



August 11, 2008, Board of Education Update on Teacher Contract Negotiations

This is an update from the Board of Education on the status of teacher contract negotiations. The current three-year contract expires August 24, 2008. The Board of Education and the Hinsdale Clarendon Hills Teachers Association (HCHTA) have been meeting formally since April 18, 2008. We have met a total of 11 times, and good progress has been made on a number of issues raised by the Board and the Association.

Our last meeting of July 30 did not bring the parties to agreement on an increase of the base salary schedule, benefits, or retirement issues. The HCHTA did not offer a counter proposal to the BOE offer late in the afternoon. As a result, a mutual decision was made to seek the assistance of a mediator.

Mediation is tentatively scheduled for August 20. The Board of Education is optimistic that the open issues can be negotiated to a respectful resolution.

School will open on time and we feel confident that our professional staff will start the new school year with the same excitement and anticipation that the students will bring to each classroom.

We are grateful for the contributions that our certified staff bring to our school district. Our teachers are among the finest in their profession. We are also mindful of the economic realities of our school system, community, and our nation. We will conduct the negotiations with a goal of keeping us on the leading edge of educational excellence and within the bounds of fiscal responsibility.

To that end we have enlisted the assistance of PMA. This firm is now verifying our financial data and is preparing projections. We believe that this will bring both sides the confidence to make sound financial decisions. We look forward to August 20 and a respectful contract with our excellent teaching staff.

Tonight's meeting is a Committee of the Whole. This format allows for feedback from the community. Mediation and negotiation with our union is being conducted in private and with mutual respect. We welcome comments of a general nature but ask that you refrain from specific questions, as we will not respond to them.

The District 181 Board of Education