

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS

SUPERIOR COURT

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT
RELATIONS BOARD

Plaintiff

and

NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Plaintiff-Intervenor

v.

NEWTON TEACHERS ASSOCIATION and

MICHAEL J. ZILLES in his official capacity,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2481CV00148

AFFIDAVIT OF ANNA NOLIN

I, Dr. Anna Nolin, hereby propose the statements as follows:

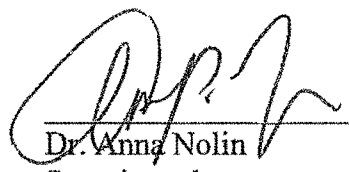
1. My name is Dr. Anna Nolin. I make this affidavit on my personal knowledge and facts.
2. I am the Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools and an agent of the Newton School Committee (“Committee”). I have held this position since July 1, 2023.
3. On January 24, 2024, Defendant Newton Teachers Association (“NTA”) posted a video on its publicly accessible Facebook page where Union members, including Defendant Michael J. Zilles (“Mr. Zilles”), spoke about ongoing negotiations and the strike. In response to a question regarding the contempt fine structure, Mr. Zilles stated that “um, the fine structure that is set up right now as far as I can tell the plan of the Judge is to bankrupt us...not bankrupt us, I should not say that. The plan is to exhaust our reserves by the end of the week on Friday. Now, what I can say is we’ve gotten commitments from a lot of people to help us out. What I would say is we’re...we are out on strike until

we get a contract that our members will feel, our community will feel, was worth it and we're not going to go back until we get a contract that is worth it so we are prepared to stay out one more day than the School Committee is willing to stay out, if that's what it takes to get a fair contract." This video can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1076199123604035>

4. As of the day of this affidavit, the NTA has been on strike for six (6) school days. It remains unclear how and when these days will be made up. However, we will certainly owe compensatory services to students enrolled in special education programming. If students regress due to the lack of school and are not able to regain those skills within a certain period of time near the end of the school year, they may need to enroll in extended school year ("ESY") programming. It costs the Committee around \$270,000 - \$290,000 in salaries a week to run ESY.
5. Parents who feel that they have been aggrieved by a school district can, among other legal options, file a complaint with the Massachusetts Department of Education's Problem Resolution System ("PRS"). We have already received PRS complaints due to lack of services provided to students during the period of closure as a result of the strike. More than likely, the Committee will need to make up services to these children and expend additional funds so these students do not regress.
6. The Committee is expending funds each and every day for police details to manage the crowds outside of our buildings. Additionally, the Committee is also spending more funds than originally allocated toward student meals, and is paying custodial staff overtime. As a result of this strike, the Committee has also assumed legal costs that, but for the illegal strike and Defendants' resulting contempt, would not have been incurred.

Signed under the penalties of perjury on this 26th day of January 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Nolin', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Newton Public Schools