

President PHILIP RUMORE



March 11, 2015

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MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Board of Regents

We did it! We started in December 2013 with an unprecedented BTF picket in front of Regent Bennett's house. It ended yesterday with Dr. Catherine Collins being elected as his replacement.

As I said at the time, we would not stop until we have a new Regent and we worked to make that happen.

For many years, Regent Bennett was very supportive. Indeed, he helped equalize the playing field for our vocational education students. However, his support for the Common Core and its devastating implementation, brutalizing standardized testing, calling schools that are performing miracles "failing schools", his support for Charter Schools, his support for former Commissioner King, etc. made it imperative that we work to have him replaced. We did just that.

While we thank him for the good initiatives he supported, we welcome Regent Dr. Catherine Collins, a person with whom we have worked well in the past, she is aware of what our students really need, e.g. smaller class sizes, increased support services, elimination of brutalizing standardized tests and agrees with us on our issues with Charter Schools, and teacher evaluations.

Will we have some differences of opinion? Of course; however, we will, as we have in the past, work together to find a common ground.

The change was necessary and yesterday, we, along with our allies, made it happen.

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