

President PHILIP RUMORE



January 27, 2014

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

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MEMO TO: Dr. Pamela C. Brown, Superintendent, BTF
Board of Education, Members

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Urgent Security Issues

Enclosed please find a copy of the correspondence from a teacher at Early Childhood Center, School 61 that raises serious concerns for students and staff not only at School 61 but throughout the District.

In the interests of our students and staff, we are formally notifying the District of the following school safety concerns.

- Students and staff in the afterschool programs are put in danger by not having security officers assigned for the duration of the after school programs that have been instituted after the regular school day.

There should be sufficient security officers hired to ensure the safety of our students and staff during all hours of instruction – including afterschool programs.

- Having the “swipe keys” not operate after 4:00 prevents staff from entering the buildings in emergencies.

There should be a more reasonable time (7:00 pm or two hours after the last school program) time during which the swipe cards operate. Each card is apparently individualized.

- There is apparently a shortage of security officers.

Each building should be canvassed to assess the need for additional security officers

We have been informed (Bennett High School for one) that there are no substitute security officers. If one or two security officers are out ill, there may be no security officers in the building full time. Some may be shifted from one school to another, leaving the first school understaffed.

There should be a list of substitute security officers established and utilized.

Before a student or staff member is assaulted or harmed, the BTF calls for immediate action to address these very important and urgent safety concerns.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this very serious matter.

PR:su