

President's Report

PHILIP RUMORE, PRESIDENT



BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

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COURT ACTION - SCHEDULE CHANGES

As this is being written, the first date on our court challenge to the District's unilateral changing of the starting and ending times of three schools and the addition of 35 not 25 minutes to the school day at these schools is Friday, July 14th. We will notify you of the results. We are preparing to take this to the highest levels as it is these three schools now, but it can (and probably will if they get away with it), apply to more schools.

COMMISSIONER – CARL PALADINO

The hearing on Board member Paladino's removal will begin on June 23, 2017. It appears that one or both sides may call me to testify. You will, no doubt, be kept up-to-date via the media. We will also post relevant information. Since I am being called to testify, I will not be able to attend the end-of-the-year (June 22nd) BTF Social Hour. Believe me, I would much rather be with you!

APPR

NYSUT has filed a notice of appeal on our behalf. We will keep you updated.

TEACHER TRANSFER PROCEDURE

What was supposed to improve the teacher transfer procedure that lacked transparency, had many teachers notified of their assignments in late August/September, etc., has in some ways turned out to be worse than what we had.

We will be surveying all participants and other impacted teachers to determine their thoughts and recommendations. We have also filed several grievances on the process and for individual teachers.

The Council of Delegates has acted on my recommendation relating to the procedure. Remember, the Council of Delegates agreed to try it for one (1) year only. Check with your Delegates for the Motion. It will be posted next week on our website under Delegates/Agenda.

UNEMPLOYMENT

If you believe that you might not have a position in September, you should apply for unemployment insurance. Please remember that temporary teachers should be rehired each year by the Board if positions are available. Some temporary teachers, in previous summers, have received a certified letter from the District that indicates in part, that it expects to be able to employ you next year. This letter is sometimes referred to as a "reasonable assurance letter".

In the past, this letter has been used by the District in an attempt to prevent temporary teachers, who might be eligible for unemployment insurance, from receiving unemployment benefits. If you receive such a letter, and believe you will probably not be rehired, fax a copy to BTF at 881-6678.

If you apply for unemployment compensation benefits, believe you are eligible, and are turned down, appeal the determination, ask for a hearing and continue to report. List the BTF as your representative. Call us when you receive notice of a hearing date.

If you receive benefits and you are subsequently found to be ineligible, benefits are not recoverable unless you withheld information. A question asked is "Have you received any verbal or written POSSIBILITY of a job in September?" If you have received the "reasonable assurance letter" and you answer the question with a "no", you are considered to be withholding information. Also, you will be withholding information if you subsequently receive the "reasonable assurance letter" and do not report this fact to the Unemployment Office. If you have additional questions, please call your Labor Relations Specialist at the BTF.

O-V-E-R →

***COURT CASE
FUNDING – Con’t***

Mike Rebell, a long time friend of education and of the BTF argued the “Equity” Case before the New York State Court of Appeals – He did a great job.

The case involves being able to go to trial for our students to ensure that New York State is required to maintain the New York State Constitutional right to a “Sound Basic Education”.

As you may know, he won a similar case that resulted in increased “Foundation Aid” for poor school districts. New York State, however, stopped and also reduced the increased aid to poor districts. Unfortunately, the court did not retain jurisdiction. Thus we are back in court to start over again. We’ll keep you updated.

As a result of the first case, the “Campaign for Fiscal Equity”, for two years we received millions of dollars of additional funding. We have been in contact with Mike to congratulate him and thank him for his work on behalf of our students.

***TEMPORARY
TEACHER
SUMMER BC/BS***

Temporary teachers who worked at least 100 days, are on the payroll on the last day of school and who have not been terminated based on an evaluation, are entitled to health coverage during the summer lay-off.

***HEALTH CARE
LAID-OFF
TEACHERS***

If you receive a termination notice from your health care provider, call the BTF so that we can determine your status. In any event, all temporary teachers continue to be covered by the SBF during the summer months for SBF dental, optical, and prescription benefits. As always, SBF forms must be completed for reimbursement.

Contract and probationary teachers who are laid off, but are subsequently rehired, are entitled to be reimbursed for health care benefits during the time of layoff. (See Article XXVI (2) Section A-8 on page 72, lines 8-11 of your contract.)

***EXTENDED PAY
PLAN SIGN UP
NOW***

Many Buffalo teachers have joined the BTF Extended Pay Plan to have their pay spread out over the summer months.

If you would like information regarding the Extended Pay Plan, see your Delegate Chairperson. Information is also available in the BTF Delegate Handbook in your building. Enrollment cards are available from your delegate or from the BTF and are due by Friday, June 23, 2017. Reminder – we strongly suggest that you sign up for direct deposit to receive your extended pay plan funds.

***ATTENTION
TEMPORARY
TEACHERS***

Temporary teachers who have lost pay during this school year due to lack of sick days are reminded that they may apply to use any sick time they have since accumulated to obtain pay for those days. You must submit a written request to the Payroll department.

***SUMMER OFFICE
HOURS***

Once again this summer, BTF will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any changes will be on the tapeline, 881-4818. Keep up-to-date via the BTF tapeline, 881-4818, and our website, www.btfny.org.

SOLIDARITY

AS A DEMONSTRATION OF CONTINUED SOLIDARITY, WE ARE ASKING ALL TEACHERS TO WEAR THEIR BTF SHIRTS AND/OR SOLIDARITY PINS/STICKERS ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

EMAIL REQUEST

The BTF is looking to update our personal e-mail list. Please e-mail dstempniak@btfny.org with your personal e-mail address. There will be periodic updates on significant issues during the summer and you don’t want to miss them. BTF does not communicate using your BPS e-mail address.

***SUMMER
REMINDER***

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU HOW YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR “SUMMER VACATION”, REMIND THEM THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ON “SUMMER VACATION” – TEACHERS ARE LAID OFF. NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW IT IS NOT A PAID VACATION FOR TEACHERS IN THE SUMMER, BUT RATHER TWO MONTHS WITHOUT PAY. LET US CONTINUE USING THE TERM SUMMER “LAY-OFF” AND MAYBE THEY WILL GET THE MESSAGE.