

Newton Teachers Association Statement

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School committee ends bargaining without deal

Despite bargaining through the night, the School Committee ended negotiations with striking Newton Educators at 6 a.m. leaving unresolved a return-to-work agreement and a commitment on securing social workers for every school.

The School Committee also stalled talks by trying to secure greater management prerogative over educators.

The NTA issued the following statement:

“School Committee Chair Chris Brezski lost all integrity yesterday. After Brezski publicly declared that money remained the only issue separating the NTA and School Committee, the union significantly adjusted its financial proposal. By 4 a.m., the financial proposals between the two parties were identical.

“But the School Committee then attempted to weaken the agreements on social workers and alter other agreements affecting the working conditions of educators and the learning conditions of students.

“The School Committee’s proposed return-to-work agreement attempted to extract more than \$1 million from educators. The committee showed no interest in healing rifts or truly ending this strike – a strike that would not have occurred had the School Committee settled this contract at any point during the 16 months of negotiations that preceded the strike vote.

“The NTA is prepared to settle a fair agreement and reasonable return-to-work agreement that fosters the rebuilding of relationships across the school community.”