

## Renegade Board Member Seeks to Oust Superintendent Paladino Gives Ogilvie an Ultimatum—Resign by 4 p.m. or be Fired

Supported by Carl Paladino and the Board majority, Donald Ogilvie took over the Buffalo District as Interim Superintendent in July. Ogilvie, the retired Superintendent from Erie I BOCES, was tasked with running the District while a search for a permanent replacement took place. He came to the District as a highly regarded administrator with a reputation for being thorough, fair and deliberate.

Now, less than one year later, Paladino appeared at Ogilvie's office and demanded his resignation. Resign by 4 p.m. or be faced with a vote to be fired at the next Board Meeting. Paladino states that Ogilvie betrayed him and the Board majority. They hired him to fire central office staff, reduce administrative personnel and turn over Buffalo Public Schools to the charters.

Ogilvie's style is to build relationships, study issues, analyze and then look for a path forward that will be acceptable to all sides. He is a consensus builder who has run right into a deeply divided Board working in a hostile atmosphere where personal agendas trump educational issues.

Ogilvie didn't resign. Instead, he committed to staying until the end of the school year—completing one year of his two-year contract. Under pressure and without the support of his fellow majority Board members, Paladino withdrew his resolution to fire the Superintendent. Meanwhile, there has been an employment posting for Deputy Superintendent. Ogilvie has committed to an orderly transition with the possibility that the Deputy would become the Superintendent upon his exit.

It is reported that potential quality candidates for the Deputy position have concerns about the toxic political environment and the goals of the Board Majority. The search begins with an emphasis on politics rather than the quality of education. Paladino has attempted to weaken the Superintendent and make his difficult job even more difficult. The Buffalo School District needs stability and constancy. Paladino has only added to the drama and the chaos.