



THE PITTSBURGH FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



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PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CONTINUE BARGAINING WITH PITTSBURGH FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Approximately 2,800 teachers, paraprofessionals and technical-clerical employees will remain covered under terms of contracts that expired June 30th

PITTSBURGH July 3, 2017 - The Pittsburgh Public Schools collective bargaining agreements with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers expired June 30, 2017, without new comprehensive collective bargaining agreements in place for approximately 2,300 teachers and other professionals, 540 paraprofessionals and 20 technical-clerical employees. These employees will remain covered under terms of the expired contracts.

The District and the Federation intend to continue negotiations to reach agreements that recognize the interests of teachers, students, taxpayers and the broader community. The District began bargaining with the Federation last fall. Although the parties have not reached agreement on successor contracts by the June 30 deadline, this is a common occurrence for school districts in Pennsylvania and the parties will continue their negotiations for agreements while operating under status quo.

“We have confidence that we will reach an agreement that is guided by a shared goal of refining systems to better ensure equitable outcomes for students,” said Superintendent Anthony Hamlet. “We value our teachers and the investment they make in our students, and we are lucky to have a committed workforce. Two overarching goals have shaped the bargaining process thus far – first, that we will engage in respectful, professional negotiations, and second, we want to ensure that the District remains fiscally sound, academically strong and one of first choice for students, families, teachers and staff.”

“It is disappointing that we were unable to bring proposed tentative agreements on time to our members,” said Nina Esposito-Visgitis, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers. “However, we are not at all deterred and, along with the District’s negotiators, we will continue to work diligently beyond the contracts’ expiration date to bring our members a fair agreement that recognizes the tremendous work that they do on behalf of the District’s students, our District and the Pittsburgh community as a whole.”

“Our 2017-2022 strategic plan is clear that our number one focus needs to be our students,” Dr. Hamlet said. “In the coming school year, students will see much of this planning come to life, with math and reading coaches at every school, more librarians and nurses at schools. We’re launching five community schools and ensuring organized professional development for all teachers. The Federation has been extremely supportive of this student-focused plan, and we’re optimistic that our strong working relationship will continue.”

Five-year agreements for the three employee units expired June 30, 2015, and the District and Federation agreed upon two-year extensions during the period of leadership transition at PPS. Those extension agreements, which Federation membership had overwhelmingly ratified, expired June 30, 2017.

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