organized and accessible, and keeping our members informed and confident about how funds are handled and why.
By my last day in this role, I want folks to say that I served with heart and purpose—that I was a good listener, a strong communicator, and someone who followed through. I want to help build systems that make things easier and clearer for our members. Most of all, I want our members to feel seen, supported, and proud to be part of a chapter that works hard to protect and uplift everyone. I'm here for the people—and I'm ready to serve.

Kevin Medley

Worksite location: 15 Stadium School
Educational background: AA & BA Biblical Studies in Theology, Certified Medicine Aide, Certified Dialysis RU Tech.
Employment history: 07/2007 to Present, Baltimore City Public Schools, 12/1999 to 07/2007, Baltimore City Edison Schools,05/1997 to 12/1999, DaVita Dialysis, The capacities in which I have served while in the school system are:Administrative Support, Attendance Monitor Technology Coordinator & Instructor, Asst. Re-engagement Lead, CCR Instructor, Behavior Specialist, Resource Teacher, TSP, Grade Level Team Lead, Long Term Substitute. Positions held and performed outside of the district: Finance and Budget Team, Operations Director, Hospitality Coordinator, Contract and Proposal Assessor, and Business Manager.
Views and goals: As Treasurer, a major goal for me is to be transparent and to display integrity to and for our members would be a priority along with analyzing and budgeting the use of funds. Helping to build our membership and inspire the participation of our members is important to me. Properly allocating funds from dues to be sanctioned for training, development, and conferences to help members become more knowledgeable in Human & Civil Rights, union practices, which help build us locally and nationally. I believe that this will build and create a more positive and cohesive atmosphere.

I previously served on the Executive Board for 6 years, during which my impact in representing our members at conferences, meetings, and rallies was appreciated and respected. I have always stood by being supportive of what best benefits our members, students, and schools. Again, I shall and will stand for the same if elected.

Candidates for PSRP Elementary Vice Presidents

Emmanuel Barnes

Worksite location: 248 Sinclair Lane Elementary School
Educational background: High School Diploma; AAS Degree in (ECE); Certification Culinary Arts: Pro Start Test 1&2; Child Care Directors Certificate ECE Field; Child Development Preschool Modules Certificate; Special Education Assistant Certificate; Para-Educator/Para-Pro Test ; 90-Hour Child Care Certificate ; 45-Hour Infant/Toddler Childcare Care Certificate; Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program (I am Credentialed Level 6); University of Maryland School of Medicine Training for Social, Emotional and Behavioral Intervention Practices I
Employment history: 1.Baltimore City Public Schools (Paraeducator, Pre-k, & SPED) 2.ASALA after school program (Paraeducator) 3.Kennedey Kreiger Institute Child (Child development Teacher) 4.The Regeneration Project (TAS, TBA, Bus aide, and a long-term sub 5.Enoch Pratt Free Library (Office Assistant II) 6.Camp St. Vincent Depaul (Summer Camp 2nd grade Lead) 7.Burlington coat factory (Sales Associate) 8.The Sonesta Hotel (Chef) 9.Hilton Hotel (Chef/Banquet Server) 10.It's Sugar (A Candy Store Downtown Baltimore) (Sales Associate) 11.M & T Bank (Chef) 12. Parks and Recreations company (After school aide/Academic Tutor) 13.University of Maryland Medical Center-Kernan Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center Baltimore, Maryland (Administrative Assistant)
Views and goals: My name is Emmanuel Barnes, and I am truly honored to be a candidate for PSRP Vice President on the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board. With over 16 years of experience working with children across multiple educational settings, I bring a deep commitment to our schools, our students, and—most importantly—our PSRP members.
Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of working with students from Pre-K through 12th grade. This journey has molded me into a well-rounded educator, equipped with a strong foundation in scaffolding instruction, behavior management, social-emotional learning (SEL), small group facilitation, and data collection. These skills not only help me support my students, but they also allow me to better support my colleagues through teamwork and collaboration.
Currently, I am proudly serving at Sinclair Lane Elementary School #248, where I've been a committed staff member for the past five years. My diverse background—including roles as an administrative assistant

