

8:00 p.m. - Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update

It is frustrating and deeply disappointing to report that Newton's schools will be closed again tomorrow, Monday, Jan. 22.



I believe firmly the adults can negotiate to resolve these issues and have a competitive contract that honors our teachers and is sustainable for our community while our children are in school learning.

Tonight, the union can decide to continue negotiations with adults bargaining and our kids learning in classrooms.

I ask the union to join us and put the kids first.

We have been getting a lot of questions. We've posted some Frequently Asked Questions and their answers on the website (click [here](#)). The School Committee also has a lot of information (click [here](#)).

Below is the School Committee's email communication from 5:15 p.m., and the Superintendent's from 7:15 p.m. today:

The School Committee entered this third full day of mediation today with the goal of reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement with the NTA and ensuring that our students return to school tomorrow.

*After waiting over five hours today for a response from the NTA on School Committee proposals made yesterday, the School Committee proposed to the NTA that their negotiating team and the NPS team continue to mediate tomorrow while students and all other staff return to school. NTA president Mike Zilles refused and responded that the NTA **"will remain on strike until we reach an agreement."** As of 3:00pm, the NTA is in violation of the Superior Court's order to disavow the strike.*

Yesterday, we offered revised proposals that improved benefits related to parental leave, and addressed NTA concerns regarding our Time and Learning Agreement. Given these enhanced proposals, we were optimistic that the NTA would respond today in a manner that would allow us to have a productive conversation.

Unfortunately, today's mediation went as follows:

- *a majority of the day’s scheduled negotiation session was spent waiting for a response from the NTA,*
- *the NTA did not respond to the School Committee’s most recent compensation proposal, which was made back in December,*
- *the NTA increased its monetary demands on other items relative to their most recent proposals, and*
- *there remains significant distance between the parties on the other major issues.*

Based on this, we believe there is no reasonable probability that an agreement will be reached today. Therefore, we anticipate that the NTA will continue its illegal strike tomorrow, canceling school. Superintendent Dr. Anna Nolin will confirm this with families later this evening around 7:30 p.m.

The School Committee has continued to improve its overall package to the NTA and has moved toward the NTA position on several important issues.

Unfortunately, the NTA continues to increase and change its requests. We will continue to work today, and every day, to reach an agreement.

Sincerely,

Newton School Committee

From Superintendent Anna Nolin:

Dear NPS Families,

Despite three full days of mediation, the Newton Teachers Association (NTA) and the Newton School Committee failed to reach agreement on a new contract. The NTA has informed us that the strike will continue and therefore, school is canceled for Monday, January 22, 2024. School will not be in session. Buildings will be closed and all school-related events and activities will be postponed until the strike ends.

Please see the information below on meal pick up should your family need assistance while the strike remains in effect. If you need access to medical or health supplies in your school building, please reach out to your school principal directly and they will connect you with our Director of School Health Services. Unfortunately, we cannot facilitate access to the building for any other items left there.

As shared previously, each day by 7:30 pm, I will communicate with families if school will be in session the next day.

Updates will be posted here:

[Newton Public Schools Homepage](#)
[School Committee Webpage](#)
[School Committee Negotiations Webpage](#)

I understand how difficult this uncertainty is for our families and our students. We continue to hope for a quick resolution so that our students can return to our classrooms.

Late this afternoon, School Committee Chair Brezski and I held a press conference to provide an update on negotiations. Click [here](#) or on the photo to watch.

I have complete confidence in the School Committee negotiating team. I have Superintendent Nolin and Chair Brezski on speed dial and am available instantaneously, literally 24/7.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

[Unsubscribe jmulvey@newtonma.gov](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [rfuller@newtonma.gov](#) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!