

A Call for a Federal and New York State Investigation of the Safety of the Buffalo Public Schools

WHEREAS, Buffalo Teachers are committed to ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors in our schools, and

WHEREAS, despite our continued correspondence, grievances and other legal actions directed to the Buffalo Public School District, our schools remain unsafe, and

WHEREAS, there was a shooting and knife assault at McKinley High School despite two (2) or more years of serious allegations of dangerous conditions at the school being brought to the District's attention, and

WHEREAS, serious allegations of similar dangerous conditions at other schools continue to be forwarded to the District/School Administration without timely and adequate responses, e.g.

- McKinley High School

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| October 29, 2021 | Student threatened to shoot teacher – Reported to administrator. Student back in school three school days later. Grievance filed with District on 11/8/2021. |
| January 21, 2022 | Female student to teacher, “I am not like other students, I will violate you.” “Watch out for me.” Student not formally suspended. Returned to class three days later. No discussion with teacher. |
| January 24, 2022 | Teacher attempted to separate girls fighting, pushed to the ground and kicked. |
| February 9, 2022 | Teacher advises school administrator that on January 13, 2022 he and security guard were pushed by student. No discipline report put on District software reporting form. |
| Recently | Allegedly, a hollow-point bullet found at school weeks ago. No action taken. |

- I-Prep (International School)

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| January 11, 2022 | Fight at Basketball game – No security. District administration advised – No increased security assigned. |
| December 13, 2021 | BTF staff at school when a fight with a student with a knife occurred. District administrators were present on Zoom – No additional security. Students not formally suspended. |
| December 10, 2019 | Grievance filed – Student threatens to bring gun to school and shoot people. Student arrested – Not formally suspended – Returned to school - No action taken. Grievance hearings postponed by District. When teachers request police officers be present, District administrator advised BTF staff member, “That’s not an option”. |

- MST, #197
February 7, 2022 During dismissal, shooting from a car at student's home – 200 feet from school. District advised that this was in addition to another incident about which it been previously advised.
- Riverside High School
Recently A knife found at Riverside High School – No action taken.

Unfortunately, there are many more.

Note: Correspondence advising the Superintendent and Board of Education of “Troubling Increase in Student Violence” ([attached](#)).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buffalo Teachers Federation calls for a Federal and New York State investigation of the safety of the Buffalo Public Schools including but not limited to:

- The safety concerns raised by teachers, parents, and staff throughout the last three (3) years and the actions taken/not taken to ensure they are addressed and corrected and do not reoccur.
- The actions (support/discipline) taken/not taken when serious and disruptive actions occur in or on school grounds to ensure that they do not reoccur.
- The timely action taken/not taken, when appropriate, to advise parents and staff of the status of a serious safety situation at a school, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Superintendent, School Board, appropriate agencies, and appropriate parties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BTF continue to survey all Buffalo teachers to obtain information relating to similar incidents at their school/site and forward reported incidents to Superintendent, Board of Education, State and Federal Agencies and other appropriate parties.

MOVED: Philip Rumore, President

SECOND: Rebeca Pordum, Vice President