

PMSD STATEMENT ON FIRST CONTRACT NEGOTIATION MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR (January 16, 2020)

The start of a New Year brought with it a renewed effort at good faith bargaining as the Pocono Mountain School District Board of Education and the Pocono Mountain Education Support Professionals met on Wednesday evening to continue contract negotiations.

The School Board reasserted a proposal that would save the District \$4 million annually while maintaining transportation operations in house. A second option offered a generous 5-year contract with annual pay increases and a guarantee that no other Association functions, other than transportation operations, would be contracted out during the 5-year term of the contract.

The tone of the meeting was cordial as the two parties reviewed and discussed the Board's offers.

"Last night the Board presented options to the Association to try and jump start negotiations on a new support staff contract," said Rusty Johnson, Board President. "Our hope is the Association will bring options to the table at the next meeting that would provide the same level of savings to the District as discussed, so we can move forward and reach an agreement on the terms of a new contract."

While a contract agreement wasn't reached at the meeting, the two parties have agreed to meet again on January 29, 2020, to continue negotiations.