



**PRESS RELEASE
JANUARY 15, 2010**

“NASD Board to Union: We Will Protect Your Job”

Comprehensive Offer by NASD School Board Provides for Wage Increase and Job Security

In an era of significant layoffs and stagnant wages, the Norristown Area School District has proposed a comprehensive offer to the Norristown Educational Support Personnel Association (“NESPA”) that will result in a wage increase for over 99% of its members, will provide a comprehensive health plan, and, most importantly, will provide NESPA members with job protection for 12 months.

The Board, in the hopes of avoiding layoffs, proposes the following offer, which will remain on the table through January 27, 2010.

- NESPA accepts the Fact-Finders Report from June 2009 in its entirety. (This report can be found on our website www.nasd.k12.pa.us)
- NASD agrees to provide a 12 month moratorium on furloughs of the current NESPA staff.
- Additionally, NESPA must agree that its members are not eligible for retroactive wages increases due to the fact the District has not been able to realize the needed savings associated with the proposed change in healthcare.

NASD had hoped to implement changes to its health care plan on July 1, 2009. The District is proposing a change to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Healthcare Plan currently offered. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, in the Fact Finders Report, found the District’s proposed plan regarding health care to be fair and acceptable.

Following Board acceptance and Union rejection of the Fact-Finder’s report in June, negotiations have been stalled. Since June, the Board has been seeking a counter offer. NESPA has been unwilling to provide such an offer. The January 15, 2010 offer by the Board was made in the hopes of resolving the long standing impasse.

The latest offer comes as the District is wrapping up their first look at the 2010-11 annual budget, which will be shared publicly later this month. Without hesitation, the economic outlook for NASD remains bleak. NASD remains one of the poorest Districts in the

Commonwealth and is expecting to face a significant revenue shortfall moving to the 2010-11 school year. With yet another looming budget battle in Harrisburg, and a crisis with the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS), the School Board and Administration will be faced with many tough decisions when planning for the 2010-11 school year. Both programs and positions will have to be examined closely in order to close the budget gap.

Enclosed please find a full copy of the offer to the NESPA from January 15th. Should you have any further questions, please contact Mark Fitzgerald, the Negotiator for the Board, at 610-397-7981 or Anne Rohricht, the District's Business Manager, at 610-630-5006.