

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

80 Wolf Road, Suite 500, Albany, New York 12205-2656

Phone: (518) 457-2676; FAX: (518) 457-2664

E-mail: perbinfo@perb.state.ny.us

Website: www.perb.state.ny.us

For IMMEDIATE Release

PERB REPORTS SLIGHT RISE IN TEACHER CONTRACT IMPASSES

The opening of schools across the State after Labor Day will be marked by a slight rise in the number of open public school teacher collective bargaining impasses, according to the New York State Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). PERB Chairman Jerome Lefkowitz stated that while one or two disputes bear close attention, he expects school districts across the State to open in an orderly, strike-free fashion for the fifteenth consecutive year.

PERB, which assigns mediators and fact finders to public sector contract disputes throughout the State, reports that 53 school districts enter the 2009-10 school term at impasse with unions representing their teachers. The number represents better than a 12% increase over last year's figure of 47, but still ranks well below historic averages since the advent of the State's Taylor Law; as many as 132 impasses have existed at the start of a school year. Included within the total of 53 are three districts in which a tentative agreement has been reached, but school board and/or union membership ratification votes have yet to occur. The impasse totals represent those school districts in which bargaining has stalled to the point that one or both parties have asked that mediation, fact-finding or other PERB conciliation assistance be invoked. Apart from the 53 impasses filed with PERB, about 175 other school districts lack new teacher contracts, but neither the district nor the union has yet sought assistance from the agency.

Richard A. Curreri, PERB's Director of Conciliation, observed that of the "Big Five" city school districts in the State, only Buffalo is presently at impasse with their teachers. He noted that Buffalo is now entering its sixth year without a new teacher agreement in place, the impasse continuing to be complicated by ongoing litigation and the existence of a financial control board in that city. He also reported that, like Buffalo, 29 of the 53 impasses involve contracts that expired prior to the start of the 2008-09 school term, meaning that the parties will have gone at least a full year without a new agreement in place. These lengthy, or "carryover" impasses represent 54.7% of the total, just under three percent fewer than last year. Commenting on the present state of negotiations, Curreri observed:

"It is remarkable that we have witnessed only an uptick rather than an explosion in the number of contract impasses, given the precipitous downturn in the State and national economy over the course of this past year. To their credit, both sides of the table appear to have moderated their demands and assumed more realistic bargaining postures in the face of financial realities. Less clear, however, is whether the parties in a significant number of cases have opted to simply delay serious negotiations or implement very short term solutions, in hopes of getting a better handle on whether economic indicators signal recovery or further decline. Whether or not relative labor-management harmony can continue may well rest with those indicators, and whether they are read the same, or differently, by the parties."

Of the open impasses, Buffalo is easily the oldest impasse in the State. Two others – Greece in Monroe County and Orleans-Niagara BOCES in Orleans County – are now entering a fourth year without a new agreement. Five school districts or BOCES – Chautauqua Lake and

Frewsburg in Chautauqua County, Garrison in Putnam County, Schoharie in Schoharie County, and Rye in Westchester County, all have teacher contracts that expired at the end of the 2006-07 school term, and are therefore entering a third year without a new agreement in place. Twenty-one districts or BOCES are entering a second year without a new contract settlement. In Zone 1 (Western New York) there are 14 teacher unit impasses, including eight “carryovers” that expired in June, 2008 or earlier. Zone 2 (Central New York) has seven impasses, including three carryovers. In Zone 3 (Northern New York and Capital Region) there are 17 impasses, with nine being carryovers, while Zone 4 (Downstate and Long Island) has 15 impasses, of which nine are carryovers.

Since 1982, New York has experienced only one teacher strike on the opening day of instruction – a one-day job action in the Mount Vernon City SD (Westchester County) in 1994. On the second day of the 2000 school term, the 3700 teachers in the Buffalo City SD (Erie County) struck. During the 1980’s, there were three mid-September work stoppages, while in October, 1999, over 2000 teachers in the Yonkers City SD (Westchester County) staged a four-day strike.

