



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Negotiations Continue as PFT Seeks Strike Authorization

PITTSBURGH, PA January 26, 2018 – The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) tonight notified its membership that it will be mailing a ballot seeking authorization for a strike in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

If a vote is authorized, the union is required to give the school district 48 hours' notice before the strike occurs. The authorization is often used during the collective bargaining process. It is important to note that even if teachers vote to authorize a strike, it does not necessarily mean a strike will occur; the negotiation process will continue.

An interim two-year agreement expired in June 2017. Negotiations continued through June 30, 2017, and thereafter. When no agreement was reached, the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board appointed a neutral third-party fact finder, whose report was released in October 2017 and is available online at <https://www.pghschools.org/collectivebargaining>.

The District recognizes that the possibility of a strike represents a significant disruption for our students and their families. We continue to work diligently with PFT leadership toward a resolution that reflects our deep respect for our outstanding teachers while also prioritizing our mission of providing the highest quality education possible for every student.

“From my first day as superintendent, I have been clear about one matter: moving forward, the top priority of the Pittsburgh Public Schools is going to be the children we serve. They are the reason we exist,” said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Hamlet. “I have nothing but the highest regard for our outstanding teachers – in fact, as a former teacher, I have walked in their shoes. But I have a responsibility to the children of this district to put their needs above those of adults, even adults I deeply respect and admire. Real change results from difficult work. If it were easy, it would have happened by now. This is the commitment I made when I accepted this position, and it is one I intend to see through to fruition.”

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