

Budget cutbacks dominate Annual Convention

The ASTI will continue its campaign against the education cuts until they are reversed, even though the campaign is likely to be long and difficult. Delegates at this year's ASTI Convention made it clear that the education cutbacks introduced in Budget 2009 are unacceptable and will have a devastating impact on young people and their school communities.

A survey documenting the impact of the cuts on 20 second-level schools was launched at this year's Annual Convention. It shows that more than 50% of the schools questioned said they would be forced to drop subjects this September as a result of the cuts. Almost 50% said they would be reducing or curtailing programme choice this September.

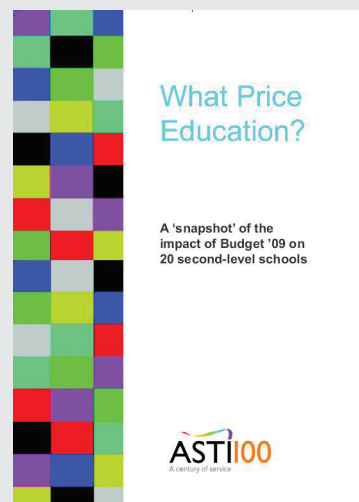
The research affirms the ASTI's belief that all schools will lose teachers in September 2009 as a result of the increase in the pupil-teacher ratio announced in Budget 2009 last October. The 20 schools surveyed will lose an average of 2.6 teachers next September.

See motions passed at ASTI Annual Convention inside.

See page 4 for action being taken by ASTI in opposition to Budget cutbacks. ♦



ASTI President, Pat Hurley addressing delegates at this year's ASTI Convention



'What price education?':
Research into impact of budget
'09 cuts to education
Read the report at www.asti.ie.

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**Election results from
Convention 2009**

President Elect

Joe Moran

Vice-President

Jack Keane

Honorary Treasurer

Ray St John

Trustees

Ger Curtain

Tom Gilligan

Michael Kilbride

Education Committee

Noel Buckley

Pat Deery

Eamon Dennehy

Christina Henahan

Jerry McCarthy

Caitríona McGrath

Máire Ní Chiarba

Peter Quinn

Jimmy Staunton

Equal Opportunities Committee

Kevin Brogan

Eilis Casey

Rosebelle Crampton

Maura Greaney

Carmel Heneghan

Anne Loughnane

Edel McNerney

Tony McKernan

Mary Ohle

Resolutions adopted at Convention 2009

Motion 32: education cuts

That the ASTI:

- (i) demands that the education cuts announced in the budget be rescinded immediately;
- (ii) deplores these savage cuts that attack the education system at both Junior and Senior level especially the ones that affect the disadvantaged;
- (iii) highlights the effect of these cuts in public and in the media, and
- (iv) uses all means at its disposal to oppose any future cutbacks in an already under-funded education system.

Motion 29: pupil-teacher ratio

That the ASTI demands that the proposed pupil teacher ratio changes announced in October 08 be reversed and that the present pupil-teacher ratio be maintained at 18 to 1 for all post-primary schools.

Motion 8: early retirement strands 1, 2 and 3

That the ASTI demands the immediate reinstatement on a permanent basis of early retirement strands 1, 2 and 3 which were agreed as part of the PCW.

Motion 11: superannuation scheme

That the ASTI refuse to negotiate any changes to the Superannuation Scheme that would reduce the entitlements of members.

Motion 46: NEPS

That the ASTI demands that the Department of Education and Science extend the NEPS service in order to ensure that psychological assessments may be fast-tracked and that follow-up support may be easily accessed.

Motion 43: removal of grants

In light of new economic challenges that the ASTI deplores the removal of the grants for LCA, LCVP and TY which will in turn have the effect of a reduction in the retention level of students at senior level with the resulting negative impact on society.

Motion 52: suspension and expulsion

That the right of students to learn and teachers to teach receive equal emphasis to the rights of students who incur the sanctions of suspension and expulsion in education legislation.

Motion 55: assessment

In view of the planned changes for post primary Irish that the ASTI rejects any proposals that teachers would assess their own pupils.

Motion 17: parent- teacher meetings

That the ASTI negotiate that all parent-teacher meetings take place within normal school time.

Motion 22: part-time contracts

That the ASTI reviews the range of part-time contracts with a view to ensuring better security of tenure for teachers.

Motion 25: part-time teachers

That the ASTI would vigorously protect the working conditions of part-time teachers in the light of recent cutbacks in education.

Motion 27: brief absences

That the ASTI demands that teachers' partial daily absences be recorded as such in all related returns to the Department of Education and Science.

Standing Committee motion

- 1 That the ASTI condemns
 - (a) the education cuts and consequent job losses,
 - (b) the draconian and inequitable pension levy and calls for its abolition.
2.
 - (a) The ASTI continues to commit to a strategy of opposition to these measures up to and including strike action.
 - (b) Withdraws from parent/teacher meetings out of school time.
 - (c) Withdraws from staff meetings out of school time.
 - (d) Withdraws from school development planning meetings.
 - (e) Opposes the moratorium on posts of responsibility by means of a directive to members.
 - (f) Limits co-operation with WSE and subject inspection by means of a directive to members.

