

Education Cuts Demonstration "We need your support" - ASTI President

ASTI General Secretary, John White and President, Pat Hurley are calling on all ASTI members to participate in a mass demonstration against the education cuts taking place in Dublin on Saturday, December 6th.

The following letter signed by the General Secretaries and Presidents of the four teacher unions - ASTI, INTO, TUI and IFUT - has been sent to all school stewards.

2.5% salary increase - December 4th

Teachers will receive the 2.5% salary increase due under Towards 2016 since September 1st 2008, plus back pay, on December 4th. Arrangements were agreed at a meeting of the Teachers' Conciliation Council on Monday, November 24th.



To: All School, College, University Staff Representatives:

Dear Colleague,

The education cutbacks announced in the budget are the most swingeing for twenty years. They will damage the education service at every level.

Parents, teachers and managerial groups have united in opposition to the cutbacks and will be jointly organising this march and demonstration.

A MARCH AND DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EDUCATION CUTBACKS IS BEING HELD ON:

SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2008 IN DUBLIN.

ASSEMBLY POINT IS PARNELL SQUARE AT 12 NOON.

It is of vital importance that this march and demonstration is supported by as many people as possible to demonstrate to the government that damaging our education service is damaging our community, our society and our future economic and social well-being. Contact your local committee for transport arrangements.

We ask all teachers, lecturers and all those involved in education in any way to support this march.

We look forward to seeing you on December 6th.

With every good wish.

John White *John Carr* *Peter McMenamin* *Mike Jennings*

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General Secretary ASTI General Secretary INTO General Secretary TUI General Secretary IFUT

Pat Hurley *Declan Kelleher* *Don Ryan* *Joe Brady*

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President ASTI President INTO President TUI President IFUT

19th November 2008

Ballot on Revised Promotional Procedures

ASTI members have voted in favour of the Revised Promotional Procedures by:

80.44% to 19.56%.

Turnout: 5393
Valid Poll: 5349

Yes: 4303
No: 1046

Ballot on Towards 2016: Review and Transitional Agreement (2008-2009)

ASTI members have voted in favour of Towards 2016: Review and Transitional Agreement (2008-2009) by:

80.75% to 19.25%.

Turnout: 4759
Valid Poll: 4754

Yes: 3839
No: 915

Promotional Procedures

New procedures for promotion will be phased in over a six year period, following the acceptance of the procedures by the ASTI membership. There is no change for promotion procedures for the school year 2008/2009.

Details of the new promotional procedures are available on the ASTI website www.asti.ie.

Substitution and Supervision

The Budget 2009 education cuts included the withdrawal of substitution cover for uncertified sick leave and school business absences from January 2009. The management authorities have stated that there will be chaos in schools in January if this decision is implemented. The school management body the JMB and the ASTI have sought an urgent meeting with the Minister for Education and Science in relation to this decision.

- ◆ ASTI members should be clear that there is only one supervision and substitution scheme in operation. The terms of the scheme are set out in Circular Letter PPT 0103
- ◆ Members who have signed up for the supervision and substitution scheme should continue to operate the scheme which provides for substitution in the event of uncertified sick leave and school business absences.
- ◆ Staff representatives on Boards of Management should be clear that there is no other arrangement in relation to supervision and substitution.
- ◆ This approach has been agreed between the ASTI and the TUI. ◆

Legal Challenge to Removal of Early Retirement Scheme

The ASTI has received Senior Counsel's opinion that teachers could challenge the legality of the termination of the Early Retirement Scheme without notice.

The advice is that teachers who might have opted for early retirement on August 31st 2008 but decided to remain in teaching for a further year with the expectation that they could avail of the provisions of the scheme at the end of the current year could justifiably complain that they were entitled to notice.

The ASTI believes the Early Retirement Scheme has served the education service well and that its suspension will prove to be counterproductive. Its suspension, particularly in the context whereby the Department of Education and Science had agreed to extend the pilot scheme to cover those retiring on August 31st 2008 and on August 31st 2009, was draconian.

The ASTI, guided by Counsel's opinion, will take whatever legal action is necessary. ◆

Disciplinary Procedures

New disciplinary procedures are to be put in place across all school sectors - voluntary secondary, community and comprehensive and community colleges. The ASTI wishes to state categorically to all members that the new procedures are in accordance with principles of natural justice and fairness.

The procedures provide for a fair hearing, facilitate unbiased judgement and provide for appeal. The procedures come into effect in the school year 2009/2010. The text of the new procedures is available on the ASTI website www.asti.ie. A full explanation of the new procedures, including an easy guide to the various stages, will be included in a future edition of Nuacht. ◆