



A Union of Education, Technical Support, Charter School and Education Support Professionals

## Internal Elections 2010

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# Executive Board & Convention Delegate Biographies

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### Candidates for Executive Board

(Listed in alphabetical order)

**Michael E. Altschuler**  
Piper High / Social Science

**Number of years in the BTU:** 20

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, National Education Association, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board Member (6 years), Union representative for Professional Staff Contract Negotiations Committee, Union representative for the Superintendent's Code and Conduct Committee, Union representative for the Superintendent's High School Reform Committee

**Platform statement:** I have been serving on the Executive Board for the last six years and want to continue to work for all members. Today we find ourselves in a unique situation with budget cuts affecting the classroom. We need to work together as a united front to improve working conditions.

**Oliver B. Bythewood**  
Riverglades Elementary / Speech and Language Pathologist

**Number of years in the BTU:** 17

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, National Education Association, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Internal Elections Co-Chairperson, Florida Education Association Governance Board Member, Data Collection and Review Committee Member, BTU Contract Negotiations Team Member

**Platform statement:** My proven leadership has illustrated sound decision-making, team player and impeccable character. Being a part of our diversified union, fighting for the rights of our members in these troubled times is an honor and privilege.

**Adam Cohen**  
South Broward High / Social Studies

**Number of years in the BTU:** 6

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Florida Education Association, COPE-TIGER

**Union experience (including offices held):** New Educator Committee, COPE-TIGER Committee, Representing BTU at District Attendance Committee

**Platform statement:** I seek election because our growing union needs strong leaders like myself who are willing to take a stand for our members. I will continue to be a dedicated, thoughtful and intelligent force for progress. We face many challenges, and I ask for your vote allowing me to represent you.

**Norma Guardarramas**  
**Sheridan Technical Center / Cosmetology**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 26

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, FEA Governance Board and Cosmetology Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** I have been a BTU member since 1984. I have been a Steward for 14 years. I have been a delegate for the American Federation of Teachers and the Florida Education Association. I am also a member of the Data Collection Review Committee.

**Platform statement:** I have been teaching in Broward schools since 1981 and have been a union member since 1984. I have been an Executive Board member for six years and on the FEA Governance Board for five years. My goal is to continue representing Adult Education in every aspect.

**Caryl M. Hattan**  
**Whispering Pines Center / ESE Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 23

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, AFL-CIO, National Education Association, Council for Exceptional Children

**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board member, BTU steward, BTU Futures Committee, BTU COPE-TIGER chair, BTU Rep to district advisory, district bullying committee and FCAT committee, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Rep, BTU-ESE Committee co-chair, lobby in Tallahassee before House committees, worked on several political campaigns

**Platform statement:** The members are the union, and I would be honored to continue to serve your needs. I will continue to fight bad legislation that would strip us of our benefits and rights. To be fiscally responsible, promote being treated as professionals, and to represent you with integrity, sincerity and solidarity.

**Sandy Lobel-Witlen**  
**Coral Springs Elementary / Kindergarten Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** University of Delaware (Alumni Coordinator & Admissions Representative); Democratic Executive Committee (elected position); SAC & SAF (MSD HS); City of Coral Springs - appointed member of the Youth & Family Committee; Coral Springs Center for the Arts - usher; Yad Vashem - testimonial writer; Graduate: City of Coral Springs Government Leadership Training

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward; Faculty Council member; COPE-TIGER; ER&D (graduate & trainer); Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (door to door organizing committee); Campaign worker (AFT - Texas & Philadelphia); Campaign worker (BTU-GOTV); Convention Delegate - QUEST (invited guest & presenter); Convention delegate: AFT 2008 & 2009, NEA 2008 & 2009, FEA 2007, 2008 & 2009; Make Schools a priority rally (Orlando), School Board rally (11/2009); Perfect attendance all Union meetings

**Platform statement:** With my leadership and organizational qualities and varied successful experiences, my goal is to become a valued member of the BTU E-Board, assisting and coordinating union activities. I will continue to recruit new members and to address the issues and concerns of our members!

