

South Butler County School District

Negotiations Update

September 13, 2017

To provide the public with accurate information regarding the status of the negotiations with the South Butler County Education Association (PSEA/NEA), including the recently issued Fact Finding Report, the Board has released and posted this Negotiations Update.

- For a second time, the teachers have voted to reject a neutral arbitrator's recommendations, which if accepted, would have resulted in a new 6-year Collective Bargaining Agreement and ended the almost four years of negotiations between the School District and its teachers.
- By email dated September 12, 2017, PSEA UniServ Representative, Brooke Witt, notified the State Appointed Mediator, Robert Lavery, and School District Solicitor, Thomas Breth, that the teachers would vote to reject the neutral arbitrator's recommendations and continue the negotiation process, which began in January 2014.
- Solicitor Breth indicated, "The Board is frustrated with the teachers' demonstrated lack of concern or respect for the financial burdens placed upon the residents of this School District. The Board has repeatedly compromised in an effort to reach a reasonable agreement with the teachers. The Board has twice voted to accept the recommendations of two different neutral arbitrators. The teachers have twice rejected the same recommendations of two different neutral arbitrators. In return, the teachers, their PSEA colleagues and a limited number of supporters have waged a campaign to demean and disparage the reputation of the Board and the School District. Now they are threatening to strike if the Board does not meet their demands. The teachers' actions speak louder than their rhetoric about a willingness to compromise."
- Board President, Nelda Burd, indicated, "Both neutral arbitrators asked the parties to compromise on key issues in their respective reports. We are disappointed that the teachers have once again rejected a chance to compromise and end these lengthy negotiations with the approval of a new collective bargaining agreement. The Board continues to be willing to return to the bargaining table, but after almost four years, Board members feel it is time for the teachers' negotiating committee to acknowledge and respect the recommendations of the neutral arbitrator and the financial realities of the School District and its taxpayers."
- The parties have scheduled two additional bargaining sessions: Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. and Monday, October 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.