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President, PHILIP RUMORE

May 16, 2019

MEMO TO: Colleagues

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: They Have Thrown Down the Gauntlet

Whether you prefer a forty-three (43) or forty-four (44) week calendar, if there was ever any doubt that the Superintendent and Board are intent on using any means of deception and dishonesty to get teachers to bow to their demands in our contract negotiations, it is now in the open, e.g. demanding 20% healthcare contributions, a forty-four (44) week school year, etc.

In one of the most dishonest actions I have ever seen since being your president, the Superintendent and Board via Social Media, and their website, have asked the public (not just parents in Buffalo but everyone, anywhere) to only choose between their forty-four (44) week calendar and their forty-two (42) week calendar. There is no mention of our compromise forty-three (43) week calendar. It is not a choice.

They should be, but obviously are not, ashamed of themselves.

We proposed the forty-three (43) week compromise calendar instead of a forty-two (42) week calendar in January 2019. Since then, the District has refused our compromise calendar and apparently purposefully dragged this issue until June.

When we polled schools, we had the honesty and integrity to place both the District's forty-four (44) week calendar and our compromise forty-three (43) calendar before you. In just two (2) days, 39 schools supported the forty-three (43) week calendar, and 9 supported the forty-four (44) week calendar.

That the Superintendent and Board are trying to manipulate you and the public is not only pathetic but a reason for great disgust and anger.

Whether you prefer the forty-four (43) week or forty-four (44) week calendar, you should resent these attempts to manipulate you and the public.

This is not just a disagreement. This is an act of deception, manipulation and dishonesty against teachers and the public.

While there is no place to vote for/support our forty-three (43) week compromise calendar, you, your family and friends can make your discontent known in the comment box indicating that you resent their dishonesty and manipulation and that you support the forty-three (43) week compromise calendar.

[Click Here to be Directed to the BPS 2019-2020 Calendar Survey](#)

Yes, we have heard calls for a vote of no confidence in the Superintendent and Board based upon these actions. Hopefully it won't come to that.

It's up to the Superintendent and Board.

Note: We have just been informed that the principal at Enterprise Charter School has instructed their employees to vote for District Calendar "A" (44 Weeks).

PR:su