**Vincent C. Newman**  
**Driftwood Middle / Science**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** AFT-NEA Merger Committee, NEA Democratic Association, City of Hollywood Crime Watch Committee, Precinct Committee Chairperson

**Union experience (including offices held):** Member and Chair of the Broward School District Code of Conduct Committee

**Platform statement:** As in the past, I will represent BTU members. I will use my experience as a Doctoral student in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, my experience with labor law firms, my steward experience, my Representative Delegate experience and my Chair of the Code of Conduct Committee experience to negotiate for members.

## **Susan Pignato**

**Forest Hills Elementary / Elementary Education**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 21

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, International Reading Association, National Council Teachers of Mathematics, V.P. of Coral Springs/Parkland Democratic Club

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Executive Board, Master Steward, AFL-CIO Delegate, Sick Leave Bank, SBBC Anti-Bullying Committee, Lobbying in Tallahassee, BTU Internal Budget Review Committee, Co-Chair BTU Scholarship Committee, BTU COPE-TIGER Executive Board, Delegate to AFT Convention, Delegate to FEA Convention

**Platform statement:** Representing the membership and acting as their voice has been my primary concern during my tenure on the Executive Board. As your representative, I've worked to contain operating costs and keep membership dues as low as possible, and have kept an open dialogue with our elected officials regarding educational issues.

## **Nicole L. Singleton**

**Boulevard Heights Elementary / 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 9

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** July 2007-present, BTU Executive Board Member; August 2007-May 2008, Designated Steward; December 2009-present, Steward; August 2007-present, TDIF committee member; August 2008-present, Student Code of Conduct committee member

**Platform statement:** As an Executive Board member for the past three years, I've held my duties in the highest esteem. Along with the other candidates on the Diversified Slate, I'll continue to ensure our union remains focused on members' rights, being a strong voice at the negotiations table, and staying financially sound.

## **Debra Theaman**

**Silver Shores Elementary / ESE Specialized Preschool Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 8

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, Democratic Executive Committee, and the American Federation of Teachers

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward, SAC Committee, ER&D (Graduate and Trainer), AFT Convention Delegate, FEA Convention Delegate, NEA Convention Delegate, Campaign Worker (AFT- Pittsburgh), and Delegate for Broward Days in Tallahassee.

**Platform statement:** I want to serve on the Executive Board because having served the BTU for years, I understand the need for all issues of all members to be heard. I believe that "same old" "same old" can only bring "same old" results. I am passionate, informed and committed to being your voice.

**Cynthia Turni**  
**Cooper City High School / French & Spanish**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 10

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Broward Teachers Union, BTU COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, Modern Language Association, Democratic Executive Committee, Davie-Cooper City Democratic Club

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward, Designated Steward Cooper City High School, Faculty Council Chair, SAC Committee

**Platform statement:** Time for a change: We need to elect candidates with new ideas, new approaches and new solutions for negotiating salaries, insurance and retirement benefits. Eliminate Slating so that independent, innovative voices are elected to the Board. Candidates should run on their own strength and merits.

**Jack Weber**  
**Bair Middle / Language Arts**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 6

**Professional organizations:** ACTE

**Union experience (including offices held):** Designated Union Steward

**Platform statement:** A quote normally attributed to Jimi Hendrix goes as follows, "When the power of love replaces the love of power, then the world will know peace." Our Congress (state/federal) has forgotten why they were elected. My desire is to advance justice, fairness, and equity for all people.

## **Candidates for Convention Delegates**

(Listed in alphabetical order)

**Nancy Adams**  
**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Retiree**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 15

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union Retirees, Broward County Retired Educators Association, Broward County Genealogical Society, District Advisory Board, State of Florida Retirees, Florida Education Association, National Education Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** Union membership since the BTU won. Broward County Vice President of BTU Retirees, District Director of State Advisory, Board for Retirees Leadership training at AFT in Washington, DC.

