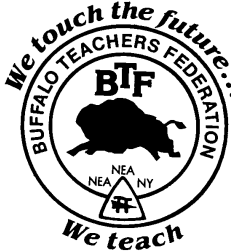


President's Report

PHILIP RUMORE, PRESIDENT



BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

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June 21, 2010

STEP COURT CASE

Briefs from the Control Board, City and District have been filed with the N.Y.S. Court of Appeals asking that our victories in the two lower courts be vacated.

Our reply briefs are due on July 27th. "They" then have the opportunity to reply on our briefs within 15 days.

We expect a hearing in front of the court in late September or early October....and we expect to win as we did in the two lower courts.

While we fully expect to prevail again in the Court of Appeals, one never knows. If we can settle this in negotiations for all that we are owed and placement on our correct step retroactive to July 7, 2007, that would be best.

Do we have a backup plan if for some bizarre reason the Court of Appeals reverses the two lower courts? Yes, we do.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Once a State Budget is in place, we will have a PERB fact-finder come in and do what is called "Fact Finding." The fact-finder hears both sides, reads their briefs and then issues a report that he/she believes is a fair settlement.

Obviously, to go into fact-finding and/or negotiations with the Governor's devastating (for education) budget being the only one on the table would not be in our best interests.

BTF SURVEY

This is your chance to let the Board and public know what teachers think. Every teacher should complete the survey. Itinerant teachers should complete it for all schools they service.

The website is <http://survey.nysut.org/surveys/btf2010.htm> - it will take approximately 25 minutes for an elementary teacher and approximately 15 minutes for a secondary teacher to complete the survey.

Please take the time to be included in this first ever teacher survey.

SUMMER SCHOOL

As this is being written, the summer school program is in the worse mess we have ever seen. We have filed grievances and are attempting to work with some of the folks at City Hall who will listen. Call us if you have problems.

UNEMPLOYMENT

If you are unemployed on Monday, June 28, you may be entitled to unemployment benefits, if you apply. Some Temporary teachers in previous summers have received a certified letter from the District that indicates in part, that based on the Board's budget, your evaluation and certification etc., it expects to be able to employ you next year. This letter is sometimes referred to as a "reasonable assurance letter". In the past, this letter has been used by the District in an attempt to prevent Temporary teachers from receiving unemployment benefits. If you receive such a letter, call the BTF at 881-5400.

If you apply, believe you are eligible, and are turned down, ask for a hearing and continue to report. List the BTF as your representative. Call us when you receive notice of a hearing date.

If you receive benefits and you are subsequently found to be ineligible, benefits are not recoverable unless you withheld information. A question asked is, "Have you received any verbal or written POSSIBILITY of a job in September?" If you have received the "reasonable assurance letter and you answer the question with a "no", you are considered to be withholding information. Also, you will be withholding information if you subsequently receive the "reasonable assurance letter" and do not report this fact to the Unemployment Office. If you have additional questions, please call your Labor Relations Specialist at the BTF.

(O-V-E-R)→

TEMPORARY
TEACHER
SUMMER BC/BS

Temporary teachers who worked at least 100 days, who are on the payroll on the last day of school and who have not been terminated based on an evaluation, are entitled to health coverage during the summer lay-off.

If you receive a termination notice from your health care provider, call the BTF so that we can determine your status. In any event, all Temporary teachers continue to be covered by the SBF during the summer months for SBF dental, optical, and prescription benefits. As always, SBF forms must be completed for reimbursement.

HEALTH CARE
LAID-OFF
TEACHERS

Contract and Probationary teachers who are laid off, but are subsequently rehired, are entitled to be reimbursed for health care benefits during the time of layoff, Article XXVI (2) Section A-8 on page 72 lines 8-11 of your contract.

EXTENDED PAY
PLAN SIGN UP
NOW

Many Buffalo teachers have joined the BTF Extended Pay Plan to have their pay spread out over the summer months.

If you would like information regarding the Extended Pay Plan, see your Delegate Chairperson. Information is also available in the BTF Delegate Handbook in your building. Enrollment cards are available from your delegate or from the BTF and are due by Wednesday, June 30, 2010. **Reminder – we strongly suggest that you sign up for direct deposit of your extended pay plan funds.**

VOLUNTARY
TRANSFERS/
REDUCTIONS IN
FORCE

If you have applied for a voluntary transfer or are being transferred due to a reduction-in-force and do not believe the transfer is being handled properly, please call the BTF and ask to speak with your Labor Relations Specialist. Remember, transfers are based on seniority. If you are the most senior teacher applying for a school, you may go there. The principal may have a conversation with you but ultimately your seniority determines whether you are assigned there. Most teachers do not want to go to a school where a principal objects to them. But ultimately, that decision is based on seniority! In addition, teachers being involuntarily transferred or seeking voluntary transfers have a right to know all the positions that are available in their tenure area.

Remember seniority is defined as “a teacher’s length of **total continuous** service from the date of original probationary appointment as a teacher in the Buffalo Public School System.” Leaves without pay are not counted. This means that **seniority** in previous tenure areas is added. See page 3 of the contract.

ATTENTION
TEMPORARY
TEACHERS

Temporary teachers who have lost pay during this school year due to lack of sick days, are reminded that they may apply to use any sick time they have since accumulated to obtain pay for those days. You must submit a written request to the Payroll department.

SUMMER OFFICE
HOURS

Once again this summer, BTF will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Any changes will be on the tapeline (881-4818). Keep up to date via the BTF tapeline, 881-4818, and our website, www.btfny.org.

SUMMER
REMINDER

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU HOW YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR “SUMMER VACATION”, REMIND THEM THAT THE CHILDREN ARE ON “SUMMER VACATION” – TEACHERS ARE LAID OFF. NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW IT IS NOT A PAID VACATION FOR TEACHERS IN THE SUMMER, BUT RATHER TWO MONTHS WITHOUT PAY. LET US CONTINUE USING THE TERM SUMMER “LAY-OFF” AND MAYBE THEY WILL GET THE MESSAGE.

AS A DEMONSTRATION OF CONTINUED SOLIDARITY, WE ARE ASKING ALL TEACHERS TO WEAR THEIR BTF SHIRTS AND/OR SOLIDARITY PINS ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

E-MAIL REQUEST

The BTF is looking to update our personal e-mail list. Please e-mail dstempniak@btfny.org with your personal e-mail address. BTF does not communicate using your BPS e-mail address.