

School Committee Response to NTA Letter to Parents

The Newton School Committee Negotiating Team does not ordinarily comment on the status of ongoing negotiations with our bargaining units. We are departing from our regular practice because the Newton Teachers Association has sent a letter to all 11,000 Newton parents criticizing us for the lengthy negotiations and announcing a cessation of “voluntary activities” on the part of teachers and staff. That letter tells only one side of the story.

The Newton School Committee’s primary charge is to provide excellent educational services to the children of Newton. A key part of that charge is attracting and retaining the best teachers. To that end the School Committee seeks to offer wages that would keep our teachers among the most competitive and highly compensated in the state. We believe that the offer we have on the table does just that and, in addition, requires NO increase in health insurance contribution on the part of employees. These are trying financial times and the School Committee knows that it will be difficult to maintain the full range of programs and services that is Newton’s standard. We are doing our best to balance all of the competing needs and requirements in the best interest of the kids.

We expect that Newton teachers will perform all of their professional duties and responsibilities while we continue to try to reach a fair and equitable agreement with the bargaining units.