

Friday, Jan. 26, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Barry-Smith was so right today when he wrote that we must have effective and fair bargaining.

The Newton School Committee and I are all in on settling a contract ASAP and continuing to bargain in good faith.



- Let's honor our teachers with wages and benefits that are competitive and that show respect for the outstanding work they do educating our children. I have provided the School Committee with a substantial commitment of financial resources to do just that.
- Let's sign a contract as soon as possible that puts the needs of our students first.
- Let's make sure Superintendent Nolin has the funding to move forward with her initiatives.
- Let's be careful to sign a contract now that doesn't lead to signing pink slips for teachers in our schools and employees in city departments later.

We will keep top of mind who is being hurt most by this illegal strike - children and families/caregivers.

To the union: Put the students first by committing to having school open on Monday.

For the School Committee and myself, we'll be working hard this weekend.

What Happened in Superior Court Today?

Today, lawyers for the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board, the Newton School Committee and the Massachusetts Teachers Association (who were representing the NTA) were back in Superior Court. The Judge held two hearings over the course of the day to address the NTA's lack of compliance with the Court's order to end their illegal strike.

As of today, Friday, January 26, the fines against the NTA total \$375,000. After concluding that both the NTA and the Newton School Committee were negotiating in good faith, the Judge ordered an additional fine of \$50,000 effective Sunday, January 28, if the strike has not been called off by 8:00 pm. If the NTA strike

continues after Sunday night, the Judge imposed a daily fine of \$50,000 for each day that the union's noncompliance with the law continues.

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