

# President's Report

PHILIP RUMORE, PRESIDENT



## ***BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION***

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### **NEGOTIATIONS**

As per my email, the head of PERB has assigned himself to our negotiations. He is very experienced and brings the full weight of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). For new members, PERB is the governmental agency charged with facilitating and enforcing the Taylor Law (the law covering New York State Public Employees).

In an interesting side story, you should know that in a correspondence from the District's outside negotiator, he stated, "In my opinion, a conciliator would delay the negotiation process at this time. PERB's not assigning someone seems consistent with that belief... they do not want to waste the conciliator's efforts at this time."

The next day we received the correspondence from Mr. Kevin Flanigan, Director of the Office of Conciliation, stating that he was assigning himself to our negotiations! So much for Mr. O'Neil's statements.

We have just received correspondence from Mr. Flanigan setting September 11, at 10:00 a.m. as the date he will be in Buffalo to meet with both negotiating teams.

In reality, with good will, a contract can be settled in a few hours. The issue is whether there is good will on behalf of the District and Board majority. We and PERB will soon find out if there has been a change in direction since our last session.

### **RECEIVERSHIP**

You have received as much information as we have. The final regulations from SED are to be available by September. We will update you then and also when the District clarifies its position on the items mentioned in my correspondence to them, ([www.btfny.org](http://www.btfny.org), [New & Alerts, 8/5/15 - Teacher Members of the Community Engagement Team](#)).

### **NEW SUPERINTENDENT**

While there have been pro and anti statements about Dr. Kriner Cash, my position is let's give him a chance. If he is selected and accepts the position, I look forward to meeting and working with him. There are apparently major areas on which we agree, i.e. early grade intervention, support. We must ensure that students graduate from elementary school ready for high school. That means not only working with students from PreK-6 but also with their families.

### **APPR**

While we are working with the District on the State required new APPR, we are also documenting our efforts so that, if necessary, we may apply for a waiver that will provide an extension until March 2016 to develop the new APPR. If approved, no new APPR will have to be implemented until the 2016-2017 school year. A second waiver will be available. We can't see how most districts are going to complete the development of a new APPR by September.

**-O-V-E-R-**

**PRIMARY  
ENDORSEMENTS**

The BTF Political Action Committee (PAC) will be interviewing candidates for contested primaries where requests have been received. Based on the Council of Delegates' action, the Executive Committee will review the recommendations of the PAC and endorse appropriate candidates. You will receive letters seeking support for our endorsed candidates. The primaries are on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**BUFFALO NEWS/  
MY ARTICLE**

Since the Buffalo news has refused to print my letter pointing out the Editorial Board's deficiencies, ([www.btfny.org](http://www.btfny.org), [News & Alerts, 08/02/15 - Response to The Buffalo News Editorial](#)), we are going to publish it in some of the local papers, e.g. *Artvoice*, *The Public*, *Westside Times*, *The Challenger*, *the Criterion*, *The Bees*, etc. We are also going to have it translated. No, we are not going to pay the News a penny to publish it. It should begin to appear next week.

**OPT-OUT**

The BTF was successful in working with other Locals and States at the National Education Association Delegate Assembly (States and Local Representatives from across the country) requiring NEA to work with Opt-Out organizations.

**E-MAIL REQUEST/  
FACEBOOK**

The BTF is looking to update our personal e-mail list. Please e-mail [dstempniak@btfny.org](mailto:dstempniak@btfny.org) with your personal e-mail address. There will be periodic updates on significant issues and we do not want you to miss them. BTF does not communicate using your BPS e-mail address.

While we still need your personal email address for quick communications, we have also set up a Facebook Group.

To stay up to date on the latest BTF news, join our new Facebook group. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) or open the Facebook app on your device. In the "Search Facebook" toolbar type in "Buffalo Teachers Federation – Official Group". Depending on your app, you may need to search in the group category. Click on the BTF group to open it and click "Join". We will confirm with our membership records that you are a member and then accept you into the group. Please also invite other teachers to join as well.

We are also putting finishing touches on our new improved website and will link the website to Facebook.

**CUOMO PROTEST**

Apparently, I am being criticized by a few for postponing our involvement in the scheduled anti-Cuomo rally on August 11, 2015. In the morning of August 11, when I learned that Sandra Lee, the Governor's "significant other", was to undergo serious surgery related to her cancer on that same day, there was no way that I would have the BTF advocate the carrying of signs attacking the Governor who we assumed would be with Sandra Lee. No matter how much we resent him and his policies, in my opinion, it would be below the dignity of Buffalo teachers and would lower us to the level of our detractors and enemies.

Those who have friends or relatives fighting or who have died from or survived this or any such disease, know the impact on all concerned.

As the person who organized the BTF Indict Cuomo event, be assured we will continue to confront him. This, however was not the time.

I make no apologies for canceling our participation in the protest. Not only was it inappropriate but it would have cast all Buffalo teachers in a bad light.