**Jeanne Albertus**  
**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**Piper High / ESE**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 19

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Executive Board, Futures Committee, Internal Election Co-chair, FEA Elections and Credentials Committee

**Ernestine Alleyne**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Broward Teachers Union / Vice President - ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 1 year since merger; 6 years with Broward ParaProfessionals Association

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers Program Policy Council, Florida Education Association Program Policy Council, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, AFL-CIO, Broward Education Coalition

**Union experience (including offices held):** School Advisory Council Park Lakes Elementary, BPPA workshop facilitator, BPPA Steward/Vice President, BPPA Membership Chairman, BPPA Interim President, BPPA President, Vice President BTU-ESP, American Federation of Teachers Workshop Facilitator, BTU Presenter, Florida Education Association Organizer, Florida Education Association Governance Board, Broward School Board Committees, BTU-ESP Professional Development Chair

**Virginia M. Andersen**

**FEA, NEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Silver Ridge Elementary / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 3

**Professional organizations:** None listed

**Union experience (including offices held):** Picketed November, 2010 at K.C. Wright Bldg; Attended January Union Meeting

**Suzanne Atkin**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**AC Perry Elementary / Gifted/High Achievers 4th Grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 5

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, Democratic Party

**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board Member; Master Steward; Designated Steward; Faculty Council President; SAC Committee; Activist for Teachers' rights and Charter Schools; American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association & National Education Association Convention Delegate; Special Assignment from AFT for Hillary Clinton Campaign in San Antonio; ER&D Graduate and Trainer; and Election Campaigner.

**Mable T. Bailey**

**FEA, NEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Blanche Ely High / Biology**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 14

**Professional organizations:** Habitat Steward for the Wildfire Federation, National Science Teacher Association, BTU Steward

**Union experience (including offices held):** Two years as a steward.

**Michael Bailey**

**FEA & NEA convention delegate candidate**  
**South Plantation High / Math**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** Palm Beach Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2007-2008

**Union experience (including offices held):** Steward - Western High School 2008-2009

**Martha Bengoa**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Westglades Middle / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 1 year since merger; 3 years with Broward ParaProfessionals Association

**Professional organizations:** AFL-CIO, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Broward Teachers Union

**Union experience (including offices held):** FL-ESP Steward, AFT-MSS, AFT-PSRP, Conferences CPR-AED and First Aid - Train the Trainer

**Vivian Berner Silbiger**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Retired**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 34

**Professional organizations:** Board member of Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, Alliance for Retired Americans, Member of the AFT retirement committee, Member of FEA Governance Board, Member of the Broward CLC

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Retirees President, Retirees President FEA/Retired

**Christopher Bigney**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**No information submitted**

**Katrina L. Blanks**

**AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Dillard Elementary / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 2.5

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teacher Union, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, COPE-TIGER, Broward ParaProfessional Association, Melrose Park Homeowners Association, Parent Teacher Association, Friends of Broward County Library

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Executive Board Member, BTU Scholarship Committee, BTU Steward, BTU Futures Committee, BTU-ESP Advisory Committee, FEA Credentials & Elections Committee, BPPA Vice President, BPPA Scholarship Chair, BPPA Political Action Chair, BPPA Building Representative, BPPA Area Representative, BPPA Labor Management Committee, BPPA Bargaining Committee-Alternate, BPPA Insurance Committee-Alternate, BPPA State Delegate(DA), BPPA Delegate for the RA, BPPA Delegate ParaProfessional School Related Personnel, FEA New Officer in Training, Union Leader Institute

**Meleca Brown**

**NEA** convention delegate candidate  
**North Area Student Services / School Psychologist**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 8

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union; American Federation of Teachers; Florida Education Association; Broward Association of School Psychologists; Broward Guild of Teachers

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward; COPE-TIGER; School Board Liaison; BTU Representative, Tallahassee; ESE Ad Hoc Committee for BTU; BTU Futures Committee; and Faculty Council-Chairperson

**Bryan Caletka**

**NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Western High / Science**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 4

**Professional organizations:** National Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, Davie Council

**Union experience (including offices held):** I have been a union member since I started my position in Broward schools. I was elected Steward after my first year, and held every year after. I have also attended Steward training.

