June 18, 2020

MEMO TO: Buffalo Teachers
FROM: Philip Rumore
RE: Updates

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

- Remind yourself that it’s okay to not be perfect.
- Make time for yourself.
- Can an Atheist get insurance Against Acts of God?

2020-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The BTF Council of Delegates has overwhelmingly approved Calendar “A”, the calendar with the February Recess (see attached).
We have been advised that the Board approved it at its meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

DETRIMENTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ACTIONS?

We have been informed that the District is changing all/most 6:1:1 classes to 8:1:1 classes and possibly other such harmful actions.
Our Special Education students are among those hurt the most during this prolonged pandemic. If this is correct, it shows District callousness beyond belief ... no, unfortunately it’s not beyond belief.
Please advise us of any such despicable actions. lsauer@btfny.org or sumhauer@btfny.org.

SCHOOL “OPENING”

The number one issue is the SAFETY of students, staff and parents.

We will continue to monitor all “re-opening” plans and ask that you do also. Please report any issues that have arisen and do so in the future.
While “contact”, masks, etc. are critical concerns, so too is the cleanliness of our buildings. We must ensure that our engineers and their employees have the equipment and number of employees necessary to ensure the safety of all those entering the building.

The District committees, with six (6) teachers appointed by BTF representing various areas, discussing “re-opening” have been asked to include this as one of many issues that must be addressed.

On developing a plan, our position is that all concerned must be at the table and their input not just heard but included.

Any plan(s) should be provided to all concerned for input and action well before they are implemented.

All plans must be under consistent review with input and actions based upon continued review and updating. They must also be approved by state and local authorities.

Once committees are in operation, we will be seeking your input. We will also be ensuring that the committee(s) see your input and act upon it.

OVERAGES

Overage documents can be delivered to BTF headquarters and placed through the mail slot, or mailed to: BTF, 271 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201. Please indicate “Overages” on outside of the envelope.

STUDENT GRADES

We continue to hear important concerns relating to the District policy for the grading of students. Many consider it unfair, e.g.

- Students that had a great turmoil in one of the periods.
- Students with no access to virtual/media instructions.
- etc.

Please advise us of what you believe should be corrected and how.

SICK LEAVE BANK

In order to join or make changes to the Sick Leave Bank, the actual cards must be used and returned to the BTF.

Please contact lsauer@btfny.org or sumhauer@btfny.org with your name and address and the cards will be mailed to you. If you are driving by BTF headquarters and see a car in the driveway, you can knock on the door. Hopefully, we will hear you.

You can then either mail them to: BTF, 271 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201 or put them through the mail slot in the door at BTF.

BTF HEADQUARTERS

As you know, the BTF office has limited space and, to ensure safety, has been closed.

Fortunately, our great staff has been receiving your concerns and acting on issues. Staff, periodically, work in an office and pick up materials and documents. There is, often, one person in the building to check the mail and coordinate messages.
We are considering opening the building within the next two – three weeks on a rotating basis. Access will be based on an appointment(s). Safety will be observed e.g., distancing / masks, etc.

We have placed antiviral air purifiers in the building, are having antiviral UV lights installed in our heating/cooling systems, making masks and gloves available, providing sanitizing soaps and wipes, having the office periodically cleansed, etc.

We will notify you when our initial re-opening plan is in place.

Thank you for your patience as we all work through and overcome this deadly pandemic.

Please stay healthy - - Take no chances.

LATE ITEM: We just received notification that, in addition to New York State declaring tomorrow, June 19, 2020 a holiday for its employees in recognition of Juneteenth, NYSUT has also done same for its staff.

We are checking whether similar action will be taken by the “Governor” for schools.

Stay tuned
## 2020-2021 BUFFALO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR (DRAFT A)

### JULY 2020

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### IMPORTANT DATES

**July**
- **3** Independence Day (central office also closed)

**September**
- **1-3** Sup't Conf. Days (Professional Development)
- **4** Teacher Set-up Day
- **7** Labor Day (central office also closed)
- **8** First Day of Classes

**October**
- **12** Indigenous Peoples' and Italian-Heritage Day (central office also closed)

**November**
- **3** Election Day (central office also closed)
- **11** Veterans Day (central office also closed)
- **26, 27** Thanksgiving Recess (central office also closed)

**December**
- **24-31** Winter Recess
- **24, 25** Central Office Also Closed

**January**
- **1** New Year's Day (central office also closed)
- **18** M.L. King Jr. Day (central office also closed)
- **26-29** NYS Regents Exams (high school)

**February**
- **15** President's Day (central office also closed)
- **16-19** Mid-winter recess

**April**
- **2-9** Spring Recess
- **2, 5** Central Office Also Closed
- **21-22** NYS ELA Testing (grades 3-8)
- **28** Early Release Day
- **29** Sup't. Conf. Day

**May**
- **5-6** NYS Math Testing (grades 3-8)
- **12** Early Release Day
- **13** Sup't. Conf. Day
- **31** Memorial Day (central office also closed)

**June**
- **16-24** NYS Regents Exams (high school)
- **24** Last Day of Classes
- **25** Rating Day/Sup't. Conf. Day

*Per past practice, student attendance is not taken on Sup't. Conf. Days (4/29, 5/13) or H.S. Regents Exam Days (1/26-1/29, 6/16-6/24) for H.S.*

*Versions A (6/3/2020)