

FRANKLIN LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

490 Pulis Avenue, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417

(201) 891-1856 • (201) 891-9333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2019

CONTACT: Franklin Lakes Board of Education

Regrettably, members of the Franklin Lakes Education Association (the “Union”) today refused to report for work and instead participated in a strike. This illegal job action defies the instructions of Superior Court Judge James DeLuca and breaches the Union’s November 2018 agreement with the Franklin Lakes Board of Education (the “Board”). The Board filed an emergency application with Judge DeLuca today, and he has ordered the teachers back to work.

Despite the Union’s assertions, the Board has sought to engage in constructive dialogue throughout this process; it is the Union that refused to meet unless the Board first agreed to certain pre-conditions. Most recently, the Board President and the Union’s representative from the New Jersey Education Association met for direct negotiations on a number of occasions beginning in April and continuing through Sunday evening (last night, June 9). Although the parties appeared to be close to mutually acceptable terms, today’s Union action calls into question its commitment to resolving this dispute. The Board nevertheless met with the Union’s representatives as scheduled at 9:00 am this morning and agreed to a follow up meeting for further negotiations.

The Union has reportedly rejected the May 30, 2019 report of the state-appointed factfinder. In constructing the report and recommended settlement terms, the factfinder heard testimony from the parties, received written briefs and considered recent settlements in comparable school districts. Pursuant to the factfinder’s order, the report may not be disclosed until June 13; the Board looks forward to releasing the full text at that time.

The district’s primary concern is always the safety, health and welfare of students. Upon learning of the teachers’ strike early this morning, the district immediately initiated a reverse-911 call notifying parents and cancelled elementary school buses before they began their routes. Any students who arrived at school were supervised by district administrators until released to a guardian.

The Board looks forward to the teachers returning to their classrooms and will release further updates as information becomes available.