



Washington Teachers' Union

Amplifying the Voice of Teachers

Jacqueline Pogue Lyons, President

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Washington Teachers' Union Announces Jacqueline Pogue Lyons as President; Regina Bell to Serve as General Vice President

WASHINGTON — The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) today announced that Jacqueline Pogue Lyons has been confirmed as the union's next President. Regina Bell will become General Vice President.

"It is an honor to lead the Washington Teachers' Union," WTU President Jacqueline Pogue Lyons said. "We will continue to honor the work and legacy of Elizabeth Davis by working to ensure that our students receive the education they deserve. This starts today with our work to prevent cuts to our school budgets and ensure that city leaders follow the law by ensuring city dollars are allocated equitably to our students."

Born and raised in New York, Jacqueline Pogue Lyons has been a teacher in the District of Columbia for twenty-eight years and has taught in public schools across Washington, D.C. including: Plummer Elementary, J.C. Nalle Elementary, Thomson Elementary and Hyde Elementary. Prior to being the WTU's General Vice President in 2016 and joining the WTU office team, she served as a kindergarten teacher at Savoy Elementary.

In her role with the WTU, Pogue Lyons has been a tenacious advocate for the rights of teachers and oversaw the work of the WTU Field Representatives in ensuring DC Public Schools abided by the contractual rights of WTU members. She has also worked tirelessly to support the certification and professional development needs of DCPS educators. Pogue Lyons earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Smith College in Massachusetts and a Master of Education in Bilingual Special Education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Pogue Lyons has one son, who is a recent graduate of Howard University.

"Every teacher who chooses to come to Washington, D.C. deserves a Union that will stand behind them and support them," Pogue Lyons continued. "Every student deserves a great teacher who is supported and encouraged to grow in their profession. We must end the antiquated and punitive systems that our city uses to evaluate teachers and schools, causing tremendous turnover in our profession, and replace them with programs and supports that will help our students thrive."

Pogue Lyons became acting president upon the passing of WTU President Elizabeth A. Davis on April 4.

The WTU also announced that Regina Bell has been elevated to become the WTU's General Vice President.

"I'm honored to have been selected by my colleagues to help lead the continuation of President Davis' work to close the opportunity gaps that plague our city," Bell said. "The pandemic has only magnified the disparities that our students and school communities face. To improve equity in education we must fully fund our schools and provide library programs for all students"

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Bell has served as the Librarian/Media Specialist at Murch Elementary for the past 13 years, where she works with all teachers and staff to support student learning. Bell has served on the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), the Murch Equity Team, and in other school leadership roles. Bell has served on the Executive Board of the WTU since 2018 and most recently chaired the WTU's Legislative Committee. Bell and her husband live in D.C. Their three children each graduated from Wilson High School.

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The WTU represents more than 5,000 active and retired teachers. It is dedicated to social and educational justice for the students of the District of Columbia and to improving the quality of support, resources, compensation and working conditions for the public servants and proud teachers who educate our students in D.C. Public Schools.