



FORESTVILLE
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

For Immediate Release

Forestville Union School District

Superintendent's Office

707-887-9768

TEACHERS UNION REJECTS DISTRICT OFFER TO SETTLE LABOR CONTRACT

Schools to remain open during threat of a teacher strike

FORESTVILLE, CA, AUGUST 12, 2019 —

After cancelling and then agreeing to return to the negotiating table, the Forestville Teachers Association (FTA) has rejected the District's settlement offer and will be conducting a strike.

During negotiations, the District agreed to all of the union's demands, except one: FTA demanded a 13% salary increase over three years. The District could only offer 12.5% but with improved health benefits.

"The District can barely afford what is being offered," said District Board Member Josh Nultemeier, who also sits on the District negotiating team. "Our teachers have decided to strike over a ½ percent raise given in the third year of a three year contract," Nultemeier said.

Negotiations have been tense, and pressure has intensified for the two sides to reach an agreement as the start of the school rapidly approaches, with classes starting later this week.

"We were hopeful that we would be able to settle this matter today," said District Superintendent, Renee Semik. Semik said that, after nearly six hours of bargaining, FTA rejected the District's last, best, and final offer, insisting on an additional 1/2 percent more in salary in the third year of the contract. FTA went on strike and has promised to continue the strike until their demands are met. Their decision to strike has a significant impact on the students and families in our district.

Forestville Union School District is committed to building a community of lifelong learners. Semik added that, over the past several months the District worked diligently to come to an agreement with FTA concerning their desire for more favorable working conditions, salaries, and benefits.

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www.forestvilleusd.org

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2019-2020



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Despite the threat, the District schools will remain open during the strike. “We are committed to providing our students with the best educational program possible while the strike continues,” Semik said. “This will ensure a safe, orderly and productive learning environment using qualified replacement teachers. We remain hopeful that we can reach an agreement soon, as student learning is the priority for all of us,” Semik concluded.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ForestvilleUSD.org or contact District Superintendent, Renee Semik at 707-887-9768.

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