

Broward Teachers Union
Charter School Contract Negotiations Flash May 17, 2007

Some Progress

Negotiators for the Broward Teachers Union and the City of Pembroke Pines reached a tentative agreement concerning only four articles including probationary periods, definitions, recognition and non-discrimination clauses. The next negotiating session is Monday, May 21, 2007, at 4 p.m. at the Charter High School.

City's Proposal

The city proposed not to have written reprimands be subject to the arbitration process but rather be handled internally with the city manager making the final decision as to the merit of the reprimand. The teachers on the negotiating team rejected the proposal saying that all teachers deserve due process in front of an impartial party.

Just the Facts

Over the last three sessions the union has attempted to come to an agreement on planning time. It is the opinion of the teachers on the negotiating team, as well the union, that teachers are professionals and they should be able to decide what to do on their planning time. So far, the city is unwilling to give teachers duty-free planning that is found in almost every single teacher contract, charter or not, around the country.

Negotiations Still Going Slower Than Expected

The negotiations team for the union did express concerns over the slow pace of the negotiations. While some progress was made, there is still a ways to go. "It seems like we are starting to clear up some of the smaller items, but we are not tackling the bigger issues. City negotiators are dragging their feet," BTU President Pat Santeramo said.

Upcoming Negotiations

All Charter School teachers are encouraged to attend all negotiation sessions as school work schedules allow. The next negotiations session is at 4 p.m. Monday, May 21, 2007, at the Charter High School.

For questions or concerns, please contact BTU Field Staff Representative Jamie Daniels by calling 954-486-6250.