

April 10, 2017

The Dover Sherborn School Committee Negotiation Team (SCNT) continues to meet with the Dover Sherborn Education Association (DSEA) to reach a mutually agreed contract for 2017-2020.

The SCNT's extensive research on the pay scale of comparative districts indicates that our educators are among the most highly paid in Massachusetts. Compensation proposals made by the SCNT strive to fairly compensate our educators while remaining mindful of the financial impact the educators' agreement has on the budgets of our three districts. The SCNT aims to balance our fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Dover and Sherborn, the educational expectation of our community, and the support needed for our students with the aims and desires of the educators. Unfortunately, the current proposal by the DSEA would require we either reduce teachers and programs at the schools, or call for a tax override vote that if passed would mean that the real estate taxes of the residents of Dover and Sherborn would increase.

The DSEA has indicated that if a contract is not reached by April 11, they will begin demonstrations of discontent including "refus(ing) to volunteer for any new, unpaid unrequired assignments...as well as some public demonstrations of disapproval." The SCNT believes that while the negotiating process has been slow at times as we pass different proposals back and forth, the SCNT is committed to working creatively to find a solution and hopes the DSEA is equally committed to reaching resolution together.

While an agreement has not been achieved as of today, the SCNT continues to engage in constructive dialogue with the DSEA. We remain optimistic that we can continue to work together to create a contract that meets the needs all involved.

Dover Sherborn Negotiation Team

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