

Please see below President Jessica Tang's statement on BLM. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you

"The Boston Teachers Union (BTU) is proud to be a part of the National Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, a national movement that is taking place in more than 40 cities. Through our participation, we're demonstrating support, love, and affirmation to our black students, families, and educators. Black Lives Matter at Schools promotes empathy and loving engagement, spaces that are safe for all children to freely be themselves, and justice for all.

Some specific priorities that have been advocated for across the country as part of National Black Lives Matter at School Week include advocating for inclusive ethnic studies, for more counselors in schools, for hiring and retaining more black teachers, and for alternatives to suspensions and expulsions which disproportionately affect students of color. That means prioritizing restorative practices and social-emotional learning which are much more effective than harsh discipline policies in addressing the challenges many of our students face every day. These priorities and values are consistent with our everyday work in Boston to combat racism and to create the most inclusive and equitable schools possible. To that end, we have also supported the national "Push Out" Bill and additional investment in public education at the state and federal levels.

In the context of a limited school system budget, we agree that such investments are best allocated toward increasing the number of counselors, psychologists, and nurses in school, rather than theoretically adding more police in schools. Many law enforcement personnel agree with us strongly on the need for more counselors, psychologists, and nurses in schools. We have proactively reached out to BPPA officials to begin a dialogue regarding the true meaning and policy framework of Black Lives Matter at School Week, and we look forward to working together with them to reach a higher level of common understanding." - Jessica Tang, BTU President