



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 17, 2016

**Media Contact:**

Mark Porter

Chair, Burlington Board of School Commissioners

[mporter@bsdvt.org](mailto:mporter@bsdvt.org)

**Post Mediation Statement**

**Burlington, Vermont** — Today, the Burlington School Board negotiating team entered into the mediation process with the goal of achieving a sustainable contract that allows the District to focus on a more efficient use of resources in support of complex student needs.

During mediation, the Board increased its offer to the BEA by putting forth a 2% salary increase, improving both its offer on the number of personal days and graduate tuition reimbursement. The Board's offer is reflective of current economic conditions and sustainable for the Burlington community, while offering teachers a notable salary increase.

The BEA rejected this offer, proposing instead a salary increase of 4.6% (down from 5.3%). The BEA did not make any concessions in other areas of the contract to offset their unusually high salary request.

In response, School Board Commissioner Anne Judson said, "While we may have made only incremental progress today, we were encouraged that the BEA's actions indicated a recognition that their salary request was unrealistically high."

Although the Board negotiating team indicated a clear desire to constructively engage, it maintains that the BEA's current offer remains unaffordable and would require additional cuts to teaching staff and other important services.

The Board hopes to continue mediation in the near future. According to School Board Chair Mark Porter, "The Board remains confident that we can reach an agreement that broadens student learning, keeps teacher pay competitive, and is fiscally sustainable for our community."