



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.  
271 Porter Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14201  
(716) 881-5400  
www.btfny.org

President, PHILIP RUMORE

January 15, 2019

MEMO TO: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS  
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: McKinley High School

Attached ([click here](#)), please find updated copies of information relating to the teaching and learning conditions at McKinley High School.

If what is attached isn't sufficient cause for alarm and anger, today, January 15, 2019, while on his way to McKinley, after being advised on Friday, January 11, 2019 by the District that he could return, the teacher was advised that he must turn around and that he could not return to McKinley.

This was after he was assaulted by a student, went to his doctor on January 14, 2019 to receive clearance to return so that he could be there for his students, emailed the District a copy of the doctor's clearance document on the same day, January 14, 2019, and was told by the District he could return to his students.

This teacher has endured an assault, being put on administrative leave, told he could return to his students; then, on his way to return to school, was told he could not return! Talk about punishing the victim.

In reviewing the attached, please note:

- The more complete statement of the incident.
- That a vote of "no confidence" delineating the serious safety concerns was taken and passed in January 2018 and then sent to the Superintendent and Board. Nothing was done.
- A woman teacher reported to the BTF that three (3) students barged into her room while she was with students, were asked to leave, refused saying "f... this, we don't have to do anyf...ing", moved towards her making kissing motions asking if she want a hug from him, said "f... security. We are not afraid of them. They can't do anything to us."

After the incident and the concern that the students only received a three (3) day, not formal suspension, it was relayed to the Superintendent. Principal Marck Abraham called the teacher into a meeting with his secretary/clerk where the teacher was demeaned, humiliated and insulted.

**Among the despicable things said to this woman teacher – was she afraid of being raped, groped, touched or being thrown to the ground or being beaten up by the boys!**

I urge you to read the report of the entire meeting.

- It has been reported recently that on or about November 30, 2018 a teacher at McKinley reported that during 2<sup>nd</sup> period, a student said to the teacher's class, "Who with DB? I heard some shit going down." A student replied, "I'm with DB." It then got quiet.

After 5/6 period, another student left his phone in the teacher's class. As the phone was sitting on the teacher's desk, the teacher oversaw some alarming messages regarding students fighting/shooting and brought the phone to Mr. Pilato, the Assistant Principal.

Around 1:40, the teacher overheard students in the hallway saying that the student (who was later involved in the teacher assault on 1/3/19) had left school and was planning to come back to school "shooting". The teacher immediately brought this to the attention of Mr. Pilato and Mrs. Vaarwark.

This was also brought to the attention of Principal Abraham. We do not believe it was reported to the District.

- On December 18, 2018, Anna Geronimo, Labor Relations Specialist (LRS) assigned to the BTF reported "I went to McKinley High School for a meeting with Principal Abraham and a teacher. Upon buzzing to be let in, the door was opened by Mr. House (Assistant Principal) and he escorted me across the foyer to the office. He said I would have to wait in the office. There were approximately 4 adults in the foyer and one student wandering around from one side of the foyer to another, banging his head on walls and the glass window of the office. I heard the adults (administrators or teachers) asking if mom had been called, at least one person was talking on the walkie-talkie. Mr. House directed anyone approaching the foyer that they could not enter it at that time. All doors to the foyer were locked. At one point the boy was looking into the office and we made eye contact. I smiled and he made a "scary face" grimace to me and held his hands up menacingly."
- The incidents with a McKinley High School 9<sup>th</sup> grade male student, who is a student in a teacher's 9<sup>th</sup> period (12:49 pm-1:30 pm) class.
  - On Wednesday 1/2/2019 at approximately 1:00 pm (middle of 9<sup>th</sup> period), the teacher called the mother of a student, due to him being unprepared for class, refusing to take out headphones from his ears, and refusing to take the hood of his sweatshirt off of his head. The student spoke to his mother following the teacher's phone call. The student's mother apologized and said she'll address it when he got home.

The below occurred on Thursday 1/3/2019

- At approximately 1:10 pm (middle of 9<sup>th</sup> period) the teacher asked the student to give him his cell phone as he was playing on it and listening to music. The student refused. The teacher called the security office and there was no answer. The teacher taught the rest of his 9<sup>th</sup> period class without incident.
- At approximately 1:30 pm (end of 9<sup>th</sup> period), an 11<sup>th</sup> grade female student, also in the teacher's 9<sup>th</sup> period class, alleged that the student had taken her new headphones and replaced them with old ones. The teacher did not see the student do this. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade female student then left his classroom.

