

**From:** Jenkins, Terence <TJenkins@buffaloschools.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:02 PM  
**To:** Lupe Sauer; Williams, Tonja; Heard, Terrance; Rivera, Ann R; Scott, Lawrence L; Woods, Paulette; Evans Brown, Kathy; Belton-Cottman, Sharon M; Jay, Hope; Schuta, Theresa; Mecozzi, Jennifer; Watson, Charlene  
**Subject:** Re: McKinley H.S. SBMT

Good Evening Everyone.

I hope this email finds you well. As I've stated many times, I cannot and will not speak to all of the challenges and decisions that were made prior to my tenure here at McKinley High School. However, based on my conversations with teachers and students there are still some emotional feelings that I, as the Principal, need to continue to show some grace and mercy to. I have made myself available to meet with anyone at any time.

There seems to be an enormous amount of confusion amongst some of our teachers here at McKinley. The School/Site Based Management Team (SBMT) is comprised of several stakeholders. There are the teachers (at least 5), the parents, the students, as well as some community partners. The ultimate goal is to get as many stakeholders as possible to the table to help come to a consensus on school-wide issues and or decisions. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the Principal to make decisions in the best interest of the school with stakeholder suggestions in mind.

Since my tenure here at McKinley, one of my first priorities has been to ensure the safety and well-being of our students as well as our teachers. My second priority has been to encourage students to actually come to school on time, and once here, go to their classes. My third priority is to see that our seniors graduate. As we all know, attendance and graduation rates go hand in hand. If students do not come to school or go to class, they are least likely to graduate. It has been an enormous challenge, but I believe there is light at the end of this tunnel.

To that end, while trying to establish a culture for success, I've had to slowly but surely "rebuild" systems that will allow for all of us to be successful. Some of which I've discussed with individuals on this thread. This does take a tremendous amount of time. I've met with teachers, parents and students and discussed at length what my intentions are for each of them. I've not misled, nor have I lied to anyone about what my intentions are for McKinley. McKinley was given a time that I was scheduled to meet with district personnel to review the 2023-2024 school budget. I was also told that we would be given an additional couple of days due to my late arrival here at McKinley.

I scheduled the first SBMT meeting on March 23, 2023. I scheduled the original time for after school (3:30). I was then told by a couple of teachers that there was an issue with doing it after school because there were several teachers that wanted to be there and some of them had

obligations after school. I then switched to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> period. I was later approached by another set of teachers asking why we can't have the meeting after school. I told these teachers that I was told it was best to do it during 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> period. So as a compromise, I held TWO meetings on March 23, 2023.

In each of the meetings, I stated that I did not look at the actual budget sent to me by the District. I stated that it was a bit overwhelming because of the many other things I was doing with school. I stated that I scheduled a time with ASL Watson and that I would get back to them. I was then told that my meeting with the District to discuss the budget was Tuesday April 18 at 1:30. Yesterday, ASL Watson and I sat down and plugged the numbers into the budget. Prior to plugging in the numbers, we had to wait on Director Harris to get back to us to clarify our CTE needs. After we were done, we immediately set a date for the next SBMT for Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Of course, what was planned for this meeting was to discuss what we received in the budget, what we recommended to buy in this budget, what our needs are as well as some of the things we don't need in our budget. We would also discuss any additional concerns that may come up.

I was later informed toward the end of the day, that the Budget meeting with the District was pushed up a day due to a scheduling conflict. That said, this afternoon I sent an email to everyone that I had to move our SBMT meeting dates. I scheduled TWO meetings once again. I scheduled one tomorrow 6<sup>th</sup> period and the other Monday morning at 7:30am. If there are any concerns, you are more than welcome to come see me.

In closing, let me make myself EXTREMELY clear to those who feel that somehow, I'm here as some Dictator unwilling to listen and learn from the very people I wish to be a leader for, I've placed my ego aside and I am committed to serve. As a servant, I will do any and everything for all of the people around me. Please do not believe that your "demands" will be adhered to as the final decision to the budget. You are a fraction of the sum. The sum is the totality of ALL OF US. The decisions will be made with all of us in mind. This includes our students, parents, teachers and community partners.

As always, if you wish to discuss this with me, you know where to find me.

Thank you.

*Terence A. Jenkins*  
Principal, Buffalo Public Schools  
McKinley High School  
1500 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14207  
Office: 716.816.4480  
Fax: 716.871.6086

Nelson Mandela once said, "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

**From:** Lupe Sauer <lsauer@btfny.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:57 PM

**To:** Williams, Tonja <TMWilliams@buffaloschools.org>; Heard, Terrance <TLHeard@buffaloschools.org>; Rivera, Ann R <ARRivera@buffaloschools.org>; Scott, Lawrence L <LLScott@buffaloschools.org>; Woods, Paulette <PWoods@buffaloschools.org>; Evans Brown, Kathy <KEvansBrown@buffaloschools.org>; Belton-Cottman, Sharon M <SBelton-Cottman@buffaloschools.org>; Jay, Hope <HJay@buffaloschools.org>; Schuta, Theresa <tschuta@BuffaloSchools.org>; Mecozzi, Jennifer <JMecozzi@buffaloschools.org>; Watson, Charlene <CWatson@buffaloschools.org>; Jenkins, Terence <TJenkins@buffaloschools.org>

**Subject:** McKinley H.S. SBMT

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We have been asked to forward this attachment to you. Thank you.

*Lupe Sauer, Secretary to the President  
Buffalo Teachers Federation  
271 Porter Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14201  
Phone: (716) 881-5400  
Fax: (716) 881-6678*