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President, PHILIP RUMORE

May 15, 2019

MEMO TO: All BTF Members

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

RE: Why is the District Pushing the Forty-Four Week Calendar?

Many have asked the question –

Why is the District pushing a forty-four (44) week calendar?

- a) As a negotiation tactic so they can insist on a contract change to a forty-four (44) week instead of a forty-two (42) week calendar and then in negotiations say to the PERB appointed Fact-Finder; Well they have agreed to a forty-four (44) week calendar so certainly you can state in your Fact-Finder's Report, the BTF should agree to a forty-three (43) week school year instead of a forty-two (42) week school year.
- b) They are trying to set teacher against teacher and the BTF to weaken us in our upcoming negotiations.
- c) They want to show that it's their way or the highway.
- d) They want teachers to turn their backs on the many teachers who need the extra week's salary.
- e) They want teachers to turn their backs on the many teachers who need to work in summer school but who would not have time between the end of summer school and the beginning of school.
- f) All of the above

We have met them half way - Our contract says forty-two (42) weeks, they wanted forty-four (44) weeks.

We have met them halfway and provided two consecutive days of professional development, the mid-winter break and spring break.

They are obviously not looking for a compromise for one or all of the reasons above.

We do not believe that there are votes on the Board for a forty-two (42) week calendar. The Board does not want to be responsible for needlessly adopting a calendar that does not provide for the mid-winter and spring break when there is an option that has been agreed to many times that provides for both breaks and the two consecutive days of professional development. That is obviously the reason for the last sentence in the attached article.

PR:su

[Click Here to Read the *Late Start, No Winter Break on the Table for Buffalo Schools Next Year* printed in The Buffalo News](#)