

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****January 29, 2016****BUFFALO TEACHERS REJECT
BOARD CONTRACT OFFER**

The Buffalo Teachers Federation's Executive Committee and Council of Delegates, the representatives from all schools, unanimously rejected the Board of Education's latest contract proposal at its meeting last evening.

The resolution recommended by BTF President, Phil Rumore, moved and seconded by BTF Treasurer Rebecca Pordum, Sophia Howard Johnson and Joseph Montante, BTF Executive Committee and Negotiating Team members, calls the Board's contract offer "insulting and demeaning".

The resolution states that while the School Board rejected the recommendation of an independent Fact-Finder appointed by the New York State Public Employee Relations Board, the teachers "accepted it as a good starting point by adopting many of his recommendations".

The resolution further states that Buffalo teachers are \$20,000 behind their colleagues in other districts, which is a \$600,000 loss in lifetime earnings and a \$10,000 a year loss in retirement benefits.

However, the Board's offer is less than a 1% (.9%) increase each year over the 11 years teachers have been without a new contract while demanding 10-20% teacher healthcare payments for decreased healthcare benefits, a 9.8% increase in the workday, a 20% increase in the work load and unlimited (1 hour) faculty meetings, in addition to many other cuts in teacher benefits.

"Teachers were furious, angry and insulted when they saw the District's contract offer."

"It was like a slap in the face", stated BTF President Phil Rumore.

[BTF Resolution Passed January 28, 2016](#)