


President PHILIP RUMORE



August 5, 2015

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

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MEMO TO: Darren Brown, Interim Superintendent, BPS
FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF 
RE: Teacher Members of the Community Engagement Team

As per our conversation, enclosed please find a copy of Education Law 100.11 (b) as referred to in section 100.14 (3) (ii) p.23, June 8, 2015.

While the District SBMTs were established using the process required by 100.11(b) and could be used as the Community Engagement Teams for schools since that process was utilized in their creation, we contend that the SBMTs can only be utilized for the teacher representation on the CETs if the BTF concurs.

We believe that the process required for the selection of teachers for CETs must be the same process that was used for our SBMTs, i.e. teachers selected for the CETs must be "teachers selected by the teachers' collective bargaining organizations". Further, Article XX B of the Master Contract stipulates that "Teachers serving on committees dealing with terms and conditions of employment shall be designated by the Federation."

Toward that end, the BTF supports the selection of teachers for the CET's as follows:

- A. The three (3) teacher members of the Building Committee
- B. If agreed to by each building committee, and if selected in accordance with the approved and established selection procedure, the teacher members of the school SBMT.

While the District, due to short timelines, may have already advised NYSED that the SBMTs would represent the teacher members of the CETs, as you know, under the regulations that representation can be changed.

We would appreciate the District notifying the principal and staff of the affected schools of this procedure for selecting the teacher members.

We believe that this will facilitate the acceptance of school plans.

We look forward to working with the District toward that end.

There are also many concerns relating to the displacement of teachers in the affected schools.

Since the earliest any such reapplication for teaching positions and movement of possibly hundreds of teachers is December 2015 therefore causing chaos and severely undermining our students' education, we assume that the District will not be initiating said procedures during the 2015-2016 school year.

Please advise us if this is correct.

Thank you in advance for your response to our concerns.

While the BTF rejects classifying our schools and students based upon standardized tests that have not been validated, are developmentally inappropriate, and do not take into consideration English Language Learners, students with disabilities, attendance, class size, etc., we, while fighting against these flawed and detrimental policies, seek to work with the District in the real interest of our students.

PR:su