



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Statement from Dr. Regina Holley on the Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved by the School Board and Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

PITTSBURGH PA April 18, 2018 – The ratification of a new three-year contract between the Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers represents a new era in our District’s long and storied history: one which I hope will result in effective, positive changes for our students.

There is no question that the negotiations were, at times, contentious. That is the nature of collective bargaining. But just as steel is forged through the intense heat of blast furnaces, our public schools will emerge stronger for the process. And we achieved a longstanding, structural framework that allows us to effect meaningful change that has eluded us for too long.

Throughout these long months, our goal has been simple, yet lofty: to achieve a contract that accomplishes fair compensation and benefits for our teachers, affords the District the management tools necessary to guide our mission forward, and above all, benefits our students.

Similarly, our goals for the District are deceptively simple: to achieve the best possible education for the greatest number of students. This contract allows us to move forward toward that goal with a more common vision.

With a new contract in place, we now have greater peace of mind for families and clearer parameters for our goals. Let us work together to meet them in a spirit of higher purpose for this most important work toward our children’s future.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of our negotiating team. We would not be here today if it were not for tireless work and dedication of Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Hamlet, School Board Members Cynthia Falls, Terry Kennedy and Sylvia Wilson, Chief Financial Officer Ronald Joseph, Retired Chief of Human Resources and consultant Jody Spolar, and legal counsel Ira Weiss and Mike Palumbo.

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