

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winthrop Educators Call on School Committee to Resume Negotiations

Union Says More Negotiations Necessary

Winthrop, Mass. — On Thursday, the Winthrop Teachers Association was informed that the School Committee intended to file for State mediation, rather than agreeing to the Union’s request to return to the bargaining table. According to the Union, this move by the School Committee is not in the best interest of the district or the educators.

“From the beginning of this process we’ve been clear about the things in our district that need to change,” said Alexis McEvoy, a member of the Union’s bargaining team and a teacher at Gorman Fort-Banks and a WPS parent. “Our veteran teachers are leaving. Our lowest paid workers are struggling to make ends meet. Our special education staff are stretched to their breaking point. Instead of getting back to the table to fix these issues, the School Committee leadership is giving ultimatums and using the law to avoid talking to Winthrop’s educators.”

The Union feels like agreements for their four contracts could be within reach, and is confused as to why the School Committee abruptly refused to continue negotiations.

“The idea that this crisis can’t be resolved by continued negotiating, collaboration, and creative thinking is ridiculous,” said John Cross, the Union’s Vice-President and a WPS parent. “We have held seven bargaining sessions for our teachers over 12 months, far fewer than that for our support staff units. We’ve held a total of two bargaining sessions this calendar year.”

While the School Committee continues to say that the hurdles to agreements are solely budgetary, the Union says otherwise.

“Our Union thinks these contracts could be resolved for \$40,000-\$50,000 total over the three year contract—not the millions of dollars that the School Committee would have the public believe,” said Daniela Foley, a teacher at the Arthur T. Cummings. “The reality is it does not cost a dollar to give every worker a copy of

their job description. It doesn't cost any money to give special educators a voice in how their days are scheduled. There is no cost to treating educators with respect, dignity, and trust."

The WTA encourages educators and the public to visit the WTA Bargaining Headquarters for all information related to bargaining at <https://bit.ly/WinthropHQ>.

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About the WTA:

The Winthrop Teachers Association is a Union of teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, and secretaries in the Winthrop Public School district of Winthrop, Massachusetts. It is composed of over 250 members working in the district's 4 schools.

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All the best,

Brian Donnelly

WTA President



WINTHROP TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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