

For Immediate Release

July 29, 2009

**BTF BLASTS REGENTS APPROVAL OF CHARTER –
CALLS FOR REGENTS TO RESCIND ACTION
AND KALEIDA AND CWA TO PUT PROGRAM
IN A BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL**

In a rare show of agreement with Superintendent James Williams, BTF President, Philip Rumore released a letter dated 7/23/09 opposing the creation of the Health Sciences Charter School.

Rumore's letter, sent to national and state Union Presidents including the National President of CWA, the union establishing the charter and James R. Kaskie, President & CEO of Kaleida, makes the following points:

- Charter schools drain over \$35 million more from the Buffalo Public Schools than it would cost the District to educate the charter school students.
- Even though CWA approached Rumore a year ago to work together on the project, CWA never followed through.
- The School District had made known its willingness to work with Kaleida to house the program at Riverside High School nearby in Buffalo.

Rumore's letter questions the motives of both Kaleida and CWA in placing the charters in Kenmore, close to Riverside High School in Buffalo. Rumore's letter states, "Is there some reason why this program could not be located in Buffalo (rather than the suburbs) in one of our schools for our students so that they can remain in our school district? You might guess what some are saying are the "real" reasons for your and Kaleida's decision" Rumore's letter concluded.

7/29/09 Press Release

- 2 -

“That the Board of Regents, Kaleida and CWA should establish a charter school in the suburbs nearby a Buffalo Public School which has established a similar program is not only unacceptable, it is an insult.

What is the message they are intending to send to our community? We call upon the Regents to rescind their approval of the application and for CWA and Kaleida to work with the Buffalo Public Schools on behalf of our students in our schools.” Rumore concluded.

Enclosure

President PHILIP RUMORE



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July 23, 2009

MEMO TO: Larry Cohen, President, CWA

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Rumore', written over the 'FROM:' line.

RE: Proposed Charter School in Buffalo/WNY

We were surprised and disappointed to learn that CWA is working to start a charter school that will have a negative financial impact on our Buffalo Public Schools as the enclosed information demonstrates.

In short, since all students leaving a public school and attending a charter school do not come from the same school or class, expenditures can't necessarily be reduced i.e. you might have two students from first grade, four students from second grade in school "x" and similar situations at various grades in many other Buffalo schools.

Indeed, as Gary Crosby's (the District's former CFO) analysis for the 2006-07 year shows, the District sent \$33,848,695 more to charter schools than it would have cost us to educate them if they returned to the Buffalo Public Schools.

Our opposition to the continual drain of desperately needed funds from our students to charter schools is well known and has been publicized extensively.

I spoke with a representative of CWA, approximately a year ago, on the subject of a program for future nurses. We agreed that we would work with him on one. That was the last I heard until the article appeared. So much for working together.

What is particularly objectionable is that there was not only no effort to work with BTF, but there was no effort to have such a program be a part of the Buffalo Public Schools. Indeed the Superintendent has advised me that the District wanted to make our Riverside High School (almost across the street from the facility you propose in the suburbs), become a medical campus.

Larry Cohen President, CWA
July 23, 2009

- 2 -

Is there some reason why this program could not be located in Buffalo (rather than the suburbs) in one of our schools for our students so that they can remain in our school district?

You might guess what some are saying are the "real" reasons for your and Kaleida's decision.

PR:ls

Encls:

cc: Larry Zielinski, CEO, Kaleida Health
Richard Iannuzzi, President, NYSUT
Randi Weingarten, President, AFT
Dennis Van Roekel, President, NEA
Dennis Hughes, President, NYS AFL-CIO
John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO