

# news release BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2013



### **BTF Joins Education Expert, Diane Ravitch, Parents and Other Organizations Calling for the Resignation of NYSED Commissioner John King**

The BTF Executive Committee and Council of Delegates unanimously passed a motion calling for the resignation of NYSED Commissioner of Education, John King -

“That BTF support Diane Ravitch’s, parents’ and other organizations’ call for the resignation of Commissioner King”

BTF President Phil Rumore listed the following as some of the reasons:

- The disrespect of parents when calling them just a “special interest” after he cut short and cancelled scheduled town hall meetings.
- The premature institution of the Common Core standards before curriculum was developed, teachers trained, students taught the standards
- They damage students’ self-esteem by forcing them to take Common Core Examinations for which they and their teachers were not prepared.  
*Note: Only New York and Kentucky chose to implement the Common Core last year. Others are waiting until they are prepared. Some states are opting out.*
- His refusal to delay the implementation of the Common Core standards until curricula are developed in district, teachers trained and a field study of the Common Core is done.
- The implementation of teacher and administrator evaluations that are based on standardized tests that experts report are not valid for that purpose.
- He has presided over an SED that has resulted in the greatest parent and teacher dissatisfaction in decades.
- His becoming overly angered by a parent’s inquiry relating to his (Commissioner King’s) child being in a Montessori School that does not utilize state standardized tests/Common Core.

“We believe that Commissioner King may have tried to do what is best for our students; however, whether through lack of experience or bad advice, in our opinion it is time for a new educational leader. We know that there will be allegations that we are upset with the teacher evaluation issues. While that is obviously a concern, our major concern is what Commissioner King’s policies have done to our students’ love of learning, their self-esteem and parents’ and educators’ confidence in the direction of the education of our students” stated BTF President, Phil Rumore.

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