The ASTI will seek the co-operation of the other teachers unions in implementing this strategy.

Motion 26: teaching posts

That the ASTI seek to arrest the erosion of the teaching profession by demanding that all posts vacated by teachers who retire be filled as full-time permanent posts.

Motion 19: job-sharing and career breaks

That the ASTI enters into immediate negotiations with the Department of Education and Science to negotiate that:

- (i) job-sharing and career breaks should be available to all teachers who wish to avail of them;
- (ii) the over-quota status of a school should not be a factor in the refusal of a career break or job-sharing application;
- (iii) the Department of Education and Science grant replacement temporary cover for those seeking career breaks or job-sharing regardless of whether the school is over-quota or not.

Motion 54: Task Force on the Physical Sciences

That the ASTI:

- (i) demands the implementation in full of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Physical Sciences;
- (ii) deplores the removal of grants for Physics and Chemistry;
- (iii) condemns the continued refusal to provide laboratory technicians in schools, and
- (iv) elects a sub-committee to assess the impact of these matters on the workload of teachers, to evaluate the success or otherwise of the new Junior Certificate Science syllabus and draft proposals on courses of action the ASTI can now take to progress these issues.

**Election results from
Convention 2009**
Physical Sciences Sub-committee

Brendan Broderick
Lily Cronin
Pauline Nagle
Peter Keane
Micheál O'Neill

Steering Committee

Noel Buckley
Lily Cronin
Susie Hall
Máire ní Chiarba
Máire ní Laoire

Investment Committee

John Byrne
Patrick Collins
Aine ní Cheidigh
Tony Waldron

Rules Committee

Pat Deery
Sheila Marie Herlihy
Sheila Parsons
PJ Sheehy
Niamh Walker

**Standing Committee Regional
Elections Committee**

Máire Ní Laoire
PJ Sheehy
Ann Piggot
Lily Cronin

Business of CEC Sub-Committee

Caitriona McGrath
Eilis Casey



Left: ASTI President and ASTI members at NACED Adult Education Conference. Left to right: Robbie Harrold, Malahide C.S.; Julie Callaghan, Crescent Comprehensive; Anne-Marie Daly, Ballincollig C.S.; ASTI President, Pat Hurley; Maria Kelly, Bishopstown C.S.; and Gerry Campbell, Trinity Comprehensive.

Agreement on CID contracts

Holders of CIDs for 18 hours or more in Community and Comprehensive Schools who state that they are available to be timetabled up to 22 hours are entitled to full pay. This applies whether the school is in quota or over quota.

Following discussions at the Teachers Conciliation Council, it has been agreed that with effect from the commencement of the 2009 / 2010 school year, a teacher who satisfies all of the following conditions may be timetabled and paid for 22 hours:

- a) employed in a recognised Community and Comprehensive school or by a Vocational Educational Committee and
- b) has a contract of indefinite duration for 18 hours or more per week
- c) agrees in writing to be timetabled for up to 22 hours per week

This agreement gives effect to a motion adopted at Convention 2008. This situation already applies in the voluntary secondary sector

See Circular 0011/2009 for more information. ♦

Reduction in ASTI subscription

A reduction of 3% in ASTI subscription rates was approved at Convention 2009.

An annual flat rate tax allowance of €350 at the standard rate of tax 20% (tax credit €70) is due for trade union subscriptions paid in 2008 and 2009.

The full allowance is available annually regardless of the actual amount of the subscription paid.

If you are or were a member of a trade union at any time during 2008 or 2009 and you have not been granted relief for subscriptions made, contact your regional revenue office.

ASTI action in opposition to budgetary measures

As part of action against budget cuts to education, the public service pension levy, and the moratorium on posts of responsibility the ASTI has issued a number of directives to members .

With effect from March 31st, ASTI members were directed to withdraw from the following activities:

- (a) Parent-teacher meetings outside of school time;
- (b) Staff meetings outside of school time;
- (c) School development planning meetings

On 16th April, ASTI members were directed not to agree to alter existing post duties in any way which would increase the workload of individual posts of responsibility and, where a post of responsibility is vacated, members are not to undertake any duties thereby arising unless they are pensionably remunerated for this.

In the context of budget cutbacks and consequent increased workload, members are directed to limit co-operation with Whole School Evaluations and Subject Inspections with effect from May 5th. Members are directed to not engage in formal pre-evaluation or post-evaluation meetings or meetings with in-school management teams, subject teachers as a group, school planning, education support, pastoral care and other teams.

In March ASTI members balloted in favour of up to two days industrial action.

The above action is being taken in cooperation with the TUI, which has distributed the same directives to members.

The INTO has decided not to take any industrial action that would be in breach of agreements and have potential financial implications for members.

The above directives were distributed to members through school stewards and are available on the ASTI website - www.asti.ie. ♦