

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024

## Mayor's Newton Update

Our parents and children are incredibly stressed as we approach the ninth day of the union's strike. This illegal strike is harming our children, our parents and caregivers, and our good City of Newton.

Our kids need to be back in school.

Today the Newton School Committee again increased its [offer](#) (click the word "offer" to see it) and in a meaningful way, while still ensuring a sustainable agreement.

If the NTA accepts this proposal, our educators will see significant salary increases in the years to come. As shared by the School Committee earlier today, in 2027 relative to today:

- A teacher member making \$62,116 today will make \$81,599
- A teacher member making \$91,251 today will make \$121,299
- A teacher member making \$120,172 today will make \$135,277
- A paraprofessional making \$22.81/hr today will make \$32.20/hr
- A paraprofessional making \$45.15/hr today will make \$51.20/hr

The School Committee negotiating team put this offer on the table because, with help from the NPS Administration, I have committed to fully funding it.

The package of salaries and benefits is competitive, honoring the work of our NPS staff.

Tonight, School Committee Chair Brezski and the School Committee negotiating team asked me to join them at the bargaining table, hoping my presence will reinforce for the union the urgency of getting students back in classrooms and my commitment to the School Committee's competitive offer.

Newton Teachers Association President Mike Zilles joined us in the room along with NTA educators and Massachusetts Teachers Association representatives. Mr. Zilles expressed his commitment to academic excellence and social and emotional learning. His team needs more time to put their ideas into writing and we expect to receive a new proposal from them at noon tomorrow.

The Newton School Committee and I cannot agree to a contract that negatively impacts our students. If the contract is not affordable, our students will suffer from layoffs, larger class sizes and fewer support services.

Mr. Zilles spoke eloquently about the need for sustainability.

While we continue this important work on a competitive contract that honors our educators, supports our students, allows the Superintendent's initiatives to move forward, and ensures sustainability, I call on the union to reopen our schools.

If they reopen schools I and the School Committee negotiating team commit to continued, in-depth, ongoing, substantive negotiations.

The union should put kids first. Open the schools. End the illegal strike. The rest of us will finish up the contract.

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller



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