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President PHILIP RUMORE

March 16, 2016

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: Call to Action

Send your New York State Legislators a message.

- Repeal Receivership
 - Schools are misidentified based upon tests that are so flawed that they can't be used to evaluate students or teachers until 2019. Yet, they can be used to mislabel schools.
 - Over 63 different languages are spoken in the Buffalo Public Schools. Yet, students speaking little English are subjected to these tests.
 - Rather than punishing schools, the focus should be shifted to provide sufficient resources to lower class sizes, provide student support services.
- APPR
 - Repeal APPR legislation and regulations and return evaluations to local control to be negotiated by the school districts and employee organizations.
- Charter Schools
 - End the siphoning of district funding by Charter Schools. Let them have their own source of funding and let them fight for increases instead of riding on our backs.
 - Stop them from suspending "undesirable" students and sending them back to the local school district.
 - Ensure that their student ELL, Special Education, poverty reflects that of the local school district.
- Early Childhood Education
 - Fully fund Pre-K and Kindergarten.
 - Targeted funding to reduce class sizes to 15 students.
 - Provide funding for increased academic support teachers and student support services.
- Funding
 - Restore the \$1,029,269,166 (yes, billion) withheld from the Buffalo Public Schools since 2007-2008 as a result of the Gap Elimination Adjustment and Foundation Aid underfunding. *NOTE:* Foundation Aid is the increased aid we were to receive as a result of New York State being found guilty of underfunding poor school districts.
 - Eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

- Other issues
 - Restore teacher center funding to the 2008-2009 level of \$40 million
 - Oppose “Parent Choice” voucher legislation
 - Oppose 2017 Constitutional Convention
 - Support Paid Family Leave
 - Support raising State minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour

.These are but a few of the issues about which you should contact your New York State Legislator.

You can address them all or the ones you consider the most important.

Even if you only address one (1) or two (2) it is important that you do so.

While BTF made a 135-page presentation to the Western New York Delegation, you need to weigh in. They pay attention to constituents.

Send your email today using the links below or as soon as possible. You can also sign up for NYSUT’s Member Action Center at mac.nysut.org. You will receive weekly alerts allowing you to send a fax to your legislators regarding important educational issues.

You can make a difference.

PR:su

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