

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amherst School Board statement regarding contract negotiations with Amherst Education Association

AMHERST, N.H. – November 29, 2021 – The Amherst School Board is releasing the following statement regarding contract negotiations with Amherst Education Association. Representatives from the Board and AEA have been negotiating since August on a deal that would replace the current four-year agreement when it expires June 30, 2022.

We would like to provide an update to our negotiations with the Amherst Education Association, which represents our teachers. For the last four months, we have been working with the teachers on a new contract that would begin when the current one expires on June 30, 2022. When these negotiations began over the summer, our goal was to strike a deal that recognized the teachers for their efforts while also having a reasonable impact on taxpayers.

Unfortunately, after multiple negotiating sessions, the teacher's association has declared an impasse. This means we will no longer be meeting directly to discuss parameters on a new contract and, instead, a mediator who the parties have mutually selected will try to bridge the gap between the two sides later this week.

As a board, we recognize we have outstanding teachers who are dedicated to our students and our community. However, we also represent the interests of over 11,000 town residents, and many of you will cast the final vote on the cost items resulting from any potential agreement on voting day in March. We want to ensure that any contract we bring before you balances the interests of teachers and taxpayers.

We will provide updates as they become available and are within our purview to do so.

Amherst School Board is comprised of five members elected by the residents of the town of Amherst. The board is currently chaired by Tom Gauthier with past chair Elizabeth Kuzsma serving as vice chair. Terri Behm, Josh Conklin, and Victoria Parisi all serve on the board.

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