

The Roxbury Board of Education and The Teamsters Local 97 have reached a settlement for the collective bargaining agreement.

The parties have agreed to a one-year contract for the 2010/2011 school year that includes a contribution of 1.5% of their salary towards health benefits cost. The three-year agreement outlines some significant changes to the salary guide as indicated below:

2011/2012 – no increase in settlement; no movement on guide;

2012/2013 – no increase in settlement; no movement on guide;

2013/2014 – 2% increase to the guide, inclusive of increment.

In addition to this, beginning in year one of the three year agreement, all members shall be entitled to a maximum of 3 personal days and 10 sick days per year, a decrease from 5 and 13 respectively. They will also pay a total of 2.5% of their salary towards health benefit costs (1% more than the previous 1.5%).

Board of Education Chairperson, Theresa D'Agostino acknowledged and thanked both parties for their cooperation, openness, and concern for both the bus drivers and taxpayers. "We worked collaboratively in an effort to work out a contract that addressed the financial difficulties we are facing at this time and maintaining the jobs of the folks we trust to transport our students." The BOE voted 8 to 2 in favor of the contract on January 10, 2011.

As stated by Teamster's representative Jill Pitman:

"The bus drivers understand that the economy calls for deep sacrifice like this in order to preserve jobs, keep a high standard of service and ease the taxpayer's burden. Nobody wants to take a wage freeze or give back benefits that they have had for many years, but the drivers wanted to be economic solution not part of the problem."

Dr. Michael Rossi, Roxbury Superintendent, agreed:

"From the outset of my time as Superintendent of the Roxbury Public Schools, the Teamsters have demonstrated a deep commitment to the organization, our staff and students. That was very evident within this collective bargaining agreement."