

March 2011

Boston United for Students Coalition Update

Education and mobilization efforts underway with a major event on April 6

Seven months after the Boston United for Students Coalition was launched to demand fundamental change in the Boston teachers' contract, the foundation has been laid for the Coalition to exercise a more public role. The Coalition is sponsoring a community discussion on the Boston teachers' contract with featured speakers Boston Public Schools Superintendent Carol Johnson and Boston Teachers Union President Richard Stutman on Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 P.M. [Click here for more details.](#)

Boston United for Students is publicly demanding that the Boston School Committee and Boston Teachers Union address four key priorities in a new contract. Other contract items may evolve but the four top issues are:

- Timely and effective teacher evaluations
- Greater flexibility in teacher hiring and reassignments
- A stronger voice for parents and students in school decision-making
- Extended time to engage students and increase teacher planning and professional development

The Coalition is made up of 44 organizations representing high school student, parent, advocacy, faith-based, civic, community and business interests. The grassroots make-up of Boston United for Students brings a passion and urgency to the reform demands from those directly involved with the schools throughout the City. The Research Bureau is an active participant in Boston United for

Students, bringing its expertise in school operations and contract matters to the campaign.

For months, the Boston United for Students Coalition has been building a broadly represented constituency centered on student success. After the four contract priorities were developed and approved by the Coalition members, subcommittees were established to research and further define the contract demands. Also, Coalition members have been meeting with parent, student and community organizations to explain the priorities and the need for contract change.

Over 20 negotiating sessions on the teachers' contract have been held since May 2010 with limited progress made to date. The April 6 community forum will give the Superintendent and BTU President the chance to explain to the public how the changes they seek in the next contract will improve student achievement and improve underperforming schools and how their objectives align with the Coalition's priorities.

[Click here for a list of Coalition members.](#)



**Boston United
for Students**

The Contract: What's in it for Our Kids?