



65th Anniversary
1946-2011

Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union

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President: Mary-Anne Redman
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General Secretary: Dawn Grosvenor
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6th April, 2022.

To: All members of the BSTU

Dear Comrades,

Re: Postponement of AGM, 2022.

At a properly constituted meeting of the BSTU Executive held on 24th March, 2022 to set the date and establish and confirm the particulars for the conduct of the BSTU AGM 2022, it was noted that the case numbers of Covid-19 among the population were rapidly rising.

It was decided that the Executive would pass a resolution to allow the Officers to monitor Covid-19 numbers and assess the potential voting time needed at the AGM, based on the number of Nominations received on 5th April, 2022, to regulate the particulars of the AGM. That resolution was passed unanimously giving the officers the flexibility to best determine the timing and format of the AGM, based on those aforementioned facts.

It is my understanding that yesterday's Covid-19 cases are the second highest daily cases of infection reported thus far since the outbreak started in March 2020, being 423 in number. Further, coming out of the nomination process, all six other posts besides those of President and Treasurer, nominated unopposed, are being contested. The combination of these two facts would potentially mean a long AGM, within a context of high case numbers, community spread and a sub-variant, yesterday confirmed by local health authorities to be 50-80 percent more infectious than the original Omicron. We have many members with comorbidities and who are either members of inter-generational households or caregivers of elderly family and children with comorbidities, now including asthma which Dr Grandison said is presenting a potentially serious vulnerability with the Omicron sub-variant BA2.

Our Election Committee, ratified at the meeting of 24th March, is comprised of four golden-aged retired, vulnerable people, two of whom have now reported their hesitation to operate in that role within a situation of such high case numbers. At this point we do not

have the capacity or the time to research and implement any alternative meeting possibilities, including an online AGM with the potential for legitimate online voting, by next week Tuesday. You will remember that last year we had to postpone our AGM twice, but the officers were re-elected unopposed so there was no voting; it was therefore a much less complicated process to implement an entirely online meeting.

The Officers have decided to use the authority given to them by the BSTU Executive and therefore postpone the AGM from Tuesday, 12th April, 2022 out of an abundance of caution. We will continue to actively monitor cases and seek to pursue alternative, SAFE arrangements for the holding of the AGM. We cannot be advocating and demanding safety for our members in the workplace and yet place ourselves in a position where public scrutiny can allow for a criticism of the Union for appearing to practice double standards. The implications of that for negatively affecting us later exist on a variety of levels.

We are looking at the possibility of holding the AGM on the day of our half-term break on 3rd June, 2022, or before if circumstances permit.

The Officers thank you for your usual co-operation in this regard, regret any inconvenience caused and urge you to be safe in these serious times.

Yours fraternally,

Mary-Anne Redman.
President.