



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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To: Faculty, Staff and Parents/Guadians of Milton Public Schools
From: Mary Gormley, Superintendent
Re: E-Blast Newsletter
Date: September 10, 2010

From the Desk of the Superintendent:

At this week's School Committee meeting, a new teacher's contract was approved. Please see below for details about this new, three-year contract.

In what has proven to be a trying year financially for school districts state-wide, Milton teachers made the unusual -- and difficult -- decision to voluntarily renegotiate their salary increases.

Nearly 300 union members voted last week (Sept. 2) to approve a renegotiated contract with the Milton Public Schools. Under the terms of the old contract, teachers would have received a 3.5 percent pay increase. The new, three-year contract calls for 2.5, 2.0 and 2.25 percentage increases. This measure is projected to save the Milton Public Schools approximately \$200,000 in the first year. The new contract, ratified on Wednesday night (Sept. 8th) is effective retroactive to Sept. 1st.

"Our teachers understand the economic constraints of today," said Lynda-Lee Sheridan, chair of the Milton School Committee. "This new contract is the result of great collaboration between the MEA, the Administration and the School Committee.

The School Committee voted on the contract at this week's meeting and approved the new contract in a 5-1 vote.

The contract makes the Milton Educators Association (MEA) the town's first employee union to voluntarily defer 1 % of their salary increases. Negotiations on the new contract began last spring between Superintendent Mary Gormley, members of the Milton School Committee and the leadership of the MEA.

"I am very proud of the Milton Educators Association and Milton School Committee, all of whom worked long and hard to negotiate this contract," said Mary Gormley, Superintendent of the Milton Public Schools. "Our educators are to be commended and thanked by the residents of the town of Milton for this unprecedented collaboration on behalf of the town and the students of the Milton Public Schools."

Margaret Gibbons, MEA President said, "This process began with exploratory discussions in an effort to protect programs for our students and jobs for our members during very tough economic times. In the end, the MEA took this unprecedented action because of the collaborative and trusting labor relationship that exists in the Milton Public Schools with this administration and school committee."

Gibbons also commented that a great deal of credit should be given to the MEA Executive Board who guided the negotiations at every step.

"This new contract is good for the schools and it is also good for the Town of Milton," said Sheridan. "We are very appreciative of our teachers' commitment to the students and the town."

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Fellow school committee member Glenn Pavlicek applauded the teacher's union for their actions.

"The Milton Educators Association recognized the severity of the current financial crisis and we are grateful that they took steps to mitigate it."

School Calendar Revisions

As a result of the renegotiated contract there have been some revisions to the current school calendar. The new calendar is attached to this email and can also be downloaded at http://www.miltonps.org/documents/2010-11SchoolCalendarRevised9-7-10_000.pdf.

A summary of the changes are as follows:

- The February 16th Early Release Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences has been cancelled. That day will now be a full day of school.
- The March 18th Professional Development Day has been cancelled. That day will now be a full day of school.
- As a result of these changes the current projected last day of school is moved up a day to June 14, 2011.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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**2010-11 School Calendar
Summary of Revisions - September 2010**

Original Calendar	February 16, 2011 = Parent/Teacher Conferences, early release for students
Revised Calendar	February 16, 2011 = P/T Conf. cancelled, <u>full day of school for students</u>
Original Calendar	March 18, 2011 = Teacher PD Day; school is not in session for students
Revised Calendar	March 18, 2011 = PD Day is cancelled; <u>school is in session for students</u>
Original Calendar	June 15, 2011 = last day of school for students (early recess)
Revised Calendar	June 14, 2011 = <u>last day of school for students (early recess)</u>