**# 12
9/2/2009**

The Public Employment Relations Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Reasonable accommodation will be provided on request.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER UNIONS AT IMPASSE - STATEWIDE

September 2, 2009

2007 & Earlier Expired & Reopened Agreements	
Western New York	5
Central New York	0
Northern New York	1
Downstate New York	2
2008 Expired & Reopened Agreements	
Western New York	3
Central New York	3
Northern New York	8
Downstate New York	7
2009 & Later Expired & Reopened Agreements	
Western New York	6
Central New York	4
Northern New York	8
Downstate New York	6
Total 2007	8
Total 2008	21
Total 2009	24
Grand Total	53

Labor																		
Day	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	59	90	132	111	98	91	98	72	44	59	45	42	31	42	46	61	55	47

WESTERN NEW YORK SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER UNIONS AT IMPASSE

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>
BROCKPORT	MONROE	6/30/09	POLAND
BUFFALO	ERIE	6/30/04	CAMPAGNA
CAMPBELL-SAVONA	STEUBEN	6/30/09	GORMAN
CHAUTAUQUA LAKE	CHAUTAUQUA	6/30/06	WINOKUR
DANSVILLE	LIVINGSTON	6/30/09	KOWALSKI
FREWSBURG	CHAUTAUQUA	6/30/07	BEAL
GATES CHILI***	MONROE	6/30/08	KAUFMAN
GREECE	MONROE	6/30/06	CAMPAGNA
HOLLEY	ORLEANS	6/30/08	LEWANDOWSKI
LANCASTER	ERIE	8/31/09	CAMPAGNA
ORLEANS-NIAGARA BOCES	ORLEANS	6/30/06	WINOKUR
WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES	ONTARIO	6/30/08	KAUFMAN
WEST IRONDEQUOIT	MONROE	6/30/09	BANTLE
WHEATLAND-CHILI	MONROE	6/30/09	POLAND

***tentative agreement pending ratification

CENTRAL NEW YORK SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER UNIONS AT IMPASSE

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>
ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN	OSWEGO	6/30/09	FLANIGAN
AUBURN	CAYUGA	6/30/08	FLANIGAN
ILION	HERKIMER	6/30/09	PATAACK
NEW YORK MILLS	ONEIDA	6/30/08	DONN
NEWFIELD	TOMPKINS	6/30/09	KOWALSKI
ONEIDA***	MADISON	6/30/08	RABIN
WHITNEY POINT	BROOME	6/30/09	FLANIGAN

***tentative agreement pending ratification

NORTHERN NEW YORK SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER UNIONS AT IMPASSE

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>
BEEKMANTOWN	CLINTON	6/30/08	LAWSON
CATSKILL	GREENE	6/30/08	SELCHICK
COBLESKILL-RICHMONDVILLE	SCHOHARIE	6/30/08	FLANIGAN
DUANESBURG	SCHENECTADY	6/30/08	FLANIGAN
GILBOA-CONESVILLE	SCHOHARIE	6/30/09	FLANIGAN
GLOVERSVILLE	FULTON	6/30/09	KRAUSE
GREATER JOHNSTOWN	FULTON	6/30/08	QUIMBY
GREEN ISLAND	ALBANY		PATAACK
HUDSON FALLS	WASHINGTON	6/30/09	LAWSON
HUNTER-TANNERSVILLE	GREENE	6/30/09	FLANIGAN
MENANDS	ALBANY	6/30/09	TRELA
NEW LEBANON	COLUMBIA	6/30/08	TRELA
ROTTERDAM-MOHONASEN	SCHENECTADY	6/30/08	PROSPER
SCHENEVUS	OTSEGO	6/30/09	FLANIGAN
SCHOHARIE	SCHOHARIE	6/30/07	SIEGEL
TACONIC HILLS	COLUMBIA	6/30/08	CAMPAGNA
WORCESTER	OTSEGO	6/30/09	FLANIGAN

DOWNSTATE NEW YORK SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND TEACHER UNIONS AT IMPASSE

<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>EXPIRATION</u>	<u>NEUTRAL</u>
GARRISON	PUTNAM	6/30/07	DOUGLAS
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON	WESTCHESTER	6/30/09	MAIER
KINGSTON	ULSTER	6/30/09	SELCHICK
MINISINK VALLEY	ORANGE	6/30/09	LOBEL
NORTH MERRICK	NASSAU	6/30/08	WEINSTOCK
ONTEORA	ULSTER	6/30/08	SIEGEL
PLEASANTVILLE	WESTCHESTER	6/30/09	
RED HOOK	DUTCHESS	6/30/09	LOBEL
RYE	WESTCHESTER	6/30/07	MAIER
SAG HARBOR	SUFFOLK	6/30/08	SHRIFTMAN
SOUTH COUNTRY	SUFFOLK	8/31/08	MAIER
TRI VALLEY***	SULLIVAN	6/30/08	FLANIGAN
UNIONDALE	NASSAU	6/30/08	MAIER
WASHINGTONVILLE	ORANGE	6/30/09	LOBEL
WHITE PLAINS	WESTCHESTER	6/30/08	EDELMAN

*** tentative agreement pending ratification