

September 16, 2019

Dear members of the M.S.A.D. No. 75 school community:

The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors and Superintendent of Schools continues the negotiation process on a new *three-year* contract with the Merrymeeting Teachers Association (MTA). In negotiating for this contract, the Board and the MTA are now in the process of fact-finding before a three person panel appointed by the Maine Labor Relations Board. While the initial hearing for fact finding is scheduled for early October, information resulting from that hearing may not be available until late fall.

Our community, and more importantly our children, are watching as we continue with the negotiations process. As we proceed, it is vital that kindness, respect and patience continue in order to maintain the integrity of the process. Everyone involved wants to compensate our teachers fairly, while addressing the needs of both our schools and our taxpayers. Both sides want an agreement; but differences remain; and our top priority is the education of our children.

As we proceed, we ask everyone to please be patient and know that the School Board, Superintendent, and negotiators have heard concerns on both sides of this important issue. There is a lot of misinformation in the public and on social media. The Board is dedicated to ensuring that the process remains confidential and respectful for both parties.

*The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors and Superintendent of Schools*