



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.
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President, PHILIP RUMORE

March 11, 2019

MEMO TO: Darren Brown, Ed.D., Chief of Staff, BPS
Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: March 8, 2019 Memo to Teachers
Snow/Wind Days

MARCH 8, 2019 MEMO TO TEACHERS – 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

While you addressed your reasons for calendars A & B, you did not address the serious concerns of teachers in my [March 7, 2019 correspondence](#), e.g.

- With an August 28th start, teachers teaching summer school will have but a few days between summer school and the start of school.
- Teachers' salary, instead of forty-two (42) weeks, will be spread over forty-four (44) weeks or the forty-three (43) weeks we suggested.

e.g. $\$50,000 \div 42 = \$1,190.48$
 $\$50,000 \div 44 = \$1,136.36$

\$54.12 per week difference

Note: Whether teachers receive one or twenty checks, obviously, the salary per week is what is relevant.

Teachers, in order to have our calendar reflect the BOCES calendar, are willing to consider a compromise to extend our calendar to forty-three (43) weeks as we have in the past.

As for students reporting for school on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 instead of Friday, September 6, 2019, we would point out that students reported on Thursday, September 6th last year and, that having students report on Friday, September 6, 2019, allows for an orientation/organization day prior to a full week of instruction with two consecutive days of in-service. Also, the District can schedule in-service days at any time during the school year.

We are disappointed that rather than support the compromise calendar that increases the number of weeks, from the required forty-two (42) to forty-three (43) as we have agreed to for several years, the District is attempting to go beyond that compromise to impose a forty-four (44) week calendar on teachers who have, in good faith, worked with you.

Please note, proposing a forty-four (44) week calendar, despite our past compromise of forty-three (43) week calendars, angered teachers; however, your failure to even address their concerns as indicated in our correspondence, has greatly angered them.

Statements are being made, such as:

- “See, give them an inch...”
- “All they want to do is shove their version down our throats. Take it or else.”
- “What’s next, forty-five, forty-nine...”

SNOW/WIND DAYS

You have advised us that the closing of elementary schools this year also counts as a closing of the High Schools, i.e. both elementary schools and high schools lose a day of student attendance.

As you know, we disagree.

NYSUT has informed us that your interpretation is incorrect.

Please advise us of the regulations and the clarifications you have received from NYSED so that we can clarify this issue.

PR:su

cc: All Buffalo Teachers