Eryn Brown

Worksite location: 61 Dorothy I. Height Elementary School
Educational background: Eastern Gateway Community College (AA in Early Childhood Education); University of Phoenix (BS in Early Childhood Education)
Employment history: Baltimore City Public School (18 years)
Views and goals: I want to be a source of information and voice for the PSRP Chapter. I want to improve communication channels within the chapter. Having meaningful workshops, trainings and conferences to enhance the skills and the knowledge of our PSRP staff. Advocate for practices and polices to promote a safe and healthy working environment for PSRD staff. Promote a culture of respect and recognition for PSRP staff, highlighting their essential role in supporting students and schools.

Sophia Carroll

Worksite location: 225 Westport Academy
Educational background: Sophia is currently studying Interdisciplinary Educational Studies at Morgan State University and holds a Medical Assistant certificate.
Employment history: Her commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments led her to serve as a Special Ed Para Educator at numerous schools including Samuel F.B. Morse, Alexander Hamiliton, Calverton, Bluford Drew Jemison, ACCE, Joseph C. Briscoe, and Westport Academy.
Views and goals: If elected Elementary Vice President, Sophia aims to advocate for the dignity and respect of all union members while substantially enhancing professional development opportunities for paraprofessionals. She will advocate for equipping paraprofessionals with the competencies required to adeptly meet varied needs of our students. Her objective is to establish paraprofessionals as vital collaborators, cultivating a more supportive and effective educational atmosphere for all students in our elementary schools.

Takiyah Dingle

Worksite location: 164 Arundel Elementary School
Educational background: B.S. in Sociology
Employment history: I have been School Secretary with Baltimore City Public Schools for over 14.5 years. I have served several years as a PSRP Building Rep and have been actively engaged with the BTU for about 8 years. In the past 3 years, I have served as a mentor/workshop leader for the

New Hires Secretary Academy with the belief that we must lift each other up if we are to be successful in the jobs we take on.
Views and goals: I believe in:
-The Power in Negotiations. We have won unprecedented victories and I wish to continue that success. I want to be a part of a fighting union, that fearlessly goes after solutions to the needs of its members.
- Union Management. We returned the union to financial stability by reversing historically high budget deficits through cutting expenses & raising record high membership enrollments.
Members ARE the Union! We fought for & won online voting ballots for BTU elections that will allow for greater member access and participation.
-A Union that is Transparent. From updates on negotiations & union finances to providing Executive Board minutes and by starting the private BTU FB account, we have worked to ensure members are informed.
Our goals are to increase engagement among BTU members to ensure a truly member-run union that maximizes incentives & transparency and overcomes any adversities or threats to public education.

Doleen Holley

Worksite location: 242 Northwood Elementary School
Educational background: Mrs. Doleen Holley with 30+ years of service in the Baltimore City Public School System working as a self contained 5th. Grade Teacher, TAS and Life Skills implementing Individualized Education Plans. One of my special qualities is I am great at modifying the general education lesson plans to meet each student's needs and abilities. These needs may include, but not limited to emotional, physical or cognitive disabilities, teaching basic literacy and life skills. I have an interest in this field because I feel that with the proper help and assistant; students make positive changes in their academic and social life.
Undergraduate in Special Education ; Coppin State University - Baltimore, MD Fall 2005 to Spring 2011
Elementary Education; Baltimore City Community College - Liberty September 1982 - June 1986
Employment history: Special Education Para Educator, Baltimore City Public Schools - Baltimore, MD 1994 - present implementation of Individual education plans for special needs children planning and delivery of instruction. ESY 1994 - present extended school year nonverbal instruction. 1994 - 2009 Giant Food customer service clerk.
Academic Mentor
Parks and People SuperKids Camp - Baltimore, MD, June 2016 - present Academic Mentor supports the instructional staff by providing guidance, advice, feedback, support administering and scoring Diagnostic Assessment Pre and Post.
Computer Depart Head Bethel Camps - Baltimore, MD, August 1995 to August 2012
American Camp Association Chesapeake Section Service Award November 7, 2004.
BTU/Aft Maryland Delegate - present
AFT Maryland Executive Board Vice President -present.
Views and goals:As an PSRP elementary chapter vice president, my views would focus on creating a positive and inclusive school environment, fostering student engagement through fun activities, promoting healthy habits, and ensuring everyone feels heard and valued, while my goals would include organizing school-wide events, leading initiatives to address student concerns, and collaborating with staff members to enhance the learning experience. Helping to create a positive and supportive environment for staff to work within. Fostering a collaborative leadership style where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute.

