

President PHILIP RUMORE



October 2, 2020

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC.

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TO: Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent, BPS
Members, Buffalo Board of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Request for Phased-in Reopening Plan

In response to requests for the suggestions I have made over the last several weeks relating to the phase-in of students, the following is provided:

- I. Identify "X" number of schools (e.g. 3) in each Board District that all ("all" includes teachers, parents, school administrators, school staff, District administrators and, of course, the Superintendent, Board of Education and all required local, state and federal agencies) agree are completely up to date and are in compliance with all required and recommended safety and sanitizing conditions.
- II. Once we have identified the sites we all agree will be following the procedures/conditions outlined below, we suggest the following:
 - Sites in each District be mutually identified to provide hybrid instruction for:
 - The Special Education students in the greatest need.
 - PK-1 students.
 - ENL students.
 - Other students all agree are also in the greatest need.
- III. Teaching and Learning Conditions ensure that:
 - The sites are designed for proper distancing, movement, eating, etc., and that said information is posted and distributed.
 - All the necessary teaching materials, supplies, equipment, etc. are provided.
 - There is sufficient staff to serve an agreed-upon student/teacher ratio.
 - There are sufficient desks/furniture and markings for desk/furniture placement in conformance with guidelines.
 - There is a written procedure for students leaving the classroom to go to the bathroom or for other reasons.

- IV. To further ensure safe and healthful conditions, the District should:
- Provide all the additional engineers and custodians all agree are needed to ensure that all areas of the school are continually sanitized.
 - Provide what all would agree is the necessary sanitation equipment, sanitizing sprays, sanitary liquids, etc.
 - Ensure that all rooms have functioning wall-mounted, no-touch and appropriately filled hand sanitizing equipment.
 - Ensure that all rooms have windows that open.
 - Ensure that all bathrooms have warm running water, and touch-free soap and towel dispensers.
 - Ensure there is adequate ventilation in all rooms/halls.
 - Ensure that MERV-11 or 13 filters are installed in all ventilation systems.
 - Provide what all would agree is a sufficient supply and a surplus supply of government approved masks, hand-wipes, gloves, non-contact thermometers, etc.
- V. Safety protocols should include but not be limited to:
- Written and posted admission and departure procedures that all would agree, provide for safe and healthful admission and departure from the schools. [Said procedures should include but not be limited to how students', staff and visitors' temperatures will be taken upon entering the school as well as the procedures for visitors (non-students/staff) to enter the school site e.g., by appointment.]
 - Written, posted and followed procedures that specify the actions taken for a suspected or confirmed occurrence of COVID-19.
 - Ensuring that all agree that the protocols for the transportation of students on school busses will be safe for them, their families, staff and community.
 - Actions taken for students not following safety procedures.
- VI. Nurses/Nurse's Office
- A full-time nurse and on-call replacement/nurse substitute is assigned.
 - There is proper ventilation in the office.
 - There is an established and printed protocol for sending a student/adult to Nurse's office.
 - There is an isolation/waiting room conforming to all "State/Federal /local regulations".

We are confident the District also agrees with the necessity of the above sanitization and safety issues and that there must be a constant check and re-evaluation of the safety and health conditions at the schools.

We believe and hope the District agrees with the above and look forward to working with you, parents and staff, to provide for the safe and best education for our students.

Of course, only those parents and staff who wish to participate and remain in the reopening plan should be required to do so.

After speaking to many teachers, who want to be back with their students, we are confident there will be more than enough volunteers to participate.

We look forward to your response to the above.