

Teachers, board negotiate in private

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Neshaminy officials said no statements or comments about Wednesday's negotiations will be provided until early next week.

The Neshaminy Federation of Teachers met with the members of the Neshaminy school board and their attorney in another negotiating session Wednesday that was closed to the public and members of the media.

Both sides are hoping to find common ground and finalize a contract for the 669 teachers in the district.

Neshaminy teachers have been working without a contract since June 2008. Before school let out this summer, teachers began working to the letter of their contract to show how much extra they do that's not required.

Teachers in the district earn between \$42,552 and \$95,923 and pay nothing toward their health care premiums.

School board officials said no statements or comments about Wednesday's negotiations will be provided until likely early next week, due to several board members being out of town on vacations and other scheduling conflicts.

The newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching NFT president Louise Boyd for comment Wednesday.

The school board has offered an annual 3 percent salary increase, which includes steps, and a requirement that employees pay 15 percent, 16 percent and 17 percent toward health care premiums over three years.

The board claims the union's proposal remains unchanged, with a request for a total 6 percent annual salary hike, which includes steps, and a requirement for no change to the medical insurance package, according to administrators. Boyd has denied those claims but hasn't revealed the union's offer.

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