



Message to the Brookline Community:

The Brookline Public Schools administration is willing to sacrifice the quality of education we provide students rather than engage in productive contract bargaining with educators. Amid stalled negotiations, the Interim Superintendent of schools is proposing to increase class sizes and reductions to services for students. The Brookline Educators Union (BEU) does not accept the Superintendent's false narrative about the town's lack of resources, and every educator is committed to fighting for the schools our students and community deserve.

More than a year ago, BEU educators prepared contract proposals but the school committee refused to consider them. These proposals address challenges in our schools. They draw from the broad expertise of our members, many of whom were present to advise our core team. Since then, the School Committee has:

- refused for months to meet with the BEU negotiating team.
- requested a 1-year, wages-only contract, only to then refuse a package that is close to what Town Meeting approved for the school department budget.
- refused or delayed BEU members' requests for information about school department expenditures.
- allowed contracts to lapse at the end of August.
- ignored the historic increase in state funding for public schools.

Educators are still waiting for a response to our latest proposal.

We would expect the Superintendent to encourage bargaining between the School Committee and the BEU. Instead, he has taken the extraordinary and inappropriate step of encouraging individual educators to give building principals suggestions for cuts in educational services our members deliver. What in effect would serve to divide educators only strengthens our resolve to speak in a unified voice on behalf of our schools.

The BEU maintains that the recent talk of a "budget crisis" is a distraction that further stalls contract negotiations. The BEU appreciates the long-standing support that educators have received from members of the community, and it is the goal of the BEU to quickly settle fair contracts.

The BEU will not allow damaging cuts to the staff, programs and services our students need. We know that the community values its schools as much as the BEU does, and educators are counting on your support to bring the School Committee back to the bargaining table.

Please contact Superintendent Lummis at ben_lummis@psbma.org or (617) 730-2401 and ask him to encourage the School Committee to reach fair contracts with the BEU.

Sincerely,
The Educators of the BEU

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