Tamika Peters

Worksite location: 64 Liberty Elementary School
Educational background: BS Liberal Arts from Morgan State University
Masters of Education - Curriculum and Instruction for the Inclusive Classroom from Concordia-Portland
Employment history: I have worked for BCPSS since 2005 as a long term substitute teacher. Hired as a paraprofessional and worked in this capacity for 10 years.
Enrolled in BCTR 2017 to become an Elementary School teacher. In 2022, became a Staff Associate working with Culture and Climate and also Math Intervention.
I have been at Liberty Elementary School for my entire career. I am also the Building Representative for` over 10 years.
Views and goals: Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel (PSRPs) are the backbone of our schools. We work hard, we care deeply, and we're committed to supporting students, teachers, and our entire school community. Our voices matter—and the best way to make them heard is by standing united, together with teachers and district staff.
After over a decade as a paraprofessional, I've seen firsthand the challenges we face and the critical role we play. I'm running to help bring unity to our chapter and to advocate for the respect, pay, and working conditions PSRPs deserve. Our jobs are rewarding, yes—but fulfillment alone doesn't pay the bills or put food on the table.
It's time we work alongside the teacher chapter to push for fair compensation, improve our workplace, and ensure every student receives the excellent education they deserve. When we come together, our voices are powerful—and change is possible.

Tyshay Samuels

Worksite location: 7 Cecil Elementary School
Educational background: Baltimore City College High School
Employment history: Baltimore City Public Schools-5years
Views and goals: Tyshay Samuels is a new and passionate PSRP running for Elementary Vice President for the Baltimore Teachers Union. She is committed to amplifying the voices of all PSRP members. Tyshay believes it is essential that all members understand the strength and support the union offers to every member of the school community. Tyshay's journey began as a parent leader on the PTO at her child's school. She gained firsthand insight into what it takes to help a school thrive and the critical roles staff play in that success. She started in a temporary position and grew into her current role as a school secretary, a position she has proudly held for the past five years. Her experiences have shaped a deep commitment to advocacy, equity, and visibility. Tyshay believes that one small step, one meeting, or one conversation can uplift a child, empower a family, and inspire a member to be seen and heard.

Tiera Sydnor Jones

Worksite location: 23 Wolfe Street Academy
Educational background: Lake Clifton/Eastern High School and Some College
Employment history: 1994 - Present Baltimore City Public School System
Views and goals: The first action I plan to take as the Union Vice President of Elementary Schools is to be a spokesperson for our deserving educators. I plan to vocalize their need to ensure that they receive the resources, support, and honor they most often deserve, but are often underwhelming. To ensure that our children succeed, the teachers educating them must be empowered to do so. This means that they feel safe when doing so and are in well-equipped classrooms. The next matter I allocate my time to is ameliorating the relationship between our district leaders and educators. This will help to refine the communication between the two and establish a solid team and collaboration. This will inevitably allow me to advocate for reasonable workloads that teachers are tasked with and promote sufficient funds for all schools within the district. I want to highlight and commemorate teachers who embody excellence while supporting and promoting policies for the betterment of educators and students. United, we can establish an impregnable foundation for educational excellence.

