

President PHILIP RUMORE



July 2, 2015

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

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MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: Response to The Buffalo News Editorial

Let's see whether it is printed and how much is cut.

PR:su

July 1 , 2015

Again, The News misrepresents the facts.

Under the current Board proposal, some teachers would actually earn less salary after they pay for their healthcare.

The average base salary increase for 2015-2018 is 3.5% minus the 20% teachers must pay for their healthcare.

The Board's salary offer is an average of only nine-tenths of a percent (.9%) per year when you include the 11 years that Buffalo teachers have been without a new contract and they will now have to pay 20% of their healthcare amounting to approximately \$3,600 per year for some..

If that isn't bad enough, the Board further decreases its salary proposal by increasing the school year by 2.2% plus the school day by 12.2% (14.4% total increase) putting the Board's proposal below a 0% increase.

Also, not mentioned by The News were the 17% reduction of sick days (usually at least one of your 30 or 150 students has a cold); mandating seeing a doctor on the day you are ill; increasing prescription co-pays from \$5/\$10 to \$10/\$25/\$40; increasing teaching periods from 5 to 6 periods (20% increase); and the withdrawal of arbitrations and other BTF legal victories that would cost the

District over \$20,000,000.

As a further insult to Buffalo Teachers, this Board's offer is \$16,000,000 less than the Board's last offer. A subsequent offer was withdrawn as a result of an Improper Practice Charge filed by the BTF.

Yes, this, plus other detrimental proposals, is what the Board is demanding of Buffalo teachers who work under some of the most difficult conditions and who are already \$20,000, yes, \$20,000 behind their colleagues in surrounding and other city school districts.

Yet, The News characterizes the District's offer "as the starting point for serious negotiations".

In an incredible statement, The News first refers to "work rules that have prevented significant progress in improving educational outcomes". Then, in the next sentence The News states "Some of those antiquated requirements are almost laughable, including a smoking room in each school, a vending machine for each school's staff use only, access to outside telephones and a requirement that notices be posted on a bulletin board"!

Besides the fact that with our agreement there haven't been pay phones or smoking rooms in schools for years, that The News makes a statement linking these obsolete items to educational outcomes is bizarre.

While Buffalo teachers have come to expect these distortions, we hope the public will also see through them.

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