

JAWAAN DANIELS STUDENT SAFETY RESOLUTION

Whereas, Jawaan Daniels, a freshman at Lafayette High School, was killed en route home from school after having been suspended for a non-violent incident, and whereas, a non-violent incident can be defined as any conduct that is not violent and does not directly endanger the safety, health, or welfare of others; and

Whereas, the Superintendent and members of the Buffalo Board of Education at the time vowed to the community to end the current policy of out-of-school suspensions for non-violent incidences; and

Whereas, 1 out of 5 students in the Buffalo City School District are suspended each year, while the statewide average is only 1 in 20 students, and whereas, suspensions disproportionately impact African-American and Hispanic students; and

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of suspensions in the Buffalo City School District are for non-violent incidences, and whereas, the frequency of suspensions has already risen in the current 2011-2012 school year; and

Whereas, suspension policies in the Buffalo City School District have no standardization across the district; and

Whereas, the Buffalo City School District is legally and morally obligated to meet the educational needs of all students, and out-of-school suspensions denies them the opportunity to learn; and

Whereas, out-of-school suspensions greatly contribute to the drop-out rate in the Buffalo City School District; and

Whereas, out-of-school suspensions can place suspended students in unsafe or dangerous circumstances as proven by the death of Jawaan Daniels: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Buffalo Board of Education will immediately act to direct existing resources such as school counselors, social workers, or similar specialists to work with any student who commits more than one non-violent incident per school year to ascertain and address the underlying cause(s) of the behavior; and

Be it further resolved that a student support room for in-school suspension should be provided within the confines of the school in which the student attends, and it shall be staffed by a certified teacher; and

Be it finally resolved that the Buffalo Board of Education honors and respects the memory of Jawaan Daniels by immediately directing the Superintendent to end the use of out-of-school suspensions for non-violent incidences as well as directing the Superintendent to develop and implement a standardized, district-wide, in-school suspension program and policy.

Louis Petrucci, President

Florence Johnson, Member-at-Large

John Licata, Member-at-Large

Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, Member-at-Large

Mary Ruth Kapsiak, Vice-President of Student Achievement

Rosalyn L. Taylor, Vice President of Executive Affairs

Sharon Belton-Cottman

Jason M. McCarthy

Ralph Hernandez