

## **Press Release**

**The Windham School Board and Windham Education Association regret to announce that they have failed to come to agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement in time to present the cost items to the voters at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Both parties put in long hours and great effort to bring the requests of both sides to a more common ground, since their talks during the 2010-11 school year. As the deadline of January 10, 2012 approached, it was not possible to work out the details and finalize all aspects of the proposed contract and ensure acceptance by both parties. Therefore, the negotiation process remains open, yet without the necessary commitments for a warrant article this March of 2012.**

**Counsel for the School Board consulted with the Department of Revenue Administration to determine if it would be possible to place the cost items on the Warrant subject to a second ratification vote by the teachers. The DRA has advised that the article could not be included on the Warrant because the cost items were not finalized by January 10, 2012, the statutory deadline. Thus, unless the parties petition the Superior Court for permission to hold a special meeting, no cost items related to the teachers' collective bargaining agreement can be presented to the voters until the 2013 Annual School District Meeting. The parties have agreed that given the unlikely success (the court must find that there is an "emergency") and the cost of such a petition, they will not pursue that option. Instead, they will resume their negotiations at a mutually agreeable time and will endeavor to have an agreement to present to the voters in 2013.**

**After previous talks resulted in impasse and mediation, this year's effort created cordial dialogue and has brought the parties to a position that can provide for continued progress. The parties want to assure the voters that they maintain a mutual goal of continuing to provide quality education to the students in Windham and will continue to work collaboratively to reach agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Gallagher, Chairman of the WSB - on behalf of the board

Cathy Pappalardo, Lead Negotiator - on behalf of the negotiation committee

Erin Shirley, WEA President – on behalf of the members of the WEA