

**Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union  
for immediately release**

At 2:15 AM this morning, the Association informed Board negotiators that it was ending negotiations and would commence a strike today. The Association's decision to end negotiations occurred 45 minutes after receiving a detailed contract offer from Board negotiators. The Boards' offer, a copy of which is posted, contains the compromises the Board team made during the nearly 16 hour negotiation session to reach an agreement with the Association. On the three main areas in dispute, the Boards' offer provides the following:

**SALARY:** Board salary offer costs an additional \$286,000 over the contract terms imposed by the Board last year. The Association's last proposal would cost \$570,000.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** Board has offered to reimburse teachers 100% of the increased cost teachers have been asked to pay this year. This will result in an additional school district cost of \$187,000 this year. The Association's last proposal would reduce school district contribution from 85% to 84.5% in the current year with a resulting school district cost of \$169,000.

**SUMMARY of SALARY & HEALTH INSURANCE:**

The Boards' offers result in combined district cost of \$473,000 through new salary compensation and loss of anticipated increased health insurance contributions.

The Association's proposals result in combined district cost of \$739,000 through new salary compensation and loss of anticipated increased health insurance contributions.

**WORK DAY HOURS/  
Middle School &  
High School :**

Board offer seeks to increase the time teachers spend in direct contact with students during the 7.5 hour teacher work day from approximately 4 hours to 5 hours. The additional hour would be used to provide students direct assistance through student advisories and tutorials. The Association's last proposal was to increase time for direct classroom instruction from 240 minutes to 255 minutes at the middle school and from 250 minutes to 255 minutes at the high school. The Association was unwilling to agree to any additional time for student advisories and tutorials.

WORK DAY HOURS/

Technical Center: Board offer seeks to increase the time teachers spend in direct classroom instruction from 4 hours to 5 hours during the 7.5 hour teacher work day. Under the contract terms proposed by the Association, the Technical Center would have to pay teachers additional compensation for 45 minutes of this time. Prior to this year, the Technical Center has paid additional compensation for any hours taught in excess of 4 during the 7.5 hour work day at a cost in excess of \$50,000 per year.

As the Association was leaving the negotiation session early this morning with no offered time for resuming negotiations, the board stated they were willing to stay and continue. Since the Association team was leaving, the Board team asked that negotiations resume later in the day. The Association responded that it would agree to meet at 2:00 PM today. This meeting will occur at the Southwest Vermont Central Office.

More detailed information about the October 18-19 negotiation session will be made available later today.

For questions concerning this release please contact Kenneth Swierad at (802) 447-0148 or [vtlog@comcast.net](mailto:vtlog@comcast.net)