



MEET THE CANDIDATES

*for Brevard Federation of Teachers
Delegate to the National Education
Association Representative Assembly*



**Kim
Ackerson**
**Meadowlane
Intermediate
School**

I have been in education for 23 years. I was a paraprofessional/IA for 4 years ranging from Preschool to High School. I have taught Special Education for 19 and a half years in New Jersey and Florida. Teaching Resource and in-class support Biology, Environmental Science and Forensic Science before transitioning to the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Class. In the ID and ASD program I was building the Community-Based Instruction and Job Training program. Last year I moved to Florida where I began working as a 5th grade resource teacher. I was involved with the union in New Jersey as an active member from the start. The last 5 years I was there I increased my involvement by holding different positions at the district and county level. I was a Building Representative for 2 years (2019-2021) in which I relayed information and answered questions from members. I became a Senior Building Representative for 3 years (2021 - 2024). In this role I relayed information to the 20-22 building representatives for distribution, represented members in meetings with administration and held weekly meetings with administration to discuss building issues. I was also a County Representative for all 5 years. I look forward to getting more involved with the BFT and participating as a delegate at the FEA convention. I hope I will be given the opportunity to represent us as a delegate at the NEA.



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**Christina
Hoolihan**

**Sunrise
Elementary
School**

My name is Christina, and I am a VE self-contained teacher at Sunrise Elementary. This is my second year on the ballot to attend our national union conference on our union's behalf. Last year, I attended a convention in Houston, which you elected me to, and advocated for education on the political action committee. It is something I enjoy doing, and I hope that you will give me the chance to advocate for Brevard County and the state of Florida for the importance of public education, teacher rights, and parents' rights. Please consider voting for me to represent you this summer! I wish you all a prosperous rest of the school year and a relaxing summer.



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Kevin Howkins currently serves as a teacher at Golfview Elementary Magnet School where he is the Building Representative. He serves as the Central Area director for the BFT. He would be honored to represent the members of BFT at this year's National Education Representative Assembly.

**Kevin
Howkins**

**Golfview
Elementary
School**



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**Holly
Newman**

**Kennedy
Middle
School**

I have been teaching with BPS for 25 years, 15 of those years as the BFT Building Representative at Kennedy Middle School. I am in my second year on the Executive board of BFT as Central Area Director and am part of the Building Representative Leadership Team for BFT. I have been to the FEA Delegate Assembly twice in Orlando. If you have never been, it is a first step in truly understanding the work that gets done by our union and our affiliates. Why NEA you ask? For me this is just another facet of union activism that I am interested in seeing how it all fits together. I would really appreciate your vote for NEA delegate 2025.



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**Jackie
Small**

**Oak Park
Elementary
School**

A School Counselor with almost 40 years in education, Jackie Small currently serves as an Executive Board member of BFT and is BFT's representative on the Space Coast AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. As a dedicated union representative, she recruits and represents members, enforces the collective bargaining agreement and promotes union activities throughout schools. As a 2025 NEA RA delegate, she will continue to advocate for fair treatment and the rights of all union members, while networking with fellow union brothers and sisters across the country. She will bring back vital information on current trends on education funding, student success, mental health needs of students and educators, as well as social justice and equity. Jackie is a lifelong learner who loves people and is passionate about empowering young minds and installs knowledge of empathy, compassion, and other core resiliency skills to students. Currently she teaches character education, and self-regulation interventions and facilitates therapeutic groups at Oak Park Elementary School in Brevard County, Florida.



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**Khadejah
Veal**

**Sherwood
Elementary
School**

My name is Khadejah Veal I am a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Sherwood Elementary. I would be honored to represent Brevard county for NEA. As a candidate for Delegate to the National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly, I will bring a profound commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of educators, students, and the communities we serve. With years of experience in the education field, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges teachers face and the impact of policy decisions on our classrooms. I will bring Brevard's vision of collaboration, equity, and innovation, ensuring that every voice is heard and represented. By voting for me, you are choosing a dedicated advocate that will enhance the quality of education for all students. As a delegate, I will prioritize issues such as fair compensation for educators, adequate resources for our schools, and the implementation of policies that promote social justice and equity in education. I am asking for your vote to make our shared goals a reality, ensuring that our collective voice resonates powerfully at the national level.



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**Caitie
Walters**
**Pre- K ESE
Itinerant**

Hey Voter! This is Caitie with BFT. Yes, the Caitie that texts you updates! As a dedicated advocate for education and the teaching profession, I am honored to seek election to the NEA Delegate Assembly. Representing the Brevard Federation of Teachers (BFT) in three previous NEA assemblies, I have consistently worked to amplify the voices of educators and ensure that our collective concerns are heard and addressed.

In my role as Lead Member Organizer and North Area Director on the Executive board, I have fostered connections among educators, strengthened our union's presence, and championed initiatives that empower teachers and improve our schools. My experience and commitment make me uniquely positioned to represent our interests effectively at the NEA Delegate Assembly. Please vote for Caitie Walters.



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**Carrie
Young**
**University
Park
Elementary**

Carrie is a passionate school counselor at University Park, committed to guiding and supporting students on their academic and personal journeys. A proud product of Brevard Public Schools, she understands firsthand the importance of a strong public education system and has dedicated her career to uplifting students and educators alike. As an active member of the Outreach Committee and a delegate representative for the Florida Education Association (FEA), Carrie tirelessly advocates for teachers' rights, fair education policies, and the well-being of students across the district. Her deep-rooted commitment to education extends beyond the counseling office, as she works to ensure that teachers are heard, supported, and empowered to provide the best learning environments for their students. With a heart for service and a vision for a stronger education system, Carrie continues to be a champion for positive change in Brevard County schools.