



# NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Pittsburgh Public Schools and Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers Reach Tentative Agreement**

PITTSBURGH August 4, 2021 -The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) and the School District of Pittsburgh have reached a tentative agreement on the collective bargaining agreement for the District’s 2,400 Teachers and Professional Employees. The prior contract expired on June 30, 2020.

"We are pleased to reach this moment in negotiations for our Professional bargaining unit; a moment that has been a long time coming, and not without its unique challenges and sacrifices," added PFT President Nina Esposito-Visgitis. "We look forward to taking this contract to our membership, while we continue to work daily on securing similar beneficial contracts for our Paraprofessional and Technical-Clerical bargaining units."

The PFT will present the new agreement for ratification by the membership. Arrangements are being made for the Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh to vote on the proposed agreement following ratification by the PFT membership.

“After a school year that will go down in the history books as one of the most challenging for teachers across our country, I am pleased that we have reached a tentative agreement that honors our teachers for their commitment to the children of Pittsburgh Public Schools,” said Superintendent Anthony Hamlet. “I am additionally thankful to reach an agreement that increases our ability to limit the impact of a school bus driver shortage through the adjustment of school start and end times.”

The agreement supports the District’s efforts to seek solutions to address the significant seat gap it is facing due to a nationwide school bus driver shortage. Through the use of multi-tiered scheduling, the District can increase the number of routes one yellow bus driver can complete before and after school for a maximum of six routes a day for up to 144 students. The District will share more information about proposed adjustments to schools’ start and end times with families in the coming days.

No further comment on the tentative agreement will be provided until after both votes have occurred.