**Robert Carlough**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**BECON / TV Broadcast Maintenance Engineer**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 9

**Professional organizations:** Society of Broadcast Engineers, Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers

**Union experience (including offices held):** Steward from 2001, Advanced to Master Steward Level, Participant in the Futures Committee, Participant in Labor Management meetings

**Frances Costa**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Hawkes Bluff Elementary / Elementary Education**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 18

**Professional organizations:** Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Teachers Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** I have been a union steward for the past five years. I have participated in several of the political campaigns, as well as the various workshops sponsored by the BTU.

**Patricia Costigan**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**No information submitted**

**Dawn Eichhorn**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Pembroke Pines Charter East Campus / Elementary Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 4

**Professional organizations:** COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, NMCAT

**Union experience (including offices held):** Union Steward for the East Campus at the Pembroke Pines Charter. Member of the Negotiating Team. Helped start and organize the union at the Charter School. I am a local Trainer for the ER&D program in reading comprehension. I am also a MSP Trainer to help them be highly qualified.

**Annie Feldman**

**AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**South Broward High / ESE**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 26

**Professional organizations:** Council for Exceptional Children, International Reading Association, National Education Association, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Broward Teachers Union  
**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board Member since April 2008; Designated BTU Steward at South Broward High for most of the last 16 years; Negotiations Team Member representing high schools, 1998 to the present; IPAS committee representative, 2003-2009; High School Reform committee representative, 2007-2009

**Ilene M. Feldman**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**Village Elementary / Head Start & Preschool ESE**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 26

**Professional organizations:** Broward DEC

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Steward, BTU representative on the SAC committee, BTU Internal Elections Committee, BTU representative for Broward AFL-CIO, BTU COPE-TIGER committee, BTU Civil & Human Rights Committee, FEA State delegate, delegate to AFL-CIO conference, lobbyist in Tallahassee

**Yadiris Ferreira**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**Cypress Bay High / Math**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 8

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Florida Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, SAC Co-chair, Faculty Council Chairperson

**Union experience (including offices held):** Union Steward, New Educators Committee

**Elizabeth Fisher**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Pembroke Pines FSU Charter Elementary / First Grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 3

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board - Charter School Vice President; Negotiations Team - worked with my Charter colleagues to develop and negotiate our contract; Completed the AFT ER&D Foundations 1 Training at the Maritime Institute in Baltimore; Completed the AFT Strategies for Student Success ER&D training at Michael Krop High School; Future's Committee - participated in many meetings over the last 1 1/2 years; Collaborated with my fellow BTU colleagues from all units to develop a process that will lead BTU into the future; National AFT Educational Research & Dissemination Trainer - I have given many ER&D workshops at the local level and had the opportunity to present to a group of teachers in Baton Rouge.

**Pearl Greenwood**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Park Lakes Elementary / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 1 year since merger; 6 years with Broward ParaProfessionals Association

**Professional organizations:** AFL-CIO, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Broward Teachers Union

**Union experience (including offices held):** BPPA Steward, BPPA Committee, BPPA Member Service, BPPA Membership Committee, BPPA Social Committee, Park Lakes Special Olympic Committee

**Norma Guardarramas**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Sheridan Technical Center / Cosmetology**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 26

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, FEA Governance Board and Cosmetology Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** I have been a BTU member since 1984. I have been a Steward for 14 years. I have been a delegate for the American Federation of Teachers and the Florida Education Association. I am also a member of the Data Collection Review Committee.

**Caryl M. Hattan**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Whispering Pines Center / ESE Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 23

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, AFL-CIO, National Education Association, Council for Exceptional Children

**Union experience (including offices held):** Executive Board member, BTU steward, BTU Futures Committee, BTU COPE-TIGER chair, BTU Rep to district advisory, district bullying committee and FCAT committee, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Rep, BTU-ESE Committee co-chair, lobby in Tallahassee before House committees, worked on several political campaigns

**Brenda J. Irby**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Silver Palms Elementary / 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 9

**Professional organizations:** LEAD I, LEAD II, SALT I, SALT II, DETA I, ASCD, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, Broward Teachers Union, and Social Studies Professional Organizations

**Union experience (including offices held):** Union Steward for nine years.

**Lisa Jacques**

**NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Hallandale High / English**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** International Reading Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** Union Steward, New Educator Committee, CHR Committee Representative, Broward Days

