

Thumbs Up

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To Neshaminy school board members for remaining unified in their contract negotiations with support staff and also teachers.

Board members this week rejected - unanimously - a fact-finder report recommending a four-year deal with support staff (janitors, bus drivers, food service workers, etc.) that doesn't come close to providing the savings the district needs to plug a \$5.6 million budget deficit for the coming school year.

While the report recommended a pay freeze in the proposal's first year, it granted 3-percent salary increases in each of the next three years. Plus it would have locked employee health insurance contributions at 10 percent of cost - about a third of what folks in the private sector pay.

Board members continue to mull the outsourcing of some services, a move that could save the district several million dollars. This is a hammer members should not put down while negotiations are ongoing - a message clearly delivered by taxpayers attending this week's meeting. Thumbs up to them, too.