

President PHILIP RUMORE



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MEMO TO: All Buffalo Teachers

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: "Snow" Days

We believe that the Buffalo Public Schools 2013-2014 Student Calendar on the District's website may be incorrect.

The Superintendents have four (4) what are referred to as Superintendents' days available. In short, a Superintendent's day is a day that teachers report but students do not; however, it counts as a day of student attendance. The days are sometimes for in-school or district meetings.

Superintendents are usually given latitude in what they identify as Superintendents' days.

This may be the reason for having teachers report today.

Elementary students must have 180 days of attendance. For secondary students, Regents are taken into consideration.

If you look at the Buffalo Public School 2013-2014 Calendar Revised 07/15/2013 posted in the District's website, as of January 28, 2014, for the first semester you will see that September 3rd and September 4th are listed as Superintendents' Conference Days; however, they are not counted as days of student attendance for PreK-8 and 9-12. Only two (2), days instead of four (4), are credited for both PreK-8 and 9-12. Therefore, for the first semester, the total for PreK-8 should apparently be 95 instead of 93.

You should note that for the second semester April 9th and May 7th, the Superintendents' days are correctly counted as days of student attendance.

The bottom line is that it appears for PreK-8 that we may have four (4) days available $186 (95 + 91) - 2$ (used) = 184 of the 180 days required.

For 9-12, assuming that in effect Regents days count as days of student attendance, instead of the 89 days

listed for 1st semester there may be 95 (89 + 2 (Superintendents Days) + 4 (Regents Days)) and for 2nd semester 92 (84 + 4 + 4 (Regents Days)) or a total of 187 days of student attendance for 9-12. The 187 days – 2 days used = 185 or 5 days that may be available.

The above is if the Superintendents' days meet the New York State requirements, e.g. for providing staff development, general staff orientation, curriculum development, in-service education, and/or parent conferences.

If the Superintendents' days are not all approved, the available snow days are obviously reduced by 0-4 days. This does not usually occur.

Under the law, if a school district falls below the required number of student days, they must be made up using available "scheduled vacation days", i.e. Friday, May 23, 2014 (the Friday before Memorial Day) and the Mid-Winter and Spring Recess.

The above was done based upon the District Calendar on its website and what appears to be State law.

We will be forwarding this information to NYSUT and the District for their analysis.

The days of student attendance seem right to me; however, be assured we will have definitive information from NYSUT ASAP. Stay tuned.

Questions have arisen relating to today's scheduling of classes and teachers' attendance. It may have been based upon the current District's calendar to allow for the use of a Superintendent's day and/or to lessen any shortening of the scheduled vacation days.

Many teachers have expressed the elimination of the Friday before Memorial Day as preferable to shortening either of the two recesses. We will check with you through your delegates should the need arise.

I know this is quite long, however, I thought you should have all the information we have thus far. We will update you when we receive a response from NYSUT and the District.

Reminder, Snow Days see Articles XXXII and XXXIII, page 86 –

Because the schools where you live are closed is sometimes rejected as a reason for your absence. You may also indicate that you attempted to get to school; however, you could not attend because of being snowed in, the roads were closed, etc. You can use the closing of the schools in your area as further evidence.

If you are denied, call BTF.

PR:su