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February 5, 2014

MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF
RE: NYSUT Officers Election

In response to questions relating to recent NYSUT activities, there is a “slate” of candidates running against the current officers’ “slate”.

The Current NYSUT Officers’ “Slate”

Richard Iannuzzi, President
Maria Neira, 1st Vice President
Kathleen Donahue, 2nd Vice President
Lee Cutler, Secretary-Treasurer

The current Executive Vice President, Andrew Pallotta, has chosen not to re-run with the current officers. He is now a candidate on the Revive NYSUT “slate”.

The current NYSUT officers’ website is www.strongernysut.com

The Revive NYSUT “Slate”

Karen Magee, President
Andrew Pallotta, Executive Vice President
Catalina R. Fortino, 1st Vice President
Paul Pecorale, 2nd Vice President
Martin Messner, Secretary-Treasurer

The opposition officers’ website is www.revivenysut.org

The election will be held at the NYSUT Representative Assembly (April 4th – 6th). BTF delegates at the RA will vote on this and other issues.

I would like to have a vote of the Executive Committee and Council of Delegates at our meetings on February 13th as to our choice of candidates since I have been in discussions with Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers and Niagara Falls so that we have a unified position of the small(er) cities.

As you know, BTF has had to be the union doing battle with NYSED. NYSUT leadership only recently has made some noise.

BTF Delegates at the National Education Association Representative Assembly were angered when President Iannuzzi and some of the other officers argued and voted against supporting the BTF motion that called for both national unions to work together against standardized testing, the APPR and also for a vote of “no confidence” in Secretary of Education Duncan. At that National Education Association Representative Assembly, I made a motion calling for the New York Delegation to support us. President Iannuzzi and the NYSUT steering committee took a position against us and argued for a position of neutrality instead of support for our motion.

They prevailed.

While we cannot bind the BTF Delegates to the NYSUT RA, the BTF Executive Committee and Council can indeed give direction.

I’ll keep you informed.