Remarks
Dr. Tim Jackson
Chairman, Board of Education

Press Conference – Announcement of Board of Education
14 January, 2019

First, I would like to thank our Minister of Education, the Honorable Diallo Rabain, JP, MP, for the opportunity to serve as a member and chair of the Board of Education. I regard this undertaking as critically important to the future of our island home. As a Board, our role is to ensure that the Ministry of Education is responsive to the values, beliefs and priorities of our community. We fulfill this role by performing five major responsibilities:

- Setting Direction
- Establishing an effective and efficient structure
- Providing Support
- Ensuring Accountability
- Providing community leadership as advocates for children, The Ministry of Education and all public schools

We look forward to being a part of the implementation of Plan 2022, Bermuda’s strategic plan for public school education.

We often hear about the negativity of public schools, and how they are failing our young people. While I have the microphone, I will take the liberty of sharing a snapshot of the countless achievements and accomplishments of young Bermudians who have been educated in the Bermuda Public School System. Shelette Spencer attended Victor Scott, Dellwood Middle School, CedarBridge Academy and the Bermuda College. She graduated from Georgia State University in May 2018 with a degree in Actuarial Science. Shelette maintained a 4.0 grade point average during her time in university. Jaret Simmons attended CedarBridge Academy. He earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering (High Honors) from the University of Technology, which is located in Jamaica. In October of 2018, Jaret completed his master’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Imperial College, which is located in London, and considered one of the top ranked institutions in the world, focusing solely on science, engineering, medicine and business.

Clevon Cunningham Jr., Marcus Henschke, Kimika Jackson and Dajanee Hill-Edwards attended Sandys Secondary Middle School and The Berkeley Institute. Currently, all four of them are
students at St. John’s University, located in New York City. They are doing exceptionally well in their respective career paths, which are actuarial science, risk management and underwriting. Furthermore, Dajanee was one of Bermuda’s first dual enrolment graduates. She earned her high school diploma and associate degree from the Bermuda College at the same time. By the way, we have 84 public school students currently enrolled in the dual enrolment programme.

While we have a significant number of students graduating from the Bermuda Public School System who are doing well, we must also address the roadblocks that prevent some of our students from demonstrating their potential and abilities. Furthermore, as a board, we must work diligently to ensure that students and educators operate in schools that are clean, safe and operational.

As stated in Plan 2022, Bermuda’s public-school graduates must be well prepared socially, emotionally and academically for postsecondary success. All students will have diverse and engaging learning opportunities. Furthermore, students will not just be exposed to a college-focused curriculum. They will also have access to career-focused training. Plan 2022 will ensure every child is on an individualized pathway to personal success, a pathway that truly takes into account personal needs and interests.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that our collective efforts, along with stakeholders, will prepare students with the requisite skills to take on the relevant jobs that exist in Bermuda. We look forward to rolling up my sleeves and doing what is in the best interest of one of our most precious natural resources.

Thank you.