



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2014

## Buffalo Teachers to Picket Schools



Buffalo teachers will be engaging in informational picketing in front of their schools on Tuesday, September 2nd and Wednesday, September 3rd.

Picketing:

- Will be for one half (1/2) hour prior to teachers' scheduled reporting time.
- Will not interfere with the first two days students are to report. (Students report September 4th and 5th.)
- Is informational and will not prevent entrance by others into the school.
- Is meant to be a demonstration of teacher solidarity.
- Thereafter, informational picketing will take place every Wednesday – the day of Board of Education meetings.

Issues:

- Buffalo teachers have been without a new contract for over 10 years and are \$20,000 behind their colleagues in surrounding districts and other city districts.
- General Education Class sizes need to be lowered.
- Class sizes for ELL students need to be lowered. ELL students need many more additional services
- It takes Buffalo teachers 27 years to reach maximum salary, whereas, for most teachers in other Districts it takes 15 years.
- Case loads for Pupil Personnel teachers (Guidance Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, Attendance teachers) exceed State recommended levels and need to be lowered.
- There are insufficient supplies and text books.
- As a result of salaries being \$20,000 less than teachers in other districts, there is a significant loss of retirement benefits.
- Inflation has risen over 25% during the last 10 years.

“Buffalo teachers who have worked for over 10 years without a new contract, in over sized classes, with insufficient support for our students, are now \$20,000 behind their colleagues in other districts.

Teachers and their families have waited too long for a new contract that reflects their tremendous dedication to our students – many of whom endure circumstances few can imagine.

Teachers have waited long enough.

There needs to be a new contract now – one that reflects Buffalo teachers' dedication to our students. That should not be too much to ask for.” Rumore stated.

BTF President Phil Rumore will be picketing with his former school, school #6 on Tuesday September 2nd. Other locations will be announced.