Candidates for PSRP Middle School Vice Presidents

Fatima Barnes

Worksite location: 54 Barclay Elementary/Middle School
Educational background: Grand Canyon University BA, Applied Management
Employment history: Baltimore City Public Schools. Has proudly served as a dedicated paraprofessional with Baltimore City Public Schools for 23 years.
Views and goals: Throughout my career, I have supported students and teachers by assisting in classroom instruction, providing one-on-one and small group support, helping with behavior management, and fostering a positive learning environment. Beyond the classroom, every day is an opportunity to encourage students to dream bigger, work harder, and believe in their potential. I strive to help them overcome challenges and develop the skills they need to succeed in life. I am deeply involved in my community and committed to making a meaningful impact. I actively participate in a discipleship class. I seek to grow spiritually and gain more knowledge to better disciple and uplift others. My passion for education, service, and faith continues to guide my work and personal mission.

Renee Lang

Worksite location: 10 James McHenry Elementary/Middle School
Educational background: University of Phoenix Axia College, Psychology, Credits, August 2010 – March 2013
Program System Institute, Computer Programming, Certificate, Sep 1989 - October 1990
Catonsville Community College, Computer Science, Credits, February 1987 - December 1989
Virginia Commonwealth University, Computer Science, Credits, June 1984 - May 1986
Edmondson High School, Baltimore, MD, Data Processing, Diploma, June 1984
Employment history: Secretary Elementary Middle School, Baltimore City Public School – Sep. 2017 – Present
Admin. and Financial Assistant, Integrated Financial Solutions, Inc. Feb 2015–Jun 2016
Admin. Assistant II - TRowe Price, Inc. Apr 2008 – Jan 2014
Admin. Assistant II - CareFirst BCBS, Oct 1996 –Apr 2008
Views and goals: I'm running for PSRP Middle School Vice President to stand up for every member of our PSRP chapter, no matter your job. We are all in this together! I believe everyone should feel valued and respected in their job, because when we feel respected, we can give that same respect to our students. Baltimore has hurt many, and schools should help heal, not hurt. Our schools and workplaces should be places where everyone feels valued because we know we matter. That means better working conditions, a strong

union, and fair pay. I'll work hard to connect people and help create a healing, healthy environment where we can all give our best.

Shanika Johnson

Worksite location: 225 Westport Academy
Educational background: Lake Clifton Eastern High, Pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Social Work/Criminal Justice @ Grand Canyon University
Employment history: BCPSS 2021-Present
Views and goals: Shanika Johnson is a proud and passionate Special Education Paraeducator with over four years of experience serving Pre-K and Kindergarten students in Baltimore City Public Schools. Deeply rooted in the values of her union upbringing, Shanika has committed her career to supporting not only young learners and their families but also her fellow education professionals. She has been an active voice for PSRPs, representing them on numerous committees and ensuring their concerns and ideas are heard at every level. Shanika believes in the power of unity and equity across the board. As a candidate for PSRP Middle School Vice President, her mission is clear: to promote representation, respect, and strength among all PSRP members. Guided by the belief that "Unionism is key," Shanika strives to be "The Heart and Soul for PSRPs" of BTU.

Litarsha Robinson

Worksite location: 51 Waverly Elementary/Middle School
Educational background: 90 hours certificate in Early learning childcare, Para pro praxis
Employment history: Special Ed para educator 17 yrs
Views and goals: My goals and views as a BTU PSRP Chapter Middle School Vice-President is to represent and work closely with the President and the rest of the PSRP membership to hopefully create school events, that represent student interests and promote a positive school culture. I plan to use my experiences to advance the safety and wellbeing of all stakeholders in the Baltimore City Public Schools. I believe in diplomacy and reaching across the aisle while keeping the core values of the BTU membership in the forefront, promoting the best interest of the BTU and enhancing the future of our young scholars.

