

9/26/18

The Board of Education of Arbor Park School District No. 145 is issuing this statement to provide an update about the status of negotiations with the Arbor Park Education Association, IEA-NEA (“APEA”).

The Board and APEA representatives first met to begin negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement in February 2018. From February through June 2018, the Board and APEA participated in 13 meetings and worked diligently on the terms of a new contract. The Board communicated to the APEA its desire and availability to meet throughout the summer months. Due to the APEA representatives’ summer schedules and conflicts, the Board and APEA did not meet in July or August 2018.

A collective bargaining agreement was in effect at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. That agreement expired on August 31, 2018. The Board and APEA reconvened its meetings to negotiate a new contract on September 5 and 10, 2018. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the parties agreed to ask for a mediator through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which is an independent agency that provides assistance in collective bargaining negotiations at no cost to the parties. At this time, the parties are waiting to schedule mediation.

The outstanding contract issues are primarily financial, and the Board remains optimistic that the parties will reach an agreement on these issues as soon as reasonably possible. The Board remains committed to and focused on achieving a positive, fair contract for the District taxpayers, students, and teachers. The Board’s goals include offering a well-balanced educational program for our students and competitive compensation to our teachers, while ensuring the long-term financial stability of the District. The Board is confident that these goals are achievable and will further our mission to develop partnerships with students, staff, parents, and the community that will create a learning environment that enables all children to reach their full potential and to ensure quality and equity for all to succeed.

The Board has become aware that the APEA has posted information about the negotiations on social media, including an invitation to contact the Board and Administration about a new contract. Please note that, while the Board encourages open, transparent communications with our community members, the Board members and District administrators will not respond to individuals about specific contract issues while negotiations are pending. The Board will provide updated information to the District community once the parties participate in mediation.