

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update

The Superintendent cancelled school for tomorrow, Wednesday, Jan. 24 because the union is staying on strike.



This will be Day 4 of the illegal strike by the teachers' union and everybody's nerves are frayed.

- Parents/caregivers and students are restless, concerned and frustrated.
- The Newton School Committee is tired, but hard at work trying to make progress at the negotiating table.
- I'm focused on our goal of settling a competitive *and* sustainable contract.

My message to the union is:

Let the thousands and thousands and thousands of students in Newton back into school. Please don't continue with this strike. The School Committee negotiating team will continue to bargain in good faith, and I will continue to support our terrific teachers with the funding for a competitive and sustainable contract.

I want to pass along a thoughtful email from a Newton parent that I received this morning:

Kudos to the superintendent for releasing the spreadsheet with the differences between the two parties. [Click [here](#) to read the spreadsheet.]

A \$9+M per year difference is insanity. That's more than the Parks budget and 11x what we spend on senior services. Twice what we pay for HHS [Health and Human Services], More than a third of DPW. Not the cost of the contract, the difference between parties.

I support a fair teacher contract. I support excellent public schools. I do not support spending most of all of our free cash on a contract while leaving NPS's structural deficit, the state of repair of our school buildings, and critical other city needs unmet.

The Newton School Committee has shared the following message tonight:

Dear NPS Families,

Unfortunately, there is no significant progress to report on negotiations today. The School Committee again asked the NTA to end the strike and to continue bargaining during the school day while students were back in school, and the union declined. We also proposed to collaborate and issue a joint statement to the community, and the union declined.

The School Committee had hoped to achieve progress today, and perhaps even agreement, on the key issue of Time and Learning, which addresses the structure of the school day. We were unable to achieve the progress for which we were hoped.

We understand that Newton students are counting on us. The School Committee and the union have to collectively start making progress.

We will continue to do everything possible to get students back in the classroom, and we hope for a more productive session tomorrow.

*Sincerely,
Newton School Committee*

Click here to [read](#) a message from Superintendent Anna Nolin.



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