

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Mayor's Newton Update

I know Newton's teachers love teaching ... and they are passionate about our students ... and they are really good at their jobs.

I agree that they deserve a contract that honors their long hours, big hearts, and experience.

We have reached deep and wide to pull together the funding for wages and benefits competitive with peer school districts. We have ensured that funding will be available to support Superintendent Nolin's initiatives. We are using City revenues and one-time funds sustainably so no layoffs are required.

And yet there will be no school again on Tuesday. This will now be 8 days that students are deprived of an education.

Union leaders are not letting educators return to their classrooms while negotiations continue to resolve the contract. They are continuing to strike illegally, harming children and the Newton community.

Students need to be back in their classrooms learning from their outstanding teachers. They need to be with their friends. They need to be surrounded by trusted adults. They need to be receiving their services specified in their individualized education programs, IEPs. They need to be playing instruments, singing, acting, practicing with teammates, competing, debating, building robots, writing for the newspaper, and more.

The Newton Public Schools are ready to open school doors wide as soon as they get word from the NTA.

We will continue to commit to bargain in good faith with the NTA leadership while educators are in their classrooms. We are anxious to sign a competitive and sustainable contract with no layoffs in NPS or other departments.

Want more information on the City's finances? Click [here](#).

What Happened in Court Today?

Earlier today, a parent of three students in the Newton Public Schools filed a motion to intervene in the ongoing Superior Court case initiated by the Commonwealth Employment Relations Board (CERB) and the Newton School Committee to end the NTA strike and 25 supporting letters were attached.

In the motion, the parent asked the court to allow them to intervene in the case because the NTA's refusal to return to work is interfering with and interrupting the

children’s constitutional right to a public education. The parent highlights the unrecoverable loss of education as well as the social and emotional impact on the children.

The motion asks the Court to impose sufficient sanctions to compel the NTA to immediately terminate the strike.

A copy of the motion can be found on the Massachusetts Trial Court public website.

The following is the message from the Newton School Committee sent out to the school community tonight:

Dear NPS Families,

We are steadily addressing most of the major issues both NPS and the NTA have identified as important to improving the lives and experience of our students and staff:

- *Improved compensation for Unit C employees*
- *A commitment to increase social work supports for students*
- *12 weeks of paid family leave for all employees*

While there is still no agreement on cost of living adjustments, and there remains a substantial gap between the two parties, our proposals are the closest they have been since the start of negotiations. We hope we are nearing an agreement, and we again ask the NTA to end the strike, and return students to their classrooms.

Our kids have to get back to school. We remain committed to an agreement that works for our teachers and our future.

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

[Salary and Benefits Comparison Slides](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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



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