Candidates for PSRP Senior High School Vice Presidents

Alfred Cotton

Worksite location: 410 Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School
Educational background: High School Diploma, 2 years of College
Employment history: 18 years in BCPSS
Views and goals: I have been working, coaching and mentoring in Baltimore city public schools for 18 years with no regrets. Throughout my years as a Special Ed Paraeducator I have seen as well as experienced the highs and lows of the BTU. It is my desire to advocate for BTU members and assure them that I will work to improve better Education opportunities, better wages, better benefits as well as professional development so that we serve the students of Baltimore. Lastly, as High School Vice-President, I will support The Chair and Vice Chair of my Chapter in meeting the needs of BTU Members.

Antoinette Johnson

Worksite location: 419 Reginald F. Lewis High School
Educational background: Associate Degree
Employment history: 20 years with the Baltimore Public School System and 10 years working as a Peer Group Mentor
Views and goals: If I am elected to be the Vice President for High School. My goal would be to ensure equality for the PRSP chapter by advocating fair pay, working conditions and job advancement opportunities. My goal is to bring to this position a level of quality, excellence and high performance that offers valuable information to many of my colleagues which has benefited them in a multiplicity of ways including understanding job requirements, knowing who contact people are for various union matters.

Juanita Ware

Worksite location: 341 Reach! Partnership School
Educational background: Diploma. I am a product of the Baltimore City Public Schools System. I attended the Fannie L. Barbour Elementary School, then the Harlem Park Middle School and finally the South Western High School where I pursued a study in Early Childhood and graduated in 1977. I then enrolled at the Community College of Baltimore (Harbor Campus) where I pursued my higher education earning a two-year certificate. Because of unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to complete my studies, however I am still contemplating the idea of completing my studies in Early Childhood soon.
Employment history: BCPS-24 years. I was a volunteer at the Diggs Johnson Middle School from 1995-1998, then I earned a position of a Classroom Assistant with the Baltimore City Public School System from 1998 till 2012 at the Diggs Johnson Middle School. In 2012, as the Diggs Johnson Middle School was closing, I was transferred to the REACH! Partnership High School as an attendance monitor. However, in 2013, I was assigned to the Special Education Department as the Technical

Support Person, (TSP) a position I currently hold at the REACH! Partnership High School.
Views and goals: Hello! My name is Juanita Ware and I am honored to be nominated for the position of Senior High School Vice President. As a dedicated member of the BTU and the school community, I believe in fostering a positive, inclusive and supportive environment where all stakeholders feel appreciated and valued. If I were to be elected to the position of Senior High School Vice President, I will continue to effectively communicate all relevant information gathered from meetings and other pertinent sources to my peers, our students and the community in a timely manner.

Arvis Wood

Worksite location: 414 Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Educational background: Some College
Employment history: 16 + Years Baltimore City Public Schools
Views and goals: I would like to encourage better conditions for all school staff.

Candidates for PSRP Special Services Vice Presidents

Andrea Harrell (Fox)

Worksite location: North Ave
Educational background: Andrea Harrell(Fox) received a BA in Education from Morgan State University in 1996. She received her Masters degree in Reading and Curriculum from Concordia University, Portland in 2016.
Employment history: Andrea Harrell has worked for Baltimore City Public Schools for 29 year. Her previous assignments were Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School and William Paca Elementary. Currently, she is Grants Specialist, and assist in managing Title I and CSI funds awarded to schools. As a strategic partner, she helps determine how grants can assist in providing extra resources and support to improve academic outcomes for students.
Views and goals: As the PSRP vice president of specialized services Andrea Harrell (Fox)'s goal is to advocate for the rights and well-being of educators and students alike. Her goal is to support fair working conditions, equitable policies, and professional development opportunities for all staff. Further, she aims to serve as a strong voice for members, ensuring concerns are heard and addressed. By fostering collaboration between administration and union members, she will help build a positive, inclusive educational environment. Ultimately, her motivation lies in making a meaningful impact within the education system and empowering others through leadership and advocacy.

