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President PHILIP RUMORE

June 30, 2016

MEMO TO: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Teach for America

In response to inquiries from Board members, we are enclosing information relating to Teach for America (TFA).

As you can see, not only is Teach for America analogous to fool's gold but it is also detrimental to our students and district.

You should know that:

- Teach for America candidates only receive five (5) weeks of training to be a teacher (yes, just 5 weeks). The training is not for individual tenure areas such as math but rather a crash course in all subject areas.
- Peer review studies (enclosed) show that:
 - "...the students of uncertified teachers, including TFA teachers, did less well on academic tests than those of comparably experienced certified teachers on mathematics, reading, and language arts tests (Laczko-Kerr & Berliner, 2002)."
 - "...we found no instance where uncertified Teach for America teachers performed as well as standard certified teachers of comparable experience levels teaching in similar settings. In the OLS estimates, on 5 of 6 tests, uncertified TFA teachers showed a significant negative effect on student achievement gains relative to standard."
- The Teach for America candidates must only commit to teach for two (2) years in the district.
- Approximately only 20% of the Teach for America teachers remain in teaching and even less remain in the district in which they taught.
- As it was explained to me at a meeting with representatives of TFA, the hope is to expose graduates to the education community so that they will have an understanding of education issues as they move to other vocations, e.g. legislators, business leaders. They are also interested in having graduates become teachers.
- The cost to the district payable to TFA is \$5,000 to \$7,000 per teacher.
- The cost of replacing TFA teachers who leave the District is \$5,000 to \$7,000 per teacher over the cost of the salary and fringe benefits, i.e. wasted money.

Some have said why should BTF be concerned since the TFA teachers will be part of our union as a result of their being Board of Education employees.

Be assured that, as you can see from the above, our concerns are the same as yours – what is best for our students long term.

The information contained herein will hopefully provide you with the information some have requested and convince you that any contract with TFA is not only not in the best interests of our students but detrimental to them.

Once again, we request a list of all Teach for America teachers who have worked for and are working for the District. Said list should include the tenure area in which they work(ed), their length of service with the District and the dates of their employment. For each Teach for America teacher who has left the District, include the names of those teachers and each teacher's replacement. If said teacher replacement left and was replaced, please include that information.

PR:su

[Click Here to View Teach for America Information Packet](#)