**Carmel Jean-Francois**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**K.C. Wright / PreK-2 Child Development**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 2

**Professional organizations:** ParaProfessional Association - 2007-2008; Florida Education Association - 2007-Present; American Federation of Teacher/ParaProfessional and School Related Personnel - 2007-Present; Broward Teachers Union - 2008-Present; AFL-CIO - 2007-Present

**Union experience (including offices held):** Member Services Specialist: Assisting Former BPPA President - Assisting with school visit and follow up - Making sure regular meeting are held – Recruiting - Organizing and keeping members' information up to date - Assisting in educating members to better their qualification - Informing education staff personnel on diverse trainings and activities - Working the polls - Distribute campaign materials - Participating on different rally and impasse hearing for the good of the Union.

**Hal Krantz**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Coral Springs Middle / ESE**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 17

**Professional organizations:** None listed

**Union experience (including offices held):** E-Board, ESE Committee, Sick Bank Committee, Budget Committee, TAC Committee

**Simone Krantz**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Riverside Elementary / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 6

**Professional organizations:** None listed

**Union experience (including offices held):** Steward

**Sandy Lobel-Witlen**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Coral Springs Elementary / Kindergarten Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** University of Delaware (Alumni Coordinator & Admissions Representative); Democratic Executive Committee (elected position); SAC & SAF (MSD HS); City of Coral Springs - appointed member of the Youth & Family Committee; Coral Springs Center for the Arts - usher; Yad Vashem - testimonial writer; Graduate: City of Coral Springs Government Leadership Training

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward; Faculty Council member; COPE-TIGER; ER&D (graduate & trainer); Pembroke Pines Charter Schools (door to door organizing committee); Campaign worker (AFT - Texas & Philadelphia); Campaign worker (BTU-GOTV); Convention Delegate - QUEST (invited guest & presenter); Convention delegate: AFT-2008 & 2009, NEA 2008 & 2009, FEA 2007, 2008 & 2009; Make Schools a priority rally (Orlando), School Board rally (11/2009); Perfect attendance all Union meetings

**Harlee Mahmet**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**Peters Elementary / 2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 20

**Professional organizations:** None listed

**Union experience (including offices held):** Designated Steward; COPE-TIGER member; Delegate, FEA State Convention; Faculty Council chair

**Vincent C. Newman**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Driftwood Middle / Science**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 7

**Professional organizations:** AFT-NEA Merger Committee, NEA Democratic Association, City of Hollywood Crime Watch Committee, Precinct Committee Chairperson

**Union experience (including offices held):** Member and Chair of the Broward School District Code of Conduct Committee

### **Gale Peeples**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Park Lake Elementary / ESP**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 1 year since merger; 10 years with Broward ParaProfessionals Association

**Professional organizations:** AFL-CIO, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, Broward Teachers Union

**Union experience (including offices held):** FEA Delegate Assembly

### **Earthalene Perry**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate  
**Village Elementary / 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 22

**Professional organizations:** Broward DEC

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Steward, BTU Internal Elections Committee, BTU representative for Broward AFL-CIO, BTU COPE-TIGER Committee, BTU Civil & Human Rights Committee, FEA State Delegate, Delegate for AFL-CIO Conference, Lobbyist in Tallahassee

### **Susan Pignato**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Forest Hills Elementary / Elementary Education**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 21

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, International Reading Association, National Council Teachers of Mathematics, V.P. of Coral Springs/Parkland Democratic Club

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Executive Board, Master Steward, AFL-CIO Delegate, Sick Leave Bank, SBBC Anti-Bullying Committee, Lobbying in Tallahassee, BTU Internal Budget Review Committee, Co-Chair BTU Scholarship Committee, BTU COPE-TIGER Executive Board, Delegate to AFT Convention, Delegate to FEA Convention

### **Pauline Ralston**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Castle Hill Elementary / 2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 19

**Professional organizations:** Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Political Action Committee

**Union experience (including offices held):** FEA delegate, NEA delegate, All protest marches, Most negotiation meetings including town hall meetings

