

McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate Chair
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegates
McKinley H.S. SBMT Team
McKinley H.S. Building Committee
McKinley High School
1500 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14207
January 18, 2023

Sharon Belton-Cottman
Board of Education President
Buffalo Public Schools
801 City Hall
65 Niagara Square, NY 14202

Dear Mrs. Belton-Cottman:

We are writing you this letter on behalf of a large number of McKinley High School staff who are concerned about the impending removal of Principal Khalil, which is scheduled to be voted on at your board meeting today and effective as of 1/30/23. Many of us endured several years at McKinley where our repeated pleas for district leadership to remove incompetent building level leadership, fell on deaf ears. Our school was lawless, without order and unsafe for staff and students. This led to the unfortunate events of February 9, 2022, where one student was stabbed multiple times and a school security guard was shot outside of McKinley H.S. This incident traumatized our students and staff and vaulted McKinley into a national spotlight, for all the wrong reasons.


Shortly after the tragic February 2022 incident, Mr. Khalil was dropped into McKinley at one of the worst times in the school's history and since that day, he has been scrambling to create a sense of family and some semblance of order in a school that had seen repeated administrative turnover. Mr. Khalil has taken the time to listen to input and suggestions from all of the stakeholders. He has worked to hold students *and* teachers accountable in an effort to change the school climate and restore the order that existed while Principal Barton presided over our beloved McKinley H.S. While there is still a lot of work to be done, as getting the building to a place of stability and true order has not yet been achieved, Mr. Khalil has worked hard to move us in that direction.

This letter has been signed by The ELECTED McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate Chair, every ELECTED McKinley BTF Delegate, every ELECTED McKinley H.S. SBMT member and every ELECTED McKinley H.S. Building Committee member. On 1/17/23 approximately 50% of our staff participated in an online survey. Of those that participated, 95% voted replacing Mr. Khalil is not in the best interest of our students and staff, especially at this time (January, in the middle of the school year, right before regents exams). We feel that replacing Mr. Khalil at this time will lead to instability within our school and undo any gains that we have made over the last year.

Not one of us was consulted for our input from the BPS Board of Education or any member of your Administration prior to your impending action being slid into the board agenda. As written above, our pleas for the Board and administration to remove previous incompetent school leadership were ignored for years. It was Dr. Williams who promised, that after the shooting, the district was going to be spending a lot more time

listening to the needs of the teachers. She promised that the district would support us in any way possible; that they would consult us, ask for our input and work WITH us to make McKinley a stronger place. We are asking that you STOP disregarding our input as we are the ones inside the school who actually know what is transpiring. We are officially requesting that the Board cancel (or at a minimum table) any plans to replace Principal Khalil. If you feel that change is necessary, we ask that you get our input prior to making such a move. We are convinced that replacing Principal Khalil, especially mid-school year, will lead to disaster at McKinley H.S., which will fall squarely on your shoulders, if you continue this course of action. Please consider our letter carefully before you proceed.

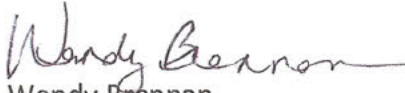
Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Augello
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate Chair
SBMT Team member
Building Committee member



Chuck Mahoney
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate
SBMT Team member
Building Committee member



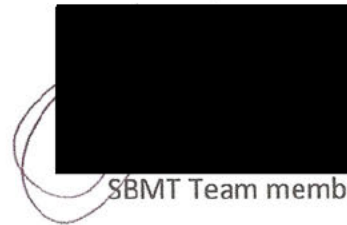
Wendy Brennan
Building Committee member



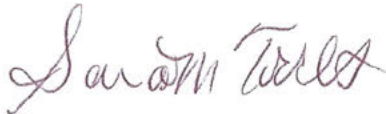
Michael Sorrentino
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate



Ryan Sajdak
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate



SBMT Team member



Sara Torres
McKinley H.S. BTF Delegate
SBMT Team member



Zaire Dorsey
SBMT Team member

Cc: Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown
Lawrence Scott
Terrance Heard
Teresa Schuta
The remaining members of the Board Et Al.
Dr. Tonja M. Williams
Mr. Phillip Rumore