Larry Gaines

Worksite location: 15 Stadium School
Educational background: Live long learning
Employment history: Baltimore city public schools 27 years
Views and goals: Having worked as an advocate all of my life in the community and school system for many causes, At this point in time my focus in on this current federal administration setting us back to some unbelievable times. This calls for team members to work together whether on the picket lines or at the various community Protest and demonstrations. I'm up for standing up for our Brothers and Sisters in solidarity 👍

Malcomia Henson

Worksite location: 105 Moravia Park Elementary School
Educational background: Associate in Arts degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education
Employment history: Baltimore City Schools from 1997 to Present
Views and goals: Malcomia R. Henson is a passionate Special Education Paraeducator with 28 years of service in Baltimore City Public Schools. Her experience working in Elementary, Middle, and High school settings, giving her a well-rounded perspective on student needs and educational support. Malcomia believes that all students can learn when met where they are, and she brings compassion and commitment to every classroom she enters. One of her simple yet powerful passions is offering hugs, high fives and powerful affirmations—small gestures that make big differences for both students and colleagues. She holds an Associate of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. Malcomia believes that if elected as Special Services Vice President to the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board, she will ensure every voice is heard and represent members with fairness, empathy, and a genuine commitment to their concerns. Her dedication to education and advocacy continues to inspire those around her.

Monique Norris

Worksite location: 86 Lakewood Elementary School
Educational background: Diploma - Walbrook High School; BS - Morgan State University; MSW - Howard University.
Employment history: BCPSS: April 2018 - Present
Views and goals: Monique Norris was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She joined Baltimore City Public Schools as a PSRP in 2018. She currently serves as the Community School Site

Specialist at Lakewood Elementary School, where she is known for her commitment to service and supporting/uplifting her colleagues and peers. Monique has been passionate about helping others since she was a child, so she studied human services in college. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Morgan State University and a Master of Social Work degree from Howard University. Her strengths are coordinating services for families, engaging in the community and building partnerships. Monique enjoys spending time with her family and friends, crafting, reading and traveling. Now running for PSRP Special Services VP of the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board, Monique is focused on ensuring that PSRPs are represented with integrity, respected and heard, strengthening the connection between union leadership and its members.

Isa Winder

Worksite location: North Ave
Educational background: Associates
Employment history: I've been working with BCPS for 13 years
Views and goals: I believe that every member of our union--regardless of their role--plays a vital part in the success of our schools and the well-being of our students. Whether you're a paraprofessional, a behavioral aide, bus driver or work at Headquarters your voice matters. I believe that every PSRP member deserves a strong voice at the table. Our work is essential to the success of our schools--and it's time that our roles are recognized and fully supported.

Candidates for PSRP Vocational Education Vice President

Karen Jones-Irby

Worksite location:405 Patterson High School
Educational background: I hold a high school diploma from Edmondson High School, a CNA certificate, a GNA certification from BCCC obtained after passing the Maryland State Board exam, and a certificate for completing a program at Strayer Business College, which includes Lotus 1-2-3 certifications.
Employment history: My professional background includes more than 24 and a half years with Baltimore City Public Schools, 20 years with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, and 3 years with Amazon.
Views and goals: As a candidate, I will continue to support President Brown's initiatives to enhance our union. My 24.5 years of service as a para have demonstrated to me President Brown's and her team's commitment to our well-being. I aim to extend this positive experience to all PSRPs, as improved working conditions are essential. If elected Vice President of Vocational Education, I will prioritize securing appropriate salary increases, benefits, substitute pay, and stipends. My commitment includes representing PSRPs, addressing their concerns, and fostering collaboration.

Kenise Pendleton

Worksite location: 454 Carver Vocational-Technical High School
Educational background: She holds a B.S. from Coppin State University and is pursuing her M.Ed. in School Counseling at Liberty University.
Employment history: CEIS Literacy Grant 2013–2015; Receptionist to the CEO, 2016; Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Schools 2017–2022; Staff Specialist Pregnant and Parenting Student Support 2022/2023 SY; Staff Associate Vivian T Thomas Medical Arts Academy 2023/2024 SY; Staff Associate (Reengagement), Carver Vocational Technical High School 2024/2025 SY
Views and goals: Kenise E. Pendleton is a compassionate and driven education professional currently serving as a Re-engagement Specialist at Carver Vocational-Technical High School. With over eight years of experience in Baltimore City Public Schools, she is committed to supporting students facing barriers to academic success, particularly through chronic absenteeism interventions, student wellness initiatives, and strong community partnerships.
Kenise has held diverse roles, including Staff Associate at Vivian T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy and Staff Specialist for pregnant and parenting student support. Her experience also includes administrative leadership as an Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Schools, where she supported executive operations and strategic planning. Kenise is recognized for her ability to connect with students and other education professionals, organize impactful programs, and lead with empathy and excellence.

Candidates for PSRP Members-At-Large

Ivan Brown

Worksite location: 248 Sinclair Lane Elementary School
Educational background: High School diploma
Employment history: Baltimore City Public School (Oct 2005-current)
Views and goals: I have been a para for a long time now. I often look at and question why we PSRP's are overlooked when it comes to the value and education of our children. I have been in and out of the classroom and I feel that we do not get the

credit that is due to us. My goals would be to ensure the success of all the students as well as my team. To get our voices heard so that we can make an impact for our students and the PSRP's to come.

Theresa Hutchinson

Worksite Location: North Ave
Educational background: Wilberforce University (Bachelor of Science in Accounting)
Employment history: 2021- Present-Baltimore City Public Schools; Specialist-Accounting; 2013- 2015 Associated Catholic Charities- Staff Accountant, 12/2011- 2013 Associated Black Charities- Staff Accountant, 2011-Present Overlea-Fullerton Recreational Council; Audit & Budget Officer/ Director of Youth Programs
Views and goals: If elected to this position, my primary goal would be to create a safe, inclusive space for PSRP Chapter employees. I aim to be a reliable source of information and support for this group, while also serving as a strong voice for those who feel unheard or overlooked. I believe in fostering open communication, mutual respect, and advocacy that truly represents the needs of our members.

Erica Ligon

Worksite location:61 Dorothy I. Height Elementary School
Educational background: Some College
Employment history: BCPSS for 23 years
Views and goals: ization. I would attend and represent the educational staff by taking information back to the membership, as well as contributing to the decision-making process in order to finalize a task. I would be willing to serve also as a liaison between membership and the Board of directors by gaining input, providing feedback, and becoming the spokesperson for the educators. I feel my position would also be to oversee any task for focus groups who will collaborate on issues. Sitting on other committees when asked would be paramount for me. My goal would be to ensure that the board of directors follows budget votes, reviews, status, and progress, and transport reports back to the executive committee for oversight. In addition, I would be willing to assist in the areas where other duties are required that are within the parameters of this position.

Victoria Lyons

Worksite location: 37 Harford Heights Elementary School
Educational background: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems from Sojourner-Douglass College and a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.
Employment history: 24 years to Baltimore City Public Schools. Began as a second-grade teacher at Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School. Currently a PSRP Staff Associate working at Harford Heights Elementary an Attendance Coordinator
Views and goals: Victoria Lyons has dedicated over 24 years to Baltimore City Public Schools. She began her career as a second-grade teacher at Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School. She is currently a PSRP Staff Associate working at Harford Heights Elementary as an Attendance Coordinator. She integrates technology district-wide. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Systems from Sojourner-Douglass College and a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. For over 20 years, Mrs. Lyons has been an active member of the Baltimore Teachers Union and a proud Building Rep. She has written numerous technology grants and secured a $1 million STEM grant from Morgan State University. Lyons is a key contributor to the B3 project and has advocated for education reform at the state level, including lobbying for the Kirwan Act in Annapolis. If re-elected PSRP Member-at-Large, she'll continue advocating and strengthening the union.