### **Bernie Schultz**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Broward Teachers Union / First Vice President**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 26

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, National Education Association, Democratic Executive Committee

**Union experience (including offices held):** First Vice President 2001, President FEA Governance Board, Broward Ed. Foundation Board of Directors

**Elizabeth Shurak**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**McFatter Technical Center / ESOL**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 30

**Professional organizations:** Teachers of English as Second Language, ER&D Trainer Association of Curriculum Development, McFatter Instructional Council, McFatter School Advisory Committee

**Union experience (including offices held):** Delegate to AFT/FEA Conventions, Trainer for BTU at New Teacher Academy Sessions, Steward Trainings and Paraprofessional Trainings, BTU Trainer of AFT Foundations throughout the district, Political work for Clinton and Obama in Texas and Oregon

**Nicole L. Singleton**

**AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Boulevard Heights Elementary / 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 9

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** July 2007-present, BTU Executive Board Member; August 2007-May 2008, Designated Steward; December 2009-present, Steward; August 2007-present, TDIF committee member; August 2008-present, Student Code of Conduct committee member

**Debra Theaman**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Silver Shores Elementary / ESE Specialized Preschool Teacher**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 8

**Professional organizations:** American Federation of Teachers, Broward Teachers Union, COPE-TIGER, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, Democratic Executive Committee, and the American Federation of Teachers

**Union experience (including offices held):** Master Steward, SAC Committee, ER&D (Graduate and Trainer), AFT Convention Delegate, FEA Convention Delegate, NEA Convention Delegate, Campaign Worker (AFT- Pittsburgh), and Delegate for Broward Days in Tallahassee

**Carissa Thomas**

**FEA & AFT convention delegate candidate**  
**Pioneer Middle / Math**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 8

**Professional organizations:** None listed

**Union experience (including offices held):** New Educator Committee member, Future's Committee member

**Liv J. Thomas**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**New Renaissance Middle / Science**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 3

**Professional organizations:** BTU Steward, Faculty Council, Discipline Council, SAC

**Union experience (including offices held):** BTU Steward, Faculty Council, Discipline Council, SAC

**Swornia Thomas**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Park Lakes Elementary / Elementary Education**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 22

**Professional organizations:** National Education Association, Florida Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO and Broward Teachers Union

**Union experience (including offices held):** Former Secretary of Civil and Human Rights Committee, Member of Civil and Human Rights Committee, Delegate to NEA, AFT and FEA, Steward for a few years with 100% membership one of those years

**Olga Villacis**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**No information submitted**

**Gloria Waller**

**FEA, NEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**K.C. Wright / PreK-2 Child Development**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 1 year since merger; 15 years with Broward ParaProfessionals Association

**Professional organizations:** Broward Teachers Union, Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

**Union experience (including offices held):** BPPA Rep. for Parent Educators-1996; BPPA Executive Board-2005; Parliamentarian-2006; Election Committee BPPA-2007; RA-2008; BTU-ESP/Steward-2009; ASP/PSRP-2009; FEA/DA-2009

**Sandra M. Weaver**

**FEA & AFT** convention delegate candidate  
**Tedder Elementary / Head Start**

**Number of years in the BTU:** 12

**Professional organizations:** I am an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. I am currently exploring and will be attending a national training addressing challenging behavior and supporting children's social/emotional development.

**Union experience (including offices held):** I have been a Union Steward for over 10 years.

**Jack Weber**

**FEA** convention delegate candidate

**Bair Middle School / Language Arts**

**Number of years in the BTU: 6**

**Professional organizations: ACTE**

**Union experience (including offices held): Designated Union Steward**

**Kalebra Jacobs-Williams**

**FEA convention delegate candidate**

**Cypress Bay High / French**

**Number of years in the BTU: 9**

**Professional organizations:** Broward Association of Foreign Language Educators, American Association of Teachers of French, SAC Committee Member – Cypress Bay High School, BTU COPE-TIGER, American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Florida Education Association

**Union experience (including offices held):** Designated Steward, New Educators Committee member, Negotiations Team member, FEA delegate, BTU Lobbyist, Faculty Council chairperson