

Schools to Lose Teachers and Special Needs Assistants in September

5 teachers to be cut from National Schools in Inchicore

5 teachers to be cut from Basin Lane Schools

6 teachers to be cut from St Brigids, St. Catherine's, Scoil Treasa, St. Enda's, Francis St. and St. Audeon's

The cuts meted out by this government on our education system will have far reaching effects on both pupils and teachers, not only now, but in decades to come.

Our Primary education system has been one of the worst funded in Europe for a long time. And the Celtic Tiger did not bring any major improvements.

Now, Batt O'Keefe, the Minister for Education has not only made cuts which will affect mainstream children, but has hit out viciously at children with special needs by closing all Special Classes in mainstream schools, which cater for children with Mild Learning Disabilities.

These children will now be forced into much larger mainstream classes. From September, because of the

recently announced Public Sector Embargo, children with special needs may not be able to access a Special Needs Assistant for their particular needs.

This will have a significant impact on schools in our area.

Batt O'Keefe said schools in disadvantaged areas will not be affected, but this is a lie. We are losing teachers and resources.

At a time when it was expected that around 800 additional primary teachers would be needed to cater for an increasing school population, teaching posts were slashed in the October '08

Budget.

But that was not enough. A further 200 current teaching posts are also to be lost by next September.

These measures will have a significant impact on children in hundreds of schools throughout the country and, in addition, on graduate employment next year.

We need to fight these cuts tooth and nail. The teaching unions need to go on the offensive and call a halt to these vicious attacks and for a reversal of all the cutbacks that have been brought in.

People Before Profit say: Education is the backbone of our economy. It is the future for our children. Its should be fully funded with special provision made for children who need extra support.

Luas Link for Inchicore?

In a revision of its plans for an underground line crossing the city centre, Irish Rail says the proposed DART Underground tunnel through the heart of the city centre, could be extended to Inchicore. That means the new line will link Docklands to Heuston, and then Inchicore, via a tunnel with less disturbance of existing rail and Luas networks. Irish Rail are currently undertaking public consultations in the area.

While plans for the provision of additional public transport routes and facilities are to be welcomed, provision of such a major public transport hub in the CIE Estate in Inchicore could have major implications for the area. If Irish Rail and developers seek to increase the population density in the area, all steps would have to be taken to ensure that development fits in with the needs of residents and with the fabric of the existing community. Also, residents will face years of noise, dust and building traffic.

The needs of the community and the capacity of services and infrastructure in the area have to be put first!



Tina MacVeigh is the People Before Profit local election candidate in the South West Inner City. Tina lives in the Bulfin Estate in Inchicore and works with the Fatima Regeneration Board.

People Before Profit have been involved in various local campaigns supporting the provision of children's amenities and services, development issues, the anti-mast campaign and defending local bus services.

We are also involved in the campaign against the recent budget cutbacks in health and education. More recently, we have been active in the campaign against the Israeli bombing of Gaza and the Boycott Israeli Goods campaign.

IF ELECTED, TINA MACVEIGH AND PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT WILL:

- Campaign against all cuts brought in by the government and Dublin City Council;
- Campaign for an end to education cuts in all schools and community crèches;
- Continue to support and campaign with residents in local authority housing estates to secure proper housing;
- Monitor the implementation of the Liberties Local Area Plan to make sure that it serves the interests of the community;
- Oppose the proposed cuts to our bus services and ensure the development of the proposed Luas extension is implemented in the interest of the local community;
- Campaign for community consultation on issues of traffic management and the installation of safe pedestrian and cycle paths;
- Continue to campaign for children's play areas and amenities, particularly in Bulfin Estate and Maryland;
- Support the community to identify education, training and employment opportunities to counter the 70% increase in unemployment in the area in the past year.

Joe Higgins, a well known socialist and defender of workers' rights is standing for the forthcoming European elections which are being held on the same day as the local elections.

People Before Profit are asking their supporters to give Joe Higgins a No. 1 vote.

Put a real voice in Europe!

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pbpdublin8@gmail.com

www.tinamacveigh.org



Tina MacVeigh

BUDGET

The April budget is the worst attack on PAYE workers ever. It will force most people to work between three and four weeks for free to help the government subsidise the banks.

The 440 'high worth' tax fugitives who are worth an estimated €30 million each will not contribute a penny.

The main groups who will suffer are lower and middle PAYE workers. A single worker on a gross wage of €30,000 a year will lose €900 a year or €17.30 a week. If they had the misfortune to be a worker in the public sector they were hit by an additional pension levy of €2,103 or €40 a week. An average family with two children could lose an estimated €3,000 next year!

Yet despite these shocking attacks, there was no levy on wealth. Companies who benefit from one of the lowest corporation tax rates in Europe were not even asked for a 2 percent levy on profit.

Before the budget was announced, Fianna Fail and the Greens sent out signals that they would not touch social welfare payments. But in fact, they reduced these payments by 2% through the simple device of abolishing the Christmas bonus. This will force pensioners, those on disability benefit and the unemployed to take loans out at Christmas.

The government also attacked the young by halving their benefits.

Rent supplement is being cut, forcing tenants to pay more in top up rents to private landlords. No changes were made to tax on landlords profits.

The budget has abolished the Early Childcare Supplement of €996 per year. This introduction of free pre-school is a red herring as there is no infrastructure for it.

The real purpose of the budget is to siphon money off PAYE workers to help save the banks.

In other words, most of the money raised in levies on PAYE workers is helping to fund the bank bail outs. Of the €1.8bn raised, €1.4bn comes from PAYE workers.

WHAT WE CAN DO?

Start local pickets on Fianna Fáil offices

People Before Profit will be calling pickets on Fianna Fáil clinics in the coming weeks in Dublin 8.

To find out more about our organisation or to get involved with People Before Profit in the South West Inner City, contact: Tina on 086 871 5293.