

Jessica Tang
Twitter Handles: @jessjtang, @btu66

President, Boston Teachers Union
Vice President, American Federation of Teachers
Vice President, American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts
Vice President, MA AFL-CIO
Founding Chair, AFT AAPI Task Force
Executive Board, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFT Appointee
Board Member, Al Shanker Institute
Board Member, Private Industry Council
Board Member, Boston Partners in Education
Board Member, Parent Teacher Home Visit Project
Board Member, Citizens for Public Schools
United States Commission on Civil Rights Massachusetts State Advisory Council



Long Bio:

Jessica Tang was elected President of the 10,000 member Boston Teachers Union, Local 66 of the American Federation of Teachers in June of 2017. She began teaching middle school social studies in Boston Public Schools in 2005 and has served as the first Director of Organizing at the Boston Teachers Union from 2013-2017. She has served as a Vice President for the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts since 2016 and is also currently a Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. In addition, she is a founding member of the Massachusetts Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance chapter and was appointed as the AFT Representative on the national APALA Executive Board in 2017. She is the first person of color, first openly bisexual/LGBTQ leader, and first woman in over thirty years to serve as President of the BTU. She is the first APIA to serve on the AFT-MA, MA-AFL CIO Executive Board and AFT Executive Board. She is the first and only Asian American on the AFT board and currently one of the highest ranking elected APIA labor leaders in the nation.

Throughout her years in BPS she served in many teacher-leader positions including on Governor Deval Patrick's Teacher Advisory Board, on the BPS Teacher Diversity Work

Group, and as a BPS History and Social Studies Fellow. She is a co-founder of the Teacher Activist Group-Boston, co-founder of the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance, former co-chair of the Massachusetts Asian American Educators Association, founding member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Massachusetts chapter, and board member of Citizens for Public Schools as well as the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project. She has served as the national APALA Treasure and the EVP of the Greater Boston Labor Council. She is also currently serving on the United States Commission on Civil Rights Massachusetts State Advisory Council and served a three-year term on the New England Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve. As a long time teacher-activist, she has been involved in many different community organizations that are working to advance racial, social and economic justice. She earned her Bachelors at Harvard University and holds a Masters in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Jessica began working in Boston Public Schools as a college student volunteer tutor and then tutoring program director at the Mather Elementary School in 2000 through the Phillips Brooks House Association and then began her teaching career as a student teacher at the McCormack Middle School in 2004 before teaching at the Gavin Middle School and Young Achievers K-8 Pilot School. As the founding Director of Organizing, she spearheaded both internal and community organizing efforts at the BTU. These efforts included the co-founding and creation of the Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA) and Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance (MEJA). The MEJA coalition then housed the Save Our Public Schools/No on 2 campaign to defeat the charter expansion ballot question in 2016 and now has almost a dozen chapters across the state. In addition to the successful No On 2/Save Our Public Schools campaign, she has successfully led the "Everyone is Welcome Here" campaign, the BTU Back to School Fair which annually distributes over 50,000 free books, the "Less Testing, More Learning" campaign and initiated the creation of the first BTU Organizing Committees which now also include Unafraid Educators, Black Lives Matter at Schools, Ethnic Studies Now, Inclusion Done Right, and the Racial Justice Committee.

Election Media Clips:

Boston Globe June 11, 2017:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/06/11/jessica-tang-quietly-makes-history-with-boston-teachers-union-election/vcHRDJyMEzNoTUfK3QPM/story.html>

Boston Globe May 18, 2107:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/05/17/boston-teachers-union-poised-elect-per-son-color-president/h1Qi7Nm776KatQezNHHy3H/story.html>

WBUR May 31, 2017:

<http://www.wbur.org/radioboston/2017/05/31/jessica-tang-btu>

