

Newton educators to update community on contract status

Union members rallying, holding press conference at 5 p.m. at City Hall

Following well over a year of fruitless bargaining with Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, the lawyer she hired to conduct bargaining, and the School Committee, the members of the Newton Teachers Association have scheduled an all-membership meeting for today and will announce the next steps for negotiations at a press conference at 5 p.m. outside of Newton City Hall.

The NTA issued the following statement:

“Newton educators are working without a contract, and we do not see any meaningful movement on the part of Mayor Fuller and the School Committee to come to a fair agreement with us. We are deeply disturbed that the mayor is insisting that schools are sufficiently funded. While other districts have recognized the growing needs of students and increased their allocations to public schools, Mayor Fuller continues to underfund our schools in Newton. In spite of annual budget surpluses, Mayor Fuller has cut funding for schools year after year. Despite what the mayor says, we do not need to wait to pass a Proposition 2 ½ override in order to fully fund Newton Public Schools. Rather, Mayor Fuller is choosing to withhold existing taxpayer money from schools.

Newton has more than enough money available to fund a living wage for aides and behavior therapists, offer classroom teachers competitive pay raises, hire more social workers and support staff to address the student mental health crisis, and to establish modern, humane paid family leave for all educators.

“The members of the NTA will continue to bargain for a fair contract, one that ensures the working conditions that we need and the learning conditions that our students deserve. We know that Newton values this city’s excellent public schools; the mayor needs to allocate the necessary funding to keep them that way.”