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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BTF Responds to “Insulting, Derogatory and False” School District Statement**

“The District statement apparently approved by the Superintendent and Board of Education is insulting, derogatory and false.

It insults all teachers who, while celebrating our students’ success, will not allow other students to create unsafe teaching and learning conditions.

We will not participate in what may be called a cover-up by some”, stated Phil Rumore, President of the Buffalo Teachers Federation.

### **DISTRICT STATEMENT**

*“Pernicious BTF statements that so egregiously distort and mischaracterized what is occurring at one of our finest high schools are insulting to the students, the teachers, the staff, and the administration of McKinley HS.*

*Administratively, all matters were handled procedurally correct as in any other high school across the city.*

*We are not at liberty to discuss the specifics of any personnel cases.*

*So-called “vote of no confidence” surveys are a bogus and bullying tactic that are always deeply flawed and unverifiable.*

*The District is steadfastly focused on increasing equity and student achievement for all of our students in all of our schools. We hold all staff accountable, and we expect staff to model a strong growth mindset and high expectations for all of our students.”*

The BTF today released the following allegations (attached, [click here](#)).

- There have been serious student altercations that have occurred at McKinley High School on December 19, 2018 and January 15-17, 2019. One such altercation involved 150-200 students.
- The principal has initiated “Detention Parties” at McKinley. *Note:* Principal Abraham was not present for the first such “party” and the students assigned were unexpectedly placed with suspended students.
- That students at McKinley initially coded as suspended were later recoded as illegally absent. Thus, there would be a lower suspension rate.

The BTF, to counter the Superintendent's and Board's false public statements, has initiated a survey of all Buffalo teachers to identify serious behavioral disruptions, issues of underreporting and other disruption.

The results will be released to the Superintendent, Board and public.

Rumore reiterated his statement in his correspondence to teachers:

“While we celebrate the successes of our students, we cannot and will not ignore unsafe and unacceptable learning conditions.”

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