



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 22, 2016

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Pre-Mediation Statement

Burlington, Vermont — On Wednesday, March 23rd, the Board will meet with the Burlington Education Association (the teachers’ union) and a federal mediator in an effort to resolve the issues that led to the mutual declaration of impasse in early February. Among the core issues to be discussed are the different positions on what constitutes a sustainable rate of growth in total compensation and the appropriate allocation of available District revenue.

The Board’s proposals, and its efforts tomorrow, continue to be guided by the overall goal of achieving a sustainable contract that will allow the District to focus on a more efficient use of resources in support of complex student needs. The Board seeks an agreement that meets the following objectives:

1. Broaden the learning experience to prepare students for the 21st Century,
2. Secure a contract consistent with Burlington taxpayers’ ability to pay, and
3. Provide compensation and a workplace environment for teachers that allow the District to be an employer of choice.

We look forward to meeting with the mediator and union representatives tomorrow, and are optimistic that a settlement will be forthcoming.

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