- The teacher taught his 10<sup>th</sup> period class (1:34 pm-2:15 pm) without incident or contact with either above listed students. At approximately 2:20 pm during his 11<sup>th</sup> period class (2:19 pm-3:00 pm) both the male student and the 11<sup>th</sup> grade female student entered the teacher's classroom and walked to his desk. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade female student said, "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, tell (the male student) to give me back my headphones." The male student stated, "I do not have your fucking headphones." Then the male student placed his cell phone on the teacher's desk and said, "Look at my text messages, I do not have your cell phone." The teacher confiscated the male student's cell phone, as per district policy. The male student was advised that the teacher would be giving the cell phone to either a security officer or administrator. The male student then grabbed a set of keys (containing a key to the teacher's car and a key to his classroom) off of the teacher's desk and ran out of his classroom stating, "I'd rather have a car than a cell phone." The 11<sup>th</sup> grade female student, followed him out of the classroom. The teacher called the security office and received no answer. The teacher called the main office asking for security to come to his classroom (room 133) and no one responded. The teacher then taught the rest of his 11<sup>th</sup> period class without incident.
- At approximately 3:01 pm, the teacher was standing outside his classroom, room 133 in hallway, as directed to during student transitions. The teacher noticed the male student in the hallway. The student came to the teacher and gave him his set of keys. The teacher noticed that his set of keys was missing the key that opens his classroom, room 133. The teacher advised the student, that the key was missing, and the student stated he would get it. The student went around the corner, came back with what appeared to be the classroom key to room 133, his classroom. The student then ran around the hallway outside of the teacher's classroom trying to avoid giving him the key. The teacher noticed a substitute teacher, Micah Harris in the hallway and asked for his assistance. It was then that the student whipped the key at the teacher, missing him with it going down the hallway. The teacher retrieved the key and went to return to his classroom, as he had a 12th period study hall class (3:05 pm-3:25 pm). The student was standing just outside of the teacher's classroom talking with Micah Harris. Just before the teacher walked in, the student threw a doorstop at him, hitting him in the leg. The teacher picked up the doorstop and brought it into his classroom, without incident. The teacher walked to his desk, called the main office from his classroom phone and asked for security to respond to his classroom, room 133 immediately. After the teacher called, Micah Harris was still outside the classroom with the student when Security Officer Sean Goodspeed arrived. The teacher then called the student's mother from his classroom phone to advise her of the situation, she said, "give the student the phone." The teacher told Security Officer Goodspeed, "the student's mother would like to talk to him." The student walked towards the desk, the teacher handed the student his classroom phone, he spoke to his mother for approximately 5 seconds, handing the teacher back the classroom phone and stated, "see my mom said give me my fucking phone." The teacher advised the student again "your cell phone will be going to an administrator." As the teacher went to put his classroom phone to his ear and sit in his desk chair, he was physically assaulted (body slammed) to the ground by the student, causing severe cuts and abrasions to his right lower back area and also ripping his Khaki pants from his right waist to 5 inches below his right pocket, making his underwear visible. Security Officer Goodspeed pulled the student off of the teacher and subdued him. The student was attempting to get away, yelling at the teacher, "pussy bitch, come to the block, we got guns." Security Officer Goodspeed escorted the student out of the classroom. I followed Security Officer Goodspeed and the student out

of the classroom into the hallway. The teacher noticed another security officer, Security Officer AD in the hallway and then asked him to assist Security Officer Goodspeed as the student had just physically assaulted him. The teacher then returned back to his classroom.

- At approximately 3:35 pm Assistant Principal Cotto entered the teacher's classroom to check on his well-being and asked him to write a behavioral referral in Infinite Campus.
- At approximately 4:00 pm Buffalo Police Officer Hamilton came to talk to the teacher in his classroom asking for a statement.
- At approximately 4:15 pm Security Officer Goodspeed came to the teacher's classroom to check on his well-being and advised him that the student threatened to kill all administration and security officers.
- At approximately 4:25 pm the teacher submitted a behavioral referral on Infinite Campus, on the student and the situation which had occurred.
- At approximately 4:35 pm the teacher left McKinley High School.

Please note: that the Incident Report ([click here](#)) states "Injury: No Injury"!

Please also note: that this is not the statement made by the teacher and the principal Marck Abraham is listed as the Behavior Admin Staff.

Please also note ([click here](#)) the severity of the lacerations.

Hopefully, you will agree what is related above requires immediate corrective action to ensure the safe and secure learning environment at McKinley High School.

We are currently circulating a climate survey for McKinley teachers. Once the results are tabulated, they, as per our agreement, will be forwarded to you with our recommendations.

PR:su