



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.
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President, PHILIP RUMORE

April 1, 2019

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

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: 2019-2020 School Calendar

Apparently, misinformation or incomplete information relating to the proposed 2019-2020 school calendars is being circulated by some in the District.

To be clear, the forty-three (43) week calendar being suggested by the BTF:

1. provides for both a mid-winter and spring break;
2. as in past agreements with the District, allows for the school year to be extended beyond the required forty-two (42) week school year to forty-three (43) weeks;
3. does not, as the District suggests, include the day before Thanksgiving as a “vacation” day;
4. does not include a four (4) day Memorial Day break but, rather a three (3) day break;
5. provides teachers teaching summer school with at least one week between summer school and the beginning of school;
6. does not reduce pay for teachers who must work other jobs during the summer.
One teacher who must work during the summer as a contractor will lose \$1,000, as will many others.
This is apparently of no concern to some at City Hall who make many thousands more than this teacher as well as other teachers in similar circumstances.
7. spreads a teacher’s pay over forty-three (43) weeks not the forty-four (44) weeks requested by the District.
Note: The District is apparently trying to downplay this; however, in addition to some teachers losing summer income (“6.” above), the number of checks is not relevant.
Anyone with any math skills realizes that having someone’s work spread out over forty-four weeks instead of forty-two (42) or forty-four (43) lessens their pay per week. Why not fifty (50)?
8. can include two (2) successive days of in-service, September 3rd and September 4th. September 5th would be a teacher set-up day and Friday, September 6th would be an orientation day for students prior to a Monday opening.

We have written to you several times requesting that you consider our forty-three (43) week proposal. All we have been met with is, it will not be considered because, “it does not allow for meaningful

professional development, prior to the first day of student attendance, for teachers and staff” which we once again point out are not in your own forty-two (42) week calendar.

Instead of finding the common ground that we always have in the past, for the District and Board it is apparently “my way or the highway”.

Either we agree to your forty-four (44) week calendar or you will impose the forty-two (42) week calendar that is completely out of line with the surrounding districts; whereas, ours only removes the pre-Thanksgiving and Memorial Days while keeping the mid-winter and spring breaks.

Many are saying this is all about negotiations.

Wow! This will really show us. Yes, it will. It will show us much. Nothing for you to be proud of however.

PR:su

cc: All Buffalo Teachers