

9:10 p.m. - Friday, Feb. 2, 2024

## Mayor's Newton Update

We have great news for the students, families, caregivers, residents and educators of Newton. We expect schools to be open on Monday.



The School Committee negotiating team came to a tentative agreement with the Newton Teachers Association negotiating team a short time ago on all the aspects of a new four-year contract. The entire School Committee and NTA membership will have to vote to approve the tentative agreement early next week.

We are thrilled to get students and teachers back in their classrooms.

We are also thrilled to settle a new four-year contract that honors the tremendous work our teachers do - a contract the city can afford - a contract that serves our students.

I want to thank School Committee Chair Chris Brezski and the School Committee negotiating team members Tamika Olszewski, Paul Levy and Kathy Shields for their extraordinary time commitment, judgement and focus on the needs of our students. Kudos to the entire Newton School Committee who shaped the decision making with wisdom and grace. I am grateful as well to Superintendent Anna Nolin and her team - Toby Romer, Ayesha Farag, Casey Ngo-Miller, Joany Santa, Caitlin Lewis, Liam Hurley, Sean Mannion, and Jill Murray Grady - for their incredible efforts to make NPS an exceptional district for students and staff. The work of the School Committee's outside attorney Liz Valerio was invaluable.

I know how much NTA President Mike Zilles and his executive board care about their profession and the educators and staff of the Newton Public Schools.

After a very difficult and unsettling two weeks in our community, this weekend we breath of a sign of relief.

In the coming days, I ask for your help in finding ways to reflect and reconnect, to learn from each other and to heal.

Warmly,

Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

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The following is a message from the Newton School Committee send moments ago:

*Dear NPS Families,*

*This evening, the Newton School Committee and the Newton Teachers Association (NTA) bargaining teams reached a tentative agreement on a new four-year contract. The contract will require ratification from NTA members and a majority vote of the School Committee. **We expect a return to school on Monday, February 5, 2024.***

*This contract reflects our values including respect for our educators. It reinforces and expands meaningful support for students; meaningfully increases compensation for all employees, particularly our building and classroom aides; maintains Newton as a leader in benefits; and provides important flexibility for our leaders to strengthen and innovate our system.*

*This strike has been painful for NPS families and the entire City of Newton. We will all need some time to heal, and we ask for patience and leadership from all of the adults in the NPS community. It is up to us to show our kids how a strong community responds to challenges.*

*The Committee looks forward to the return of students to their classrooms. We will take a breath, then begin the work of ensuring that this never happens again.*

*Sincerely,*  
Newton School Committee  
[schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us)



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