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President, PHILIP RUMORE

October 10, 2017

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

This is a copy of my response to a recent Buffalo News “Editorial” ([attached](#)).

Yes, it may be strong; however, can you imagine what would happen if you or I had made these statements.

We will see whether it is printed and if so, what is eliminated.

PR:su

Buffalo News Editorial - Racist and Student-Demeaning

In my opinion, the recent *Buffalo News* “Editorial”, “District should create a City Honors II” is one of the most racist and student-demeaning editorials I have ever read.

Of Buffalo students, the *News* states “Most students are not up to or don’t want that type of education”, “That type of education” *the News* states is the “International Baccalaureate program emphasizing higher standards and critical thinking.” (emphasis added)

The *Buffalo News* has decreed that we must accept that most Buffalo Students, (“where half the students are black”) are “not up to” and “don’t want” an education that emphasizes higher standards and critical thinking. (emphasis added)

What does the *News* suggest needs to be done? “The short term answer is providing an elite education to qualified students of all races” (emphasis added) by promptly making “room for every qualified student seeking an advanced, college-oriented education...” – a second City Honors. (emphasis added)

In other words, *the News* wants to provide an additional City Honors for students who are “qualified for admittance”, are “seeking an advanced college-oriented” education “in an advanced academic environment” because “most students are not up to or don’t want that type of education. But those who do deserve the opportunity.” (emphasis added)

Every member of the Buffalo News Editorial Board should resign or be terminated for such racist, disgusting and student-demeaning statements.

The answer is not to siphon off friends and students who help and inspire students and who are themselves inspired by other students.

The *News* attempts to cover-up its editorial by giving lip service to early childhood education and other initiatives. That this just an attempt to cover-up what once again I and others consider its student-demeaning racist “editorial” is obvious.

Their statements would, if accepted, undermine any programs or efforts on behalf of our students and doom them to failure.

The answer is to provide programs, supports and high expectations for all students at all schools – programs not only for students who want to attend college but also for students who aspire to vocations in all fields.

We must reject what I consider the Buffalo News Editorial Board’s racist, disgusting, student-demeaning, and degrading attack on our students.

Buffalo teachers, unlike the *Buffalo News*, seek to inspire and motivate our students to reach for the stars. It is always easy? No. Will we give up on our students by accepting that they “are not up to or don’t want” a “program emphasizing higher standards and critical thinking”... NEVER.