

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2014

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT – LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL
A BEACON OF HOPE

Lafayette teachers and the BTF respond to the misguided, uninformed and harmful attacks on Lafayette High School and its students.

Greg Conley, a teacher at Lafayette High School, in conjunction with others at the school, developed a clear and concise depiction, "Lafayette High School: Out of Time," detailing the chaotic changes imposed on the Lafayette staff, students and parents.

A separate document, "Population of English Language Learners at Lafayette High School 2004-Present" details how the English Language Learner population has exploded from approximately 75 or 10% in 2007-08 to 500 or 70% of the student population in 2014!!

In addition to over forty different languages being spoken at the school, teachers at Lafayette High School point out the following:

- Many students at Lafayette have never attended school or have received little education.
- Lafayette High School is probably one of the most diverse (E.L.L.) schools in the country.
- Most American students receive 12 years of education prior to graduation; whereas, immigrant high school students may receive one to four years of instruction prior to graduation.
- The school has a severe lack of the necessary resources the staff has requested as well as insufficient School Improvement Grant (SIG) funding for staff priorities.
- During the past summer, many Lafayette teachers volunteered to learn techniques to be utilized in teaching E.L.L. students as well as taking courses from Niagara University to become dual-certified in English as a Second Language.

"Despite the fact that NYSED and the District have inflicted chaotic changes and that the under-staffed and under-supported teachers at Lafayette High School are working with students who speak forty different languages and have little or no formal education, their students are making extraordinary progress.

Yet, NYSED absurdly mislabels Lafayette a "failing" school because students speaking little, or no English and forty different languages, can't pass the required Regents' examinations for graduation.

In addition, Johns Hopkins, the Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) approved by NYSED and hired by the Board to assist our students (and then abruptly abandoned Lafayette), was not the choice of the faculty or BTF to be the EPO for Lafayette. The State University College at Buffalo was the faculty's and BTF's choice. Yet, the teachers and students are made scapegoats for NYSED's and the District's mistakes.

The teachers, students and staff are not failing. NYSED and the District are failing our students. That should be absolutely clear." stated Phil Rumore, President.

(Attachments: 2)

Lafayette High School: Out of Time?

PLA- Persistently Low Achieving
 SIG- School Improvement Grant
 JIT- Joint Intervention Team
 EPO- Educational Partnership Organization
 BOE- Board of Education
 SIFE- Students with Interrupted Formal Education
 ELL- English Language Learner
 TDS- Talent Development Secondary

2013-2014:

NYS denies district SIG applications, including LHS, mandates BOCES partnership. LHS comm. rallies. TDS implements program for Gr. 7 & 9. LHS reapplies for SIG. LHS comm. rallies for promised renovations.

2014-2015:

NYS approves SIG. Donald Ogilvie appt. Sup. TDS withdraws as EPO. NYS approves Phase-out of LHS. LHS comm. rallies.

2004-2005:

200+ sts added from Kensington closure. J. Baldwin appt. principal. G. Pidgeon appt AP. Teacher Scott Raimondo severely injured.

2012-2013:

P. Brown appt. Sup. TDS begins planning year. NYSED allocates \$1.7 mill. TDS begins Calderon trainings (Spring)

2005-2006:

J. Williams appt. Sup. Williams revokes 28 day absence/exam policy. AP L. Robinson injured. Mott & Clark appt. APs, 60 sts. removed due to gang violence.

2011-2012:

A. Dixon appt. Sup. N. Cerre appt. principal. Grades 7 & 8 moved from #45. Faculty votes Buff St. as EPO. SBMT approves turnaround plan. LHS comm. rallies. BOE denies plan, chooses TDS as EPO.

2006-2007:

100+ Seneca Voc. sts. added. LHS receives population of ELL students w/o program. #198 phases in I. Prep.

2010-2011:

LHS comm. rallies. BOE requests plan. Bilingual Ed. program moved from #198 to LHS.

2007-2008:

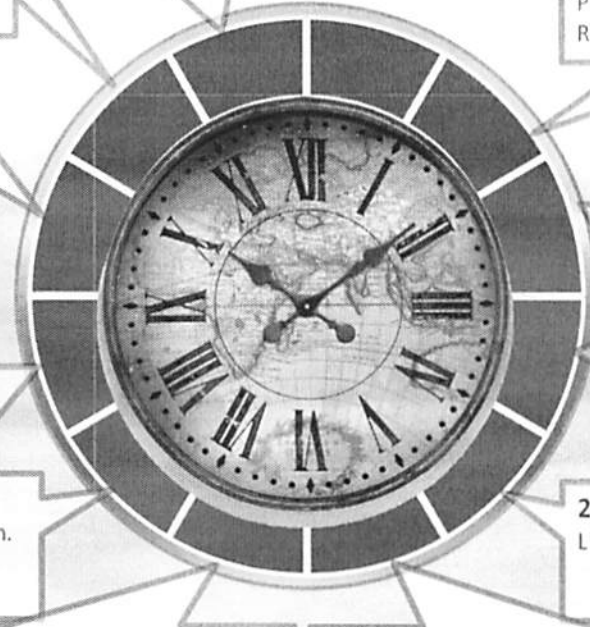
LHS becomes a welcoming center.

2009-2010:

JIT evaluates LHS. Buff News publishes school climate survey. Donald Ogilvie recommends closure. Dept. Com. King expresses concerns with dist. planning and school climate. BOE debates turnaround models. SIFE program created.

2008-2009:

Dr. F. Morrell appointed as principal. LHS comm. rallies to keep school open. Buffalo BOE keeps LHS open, but denies renovation (incremental improvements only). LHS designated as PLA.



Population of English Language Learners
at Lafayette High School
2004-Present

