Remarks
The Hon. Diallo Rabain, JP, MP
Minister of Education

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

Good morning and thank you for coming.

In order for us to continue our march towards Education reform in Bermuda, we need strong visionaries and people committed to not only providing guidance but willing to hold those leading this reform accountable. If we are to move forward with education reform, having a strong Board of Education is not only necessary but critical. Today, I am pleased to announce that veteran educators Dr. Tim Jackson and Ms. Ru-Zelda Severin have been appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board of Education.

Dr. Jackson is a veteran educator and administrator with over 20 years experience in public education in Bermuda and the United States. He has served as a teacher in Dallas, Texas; Nashville, Tennessee; and Bermuda. In Bermuda, he has served as a teacher at Whitney Institute and Deputy Principal at CedarBridge Academy. From 2007 to 2016, Dr. Jackson served as principal of Sandys Secondary Middle School.

The Deputy Chair, Ru-Zelda Severin is presently a senior lecturer of Music and Education at Bermuda College. In her 30 years in education, she has taught from pre-school through university and has been an adjunct at Atlantic Union College, Wheelock College and Mount St. Vincent University. Ms. Severin was an integral part of developing a Classical Liberal Arts school in Massachusetts where she served as principal in middle and high school.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of the incoming Board of Education members, and they are:

- Mrs. Tinee Furbert MP – School other than Senior School representative
- Mr. Daniel Reece – Parent Representative
• Mr. Pauletta Francis – School other than Senior School representative
• Mrs. Shana Williams – School others than Senior School representative
• Mr. Chris Crumpler – School other than Senior School representative
• Mrs. Lauren Hayward-Bell – Parent Representative
• Ms. Camille Simmons – Member from Business Community

Additional Board members will include representatives from each senior school, the Bermuda Union of Teachers, the Bermuda Public Services Union and the Principal Association.

We find ourselves facing unique challenges within today’s education system and the new Board Chair and members have given their commitment to performing the tasks needed to reform education in Bermuda.

As we continue to move forward with education reform as outlined in Plan 2022 the Board will provide assistance to the Department of Education by providing support and monitoring accountability as per Section 4 of the Education Act 1996.

Immediately, there are two areas that the Board has been tasked to address, they are:

1. Identify and provide options to address the increased incidents of disruptive behaviors in our classrooms
2. The Board will add to the discussions that have currently been underway involving the Government’s election promise to phase out Middle Schools.

As we move forward with our education reform, I am confident that this team will provide the support, experience and drive to move Bermuda’s education system forward.

I would like to thank the outgoing Board Members, who were instrumental in the development of Plan 2022. They have provided us with a path to victory for our children, a path that seeks to enhance academic rigour, provide our teachers with resources and training needed to succeed and most importantly provide our children with the support needed academically, socially and emotionally to reach their full potential. It was the previous Board of Education that was instrumental in the inception and eventual completion of
Plan 2022. They have given us the blueprint and the expectation of the current Board is to provide the support and leadership to take us to the next level.

I now invite Board Chair, Dr. Tim Jackson to the podium. Thank you.