



For Immediate Release

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IN VOTE ON NON-BINDING ARBITRATION AWARD, NESHAMINY TEACHERS ACCEPT FINDINGS WITH RESERVATIONS

NFT Leaders Declare End of 'Work to Contract' as Members Authorize Possible Strike

LANGHORNE, PA (May 10, 2012) — Neshaminy Federation of Teachers members overwhelmingly endorsed their leaders' recommendation to accept with reservations the contract findings issued last week by a state arbitrator.

That action came despite a vote by the Neshaminy School Board on Tuesday to summarily reject the nonbinding arbitration award. While the School Board essentially killed the arbitrator's findings, the more than 450 teachers at the NFT membership meeting Wednesday night wanted to make it clear that they remain committed to the quest for a new contract.

"We had hoped the School Board would give careful review and good-faith consideration to the arbitrator's report. Their refusal to do that and their knee-jerk rejection of the arbitration process was a disappointment to Neshaminy's teachers," said NFT President Louise Boyd. "But our message to the Board and the community is that this was a missed opportunity to find solutions to the dispute that has divided us."

With their vote to accept the arbitrator's recommendations—but with reservations—teachers reiterated their bargaining team's characterization of the report. "As we said after first receiving the arbitrator's report—and as some news reports have described it—the award takes a middle course," Boyd said. "It is not a clear victory for either side. We were willing to follow that course to a settlement that would be a victory for the community and our students. The Board was not."

Also at Wednesday night's NFT meeting, leaders announced that they are lifting the "work to contract" action that has been in force since the beginning of the school year. "The leadership and our members have concluded that the 'work to contract' action is not an essential part of

our strategy as we seek to reset the bargaining process now that both sides have spoken on the arbitration report,” Boyd said.

The announcement ending “work to contract” accompanied a vote by members to authorize the NFT Executive Committee to call a strike “when and under the circumstances the committee decides are appropriate.”

Boyd and other NFT leaders said there has been no decision yet on whether to go on strike—an action allowed under state law. An eight-day strike by teachers in January led to the non-binding arbitration process that has just concluded.

The complete version of the Final Arbitration Award is posted for review on the [NFT's Community Page](#).

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