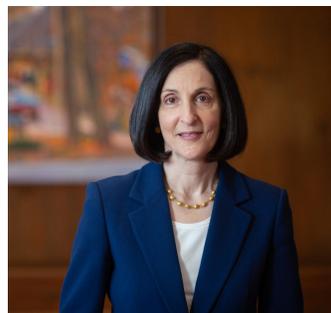


Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update

The Superintendent cancelled school for tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 26, the sixth day without school as the union continues its illegal strike.



This is more than a week without classes for our 11,600+ students. Enough. This strike is causing such harm.

While I have to have hope that we will make progress at the negotiating table, I continue to know we must have our kids back in the classroom as the School Committee and the union bargain.

I committed significant Overlay surplus funds from an Eversource settlement in December to help settle a competitive contract (which results in an increase in the budget for the Newton School Department by 5% next year).

Our team at City Hall continues to work with Newton Public Schools on paths that provide our teachers with competitive compensation, funding for Superintendent Nolin's plans, and a contract that is financially sustainable.

We will not sign a contract with the union that would result in cuts to programs, services or staff in our schools and/or other City departments.

The Newton Teachers Association faces another hearing in Superior Court. As of this evening, the NTA has not complied with the Court's order to end the strike and the Court will hold a hearing tomorrow to address "a more meaningful approach to ensuring compliance with the law."

We deeply value our teachers. I am committed to honoring their work with competitive compensation.

While I have been laser focused on the ongoing negotiations, other important work in our City continues.

Last night the Newton Fire Department rescued two people in a house fire on Lincoln Road in Nonantum. Firefighters faced tough conditions as they fought through zero visibility and high heat to rescue the two adults who were then transported to the hospital where they remain today. I join the Newton Fire Department in asking you to keep these residents in your thoughts. I know I speak for our community in thanking our Newton firefighters and Chief Greg Gentile.

The Newton School Committee has shared the following message tonight:

Dear NPS Families,

Momentum from the progress in our negotiations on Wednesday continued into Thursday morning, but unfortunately faltered mid-day, and no agreements were reached today. We know how hard this is on our families and students as many of us have NPS children at home.

We all want this to end, but the School Committee remains committed to a competitive contract that allows NPS to deliver the education that our students deserve. Agreeing to the union's demands on the table would require [layoffs of 60 employees within a year](#), and another 60 within the following five years.

We are fully committed to a resolution and return of our students and staff to the classroom as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Newton School Committee
schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us

Additional Information

We include for you a [side-by-side comparison of the current proposals](#) offered by both the School Committee and the NTA. The difference remains substantial.

Below is more detail on some of the recent proposals exchanged.

Parental Leave Proposal: The School Committee revised its parental leave proposal on January 24th in response to the NTA proposal. The Committee's revised proposal provides 12 weeks of paid parental leave for either parent, increased from 9 weeks in its prior proposal. This proposal has been declined by the union.

The Committee proposal is modeled on Massachusetts Parent Family Medical Leave ("PFML"). PFML allows either parent to take up to 60 days paid leave at 60-80% of full salary (up to a maximum of approximately \$1,150 per week.) PFML requires all employees to pay for the benefit through payroll deductions.

[Link to Parental Leave Proposal from January 24, 2024](#)

Unit C (paraprofessionals/aides) Proposal: Increase time for Unit C employees, which results in additional compensation. This proposal was made in response to a request from the NTA to increase work time for Unit C.

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



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