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PRESS RELEASE

June 29, 2016



COURT REBUFFS SCHOOL BOARD'S ATTEMPT TO UNILATERALLY REMOVE NEGOTIATED BENEFIT FROM TEACHERS' CONTRACT

New York State Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Tracey A. Bannister, today, issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) "Enjoining and restraining" the school district from "terminating the cosmetic surgery provision of the parties' collective bargaining agreement, pending disposition of the grievance and arbitration".

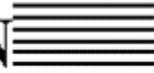
This puts the School Board's decision to unilaterally remove a section of the BTF/District collective bargaining agreement on hold until a final decision on the BTF's grievance is made by an arbitrator or the Board rescinds its action.

The BTF showed that in at least ten (10) cases there would be irreparable harm to teachers or their families, e.g.:

- The one year old daughter of a teacher was severely burned and while some of the medical treatments may be covered by parts of the standard medical policy, the "cosmetic" aspects of treatment to prevent permanent scarring and treatment should be performed immediately. Most are not covered by other sections of the policy.
- Teachers who have a family history of skin cancer and who have had basal cell carcinomas removed are receiving laser or chemical treatments to prevent pre-cancerous growths from forming on the face.
- Severe, chronic and painful acne is treated to prevent and reduce severe scarring.
- Treatment for Venous Insufficiency, which not only causes great pain but has the potential of causing blood clots is covered under the cosmetic provision.

"Anyone with a modicum of intelligence knows that you can't just remove something from a contract to which you have agreed. Obviously, those that proposed this illegal act (the current Board majority) don't even meet the modicum level of intelligence."

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**COURT REBUFFS SCHOOL BOARD’S ATTEMPT TO UNILATERALLY REMOVE
NEGOTIATED BENEFIT FROM TEACHERS’ CONTRACT - CONTINUED**

“While many think the cosmetic surgery provision is just for facelifts, it is also for the prevention of severe scarring, pre and post skin cancer treatments, the prevention of blood clots, etc.”

“The current Board majority has not only shown it’s contempt for teachers, they are also attempting to make the new Board that takes office on July 1, 2016 look bad when the new Board majority overturns this clear violation of law. In the process, they are attempting to do ‘irreparable harm’ to teachers.”

“This action has angered all teachers making negotiations much more difficult.”

“The current Board majority seems to have forgotten the BTF gave up something to have this in the contract. It was not given as a gift” stated Phil Rumore, President of BTF.

Rumore thanked NYSUT Attorneys Jim Bilik, Laura Delaney, Chris Scoville and Claire Sellers for their invaluable work on behalf of Buffalo teachers.

