



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2017

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UPDATE ON TEACHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The Burlington School Board negotiated for over 8.5 hours with the teachers' union (the BEA) in an effort to reach a settlement on the FY18 teacher contract today.

Modest progress was made on several issues.

By the end of the day, the School Board's proposals for a two-year contract included the following: On salary, the board offered a 2.25% raise each year, for two years. This equates to an average annual salary increase of nearly \$1,600 per year. Regarding health insurance, the Board's proposal would save employees between \$279 and \$2,103 per year on premiums while protecting employees from increased out-of-pocket costs.

The BEA is seeking salary increases of 3.2% in the first year and 3.4% in the second year. The BEA's proposed health insurance plan would be costlier than the plan envisioned by the state in the recently-passed law.

On operational matters, the Board responded to the BEA's proposal to reduce the time that elementary teachers are responsible for supervising students (such as at lunch and recess). While the Board does not believe this is in the best interest of students, it is willing to compromise by relieving elementary teachers of some other supervision duties in exchange for a modest increase in the amount of time high school teachers are required to instruct students (from 47% to 55% of the workday).

"We are optimistic that a fair and sustainable settlement is achievable and look forward to reaching a deal at our next meeting on August 31," said Stephanie Seguino, School Board Vice Chair.

Details of the Board's proposals as of the end of negotiations on August 24th can be found on the District's negotiations webpage at <http://www.bsdt.org/school-board/negotiations/>

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YAW OBENG - SUPERINTENDENT
