

Newton Educators Demand That School Committee Negotiate, Get Students Back in School

Striking Newton educators of the Newton Teachers Association (NTA) demand that Mayor Ruthanne Fuller fully fund the schools and the Newton School Committee negotiate a fair contract that gets students back to school.

On Thursday, dozens of Newton educators and supporters gathered in Boston and made their way to the State House, seeking out support from those we have elected to represent us on Beacon Hill. Part of our fight is rooted in chronic underfunding in public education occurring at both the local and state levels. We are delivering the message wherever we can that our students and educators deserve more resources and support.

Yesterday, in the afternoon, hundreds of other NTA members and their supporters – parents, community members, students, and alumni – attended a rally at Newton City Hall. Newton educators are deeply appreciative of the community support for this campaign to fully fund Newton Public Schools.

Today:

- Bargaining between the NTA and School Committee resumes at the Education Center.
- Educators were invited by students to a rally at 10 a.m. at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton Centre.
- Following the rally, educators and their supporters will march to the Education Center, 100 Walnut St. and demonstrate support for the NTA bargaining team
- A solidarity rally is being scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday

[NTA's priorities](#) remain, as they have since bargaining began in October 2022: addressing student mental health and living wages for all employees, especially the Educational Support Professionals – aides and behavior therapists – who work with our most vulnerable students; having social workers in every elementary and middle school to support student mental health; modern and humane paid family leave; and reasonable cost-of-living adjustments.

The NTA issued the following statement:

“On Thursday, educators experienced a major step back backward in bargaining. The School Committee and Mayor Fuller showed that they have no interest in genuine negotiation.

“With continued rejections of every meaningful proposal, there is no credible evidence that the School Committee and Mayor Fuller actually want to settle this contract. Instead, they seem to be more interested in power and control than getting children back in school.

“Four of the NTA’s returned proposals, even after compromises, were outright refused. We have worked hard to compromise, and all we get in return is reject, reject, reject. The School Committee continues to reject a humane family leave policy, displaying no regard for early-career educators and working families.

“This is not negotiation. This is not compromise.

“The mayor is manipulating negotiations to fail in hopes of blocking the NTA’s demands for fully funded schools. Her actions are shameful and the School Committee is cowardly. “The School Committee needs to step up to Mayor Fuller, do their job, and advocate for the needs of the Newton Public Schools. The only person who has benefited during this crisis is the lawyer to whom Newton Public Schools has now paid hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“The NTA remains willing to bargain day and night so schools can reopen as soon as possible and educators can be with their students in the classroom. This will only happen with the settlement of a fair contract, so the Newton community still needs Mayor Fuller to fully fund the schools and allow the Newton School Committee to reach an agreement with the NTA.”