

President PHILIP RUMORE



January 29, 2015

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: A War

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

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Vicious attacks on us, our students and our profession by the Governor.

Vicious attacks on us, our students and our profession by Chancellor Tisch and the Board of Regents.

Vicious attacks on us, our students and our profession by the media.

Vicious attacks on us, our students and our profession by some Board members.

As you have read, the Governor, Board of Regents and some State Legislators are seeking to change the teacher evaluation (APPR) to:

- increase the weight of State tests from 20% to 50%.
- have an observation by an “independent observer”.
- have 3020a hearing officers be NYSED employees. The decision will then be made by paid employees of NYSED.
- The 3020a would now require that a teacher prove their evaluation was fraudulent.
- Teachers would remain probationary until they receive five (5) consecutive “effective” ratings.
- The Governor also wants to raise the Charter School cap from 100 to 560.
- The Governor wants to pay teachers who are “legitimately rated highly effective” an extra \$20,000 (merit pay).
- The Governor wants to take over “failing” schools or Districts by appointing groups to run the school/Districts.

- The Governor wants to tie State aid to student performance.
- A \$100 million “voucher” program would be established.

These are but a few of the attacks.

Many have likened this to a war – one that must be fought and won.

The BTF is part of a working group to combat these attacks. We will be working with NYSUT and our colleagues from across New York State with a focused offensive.

NYSUT and our friends will be working together. However, as with all successful campaigns, all must stay on message.

Such issues as the devastating impact of underfunding on all school districts, usurping of local control, some of the Governor’s vicious statements, etc. will be aspects of the offensive.

The issues will be determined by professionals using polling, focus groups, etc. We need to determine what will have the greatest impact.

We must discredit and weaken all those who are attacking us and our students.

The use of media, including social media, a variation on the forums like the ones to which Commissioner King was invited, both on a local and State level, and other actions are planned.

We have already begun to plan for our local forum in March as well as other coordinated actions.

In order to keep informed on these issues, we ask that you enroll in NYSUT’s MAC Text Alerts – We will also be keeping you advised of other activities. [Click here to see how to enroll in MAC Text Alerts.](#)

The attacks are coming from all directions. I say “Bring them on”.

We are united and strong.
Together we will prevail.