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President, PHILIP RUMORE

May 3, 2017

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: More Legal Action against District

Earlier in the year, the District approached us to see if there was a way to add some (5 – 10 minutes) of the additional 25 minutes to the beginning of the day and changing two (2) schools from early to late schools.

We were advised that unless we could find a way to adjust some of the schools, they would have to add eighty-six (86) school busses and bus aides that would, obviously, add at least a \$4.5 million cost to the budget.

We indicated we would work with them and the timelines in the Commissioner's Receivership Order (The Superintendent can change starting and ending times.) which we did. We did, however, object to changing the starting and ending times at the proposed schools (#3, #89) making them late schools. We said change the starting and ending times at the Charter schools.

Our reward for working with them to minimize the \$4-5 million budget problem – A memo to Schools #3, #59, and #89, from Darren Brown, Chief of Staff, not only using the NYSED Commissioner's decision allowing the district to change starting and ending times from early to late schools, but also adding not twenty-five (25) minutes to their day but thirty-five (35) minutes.

So much for bargaining in good faith Superintendent Cash and Chief of Staff Brown. The lines have been drawn.

In addition to the Special Ed surveys going to NYSED and the legal action on the Replacement Teacher Pool (yesterday's email), we will be taking legal action on this situation as well as other issues e.g., grievance hearings and responses, grievance hearings months late or not at all, and delayed arbitrations.

In relation to changing the starting and ending times, the Commissioner's decision states that the change is "to increase student achievement".

Obviously, this was done to save money not "to increase student achievement". I won't go into our other arguments. We will fight this as we also continue to press on with our court challenge to the entire Commissioner's decision.

Stay tuned.

PR:ls