

METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

METHACTON SCHOOL BOARD AND METHACTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AGREE TO FILE A JOINT REQUEST FOR FACT FINDING IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING TEACHERS' CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The Methacton School Board and the 398 member Methacton Education Association have agreed to file a joint request for Fact Finding with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board in advance of the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board's December 15, 2020, public meeting.

Act 88 of 1992 provides for Fact Finding as an impasse resolution measure when parties involved in collective bargaining are unable to arrive at a Contract settlement.

In the case of the Methacton School District, it is expected that the PLRB will take a formal action appointing a neutral Fact Finder to conduct hearings and issue Recommendations to the parties on the open issues in dispute between the District and the Association.

The Fact Finder will hold a hearing or hearings (likely virtually given the pandemic), take oral and written testimony, and issue subpoenas as required to facilitate the process.

The Fact Finder must make his/her Findings of Fact and mail them to the parties and the PLRB not more than forty (40) days after the PLRB appoints the Fact Finder. In this case, the Fact Finding Report would be due Monday, January 25, 2021.

Within ten (10) days after the Findings and Recommendations have been sent (in this case, by February 4, 2021), the District and the Association would be required to notify the PLRB and each other if they accept the Report. The Report must be accepted in its entirety and the parties do not have the prerogative to accept or reject certain specific recommendations of the Fact Finder – it is “all or nothing.”

If either (or both) parties do not accept the Recommendations, the PLRB will post the Report on its website and the District will release the Report to the media. Not less than five (5) days nor more than ten (10) days after the publication of the Report, the parties shall again inform the PLRB and each other if they will accept the Report.

The Board and the Methacton Education Association officially began bargaining in January 2020 and have been bargaining since that date with each other in an attempt to deal with the development of a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

As part of the Fact Finding process, both the District and the Association will share demographic information about the District, economic challenges facing the District, comparative data regarding teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreements, healthcare cost information, as well as the ability of the District to afford any proposed Contract settlement. In addition, testimony will be presented on each one of the open issues in dispute in an effort to educate the Fact Finder on the specifics of either party's position.

The District remains hopeful that this impasse resolution process will provide a perspective of a third party that will be embraced by both the Board and the Association to resolve their differences. The District and the Methacton Education Association did use a third party to ultimately resolve Contract differences, which resulted in a Non-Binding Arbitration Award dated February 21, 2018.

Press contact:

Board Secretary
Methacton School District
(610) 489-5000
info@methacton.org