Quintin Nore, Jr.

Worksite location: 225 Westport Academy
Educational background: Morgan State University; Grand Canyon University
Employment history: Current position-Staff Associate for Business Operations and Attendance Past Positions-Paraeducator; Math Intervention and Computer Science Contractor; Therapeutic Behavioral Aide
Views and goals: Quintin Nore Jr. has proudly served Baltimore City Public Schools for the past nine years as a dedicated Paraeducator and Staff Associate. He believes in the power of collaboration between all stakeholders to find common ground and create meaningful change. His vision centers on supporting both students and staff to ensure academic success and professional growth. For students, Quintin advocates for equitable resources and tailored, holistic learning experiences that prepare every scholar for college, career, and life. For staff, he emphasizes the importance of professional development, including initiatives like the paraeducator-to-teacher pipeline, to support advancement and improve work-life balance. Quintin is committed to building strong, inclusive schools where the needs of both scholars and educators are prioritized. As a candidate for Paraeducator Member-at-Large on the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board, he aims to continue advocating for progress, unity, and opportunities that elevate the entire school community.

Sheryl Shelton

Worksite location: 419 Reginald F. Lewis High School
Educational background: Three years of college. Major-psychology, Minor-social work
Employment history: Employed with Baltimore City Schools for three years, the last two years as a paraprofessional working in secondary education.
Views and goals: As a Member-At-Large, I will be the voice for paraprofessionals. I will focus on providing support for the Executive Board and act as the liaison between the members and the Executive Board. I will perform duties as assigned by the Executive Board members and the President. I will support the vision, mission and goals of the Executive Board and President.

Ty Summerville

Worksite location: 83 William Paca Elementary School
Educational background: Albright College & Walden University
Employment history: I have over ten years of experience working with students across a wide range of educational settings, from kindergarten through college. My background includes supporting both general education and special education populations, allowing me to develop a versatile and compassionate approach to teaching and student support. Throughout my career, I've worked closely with diverse learners, including those with individualized education plans (IEPs), learning differences, and a variety of academic and behavioral needs. My experience spans classroom assistance, one-on-one support, small group instruction, and collaboration with educators, therapists, and families to foster student growth and success.
Views and goals: If elected to PSRP Member at Large, I would be dedicated to advocating for the needs and voices of paraprofessionals and school-related personnel. I would strive to build stronger communication between members and leadership, ensure that concerns from all school levels are heard and addressed, and promote equitable working conditions for all staff.

Koli Tengella

Worksite location: 66 Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School
Educational background: I have been an institutional paraeducator with Baltimore City Public Schools for over 20 years. The majority of this time has been in the role of a theatre/performing arts teacher. I teach theater from a trauma-informed healing centered perspective with a strong reading and writing support element. I have an Associate of Arts Degree and currently working on a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education to transition to full teacher. I'm an advocate of and have studied conflict resolution, restorative practices and virtues strategies being used as the foundation of everyday school culture for interacting with students, staff, families and community members. This means addressing conflicts constructively and repairing harm rather than simply punishing or ignoring conflicts. This approach emphasizes dialogue, empathy, and finding mutually agreeable solutions.
Employment history: Have worked with Baltimore City Public Schools for over 20 years
Views and goals: My goal is to help the Baltimore City Teachers Union develop a more holistic student education process that focuses on the entire development of a student, encompassing their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being, in addition to academic achievement and success of all students.