



# **AFT-NEW HAMPSHIRE**

***American Federation of Teachers-NH  
"A Union of Professionals"***

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Timberlane Support Staff Union, Local #6530 Declares Impasse in Contract Negotiations**

**BOW, NH OCTOBER 28, 2016:** The American Federation of Teachers-NH releases the following statement on behalf of the Timberlane Support Staff Union, AFT# 6530, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO.

“We are extremely disappointed with the Timberlane Regional School Board negotiating team and its apparent lack of any sense of urgency to move forward in negotiations for the paraeducators in our district,” according to Gabrielle Bevilacqua, TSSU President and negotiating team member. “We understand that there are a lot of issues to address in our district but we first sent our request to bargain at the end of April, offered to meet over the summer and now find the Board dragging its feet in negotiations and slowing down the process. We just want to be treated with respect.”

The TSSU represents more than 160 paraeducators in the school district. Paraeducators perform a variety of jobs and are an essential part of the educational team providing direct support to students. Support may be with academics, communication, personal care, behavior and emotional regulation, or sensory integration. Many of the paraeducators work to help implement the requirements of individualized educational plans for students with special needs.

Attorney Terri Donovan, union negotiator, stated that, “The paraeducators just want equitable treatment with other district employees and paraeducators in surrounding communities. Most of our paraeducators live within the District and understand the need to balance costs; however, in view of raises given to others as well as the benefits provided to other support staff and district employees, it is time for the School Board to step up to the plate and address this serious inequity. We remain confident we can make meaningful progress ”

A mediator will be brought in to assist the parties in negotiations.

AFT-NH is the state affiliate for the American Federation of Teachers with more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.3 million members. AFT-NH has nearly 4,000 members in NH including the Timberlane Teachers’ Association, AFT#4796.

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