

Board waits to hear from teachers

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Neshaminy schools

A counteroffer was expected at the last meeting, but negotiations are continuing with the NFT.

The Neshaminy school board negotiation team was expecting a counter proposal from the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers at last week's meeting.

It never came.

School board officials said they are hoping the counteroffer is presented at the next session of talks scheduled for Wednesday night.

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.

Teachers in the district have been working without a contract since June 2008 and pay nothing toward their health care premiums.

According to a statement issued by the school board, the Aug. 18 meeting lasted more than two hours and focused on "questions surrounding health care costs."

The union informed the board that the work-to-contract action - which has teachers working to the letter of their contract to show how much extra they do that's not required - will continue into the new school year, the statement said. The action has been in effect since the end of last school year.

In a document obtained by the school board from a faculty member in May, the work-to-contract action calls upon teachers to not attend ninth-grade orientation today and Wednesday. It also suggests, among other things, that teachers not prepare for the fall and to not enter the building before the first day of school on Aug. 31.

The school board has agreed to an NFT request that any information the union obtains from the district's insurance carrier not be shared with the board - as had been common practice.

This board complied with the request, according to the statement, "in an effort to facilitate the process."

School board member William O'Connor said Monday that he was unsure exactly what information the NFT is seeking.

"I understand they've been asking questions about insurance costs and we let them contact our carrier directly," O'Connor added. "As kind of a standard operating procedure, we would be copied on any information exchanges between them, but they don't want that anymore."

The newspaper was unsuccessful in reaching NFT President Louise Boyd for comment Monday.

At tonight's regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. at Maple Point Middle School, the board's labor attorney, Chuck Sweet, will be available to answer legal questions from residents during public comment.

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