

Joint Public Statement of the Strafford School Board and Strafford Education Association.

The Strafford School Board and Strafford Education Association are pleased to announce that they are entering into a two (2) year collective bargaining agreement, specifically covering the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020. This agreement is the result of collaborative efforts between the Board and the Association to implement the recommendations of the fact-finder, as approved by Strafford School District voters at the March 2018 annual meeting, with the greatest clarity and accuracy possible. Since voters only approved the cost items recommended by the fact finder for school years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, it was determined that a two year agreement more precisely reflects the settlement as envisioned by the fact-finder and accepted by voters. A two (2) year agreement will also avoid the uncertainty and confusion created by the three (3) year contract, with an effective date of July 1, 2017, which raised questions as to the retroactive application of contract changes that were never intended by the fact-finder or agreed upon by the Board and the Association.

By votes of both the Board and the Association, the three (3) year agreement is rescinded and replaced by the two (2) year agreement.

Although state law requires the Board and Association to negotiate over the terms and conditions of employment, it also provides that neither party shall be required to agree to a proposal or make a concession. The Board and the Association must therefore work together, in self-determination, to reach an agreement that is both mutually advantageous and responsible to the community. This two (2) year agreement achieves these goals.

The Board and Association thank the citizens of Strafford for their patience and support during this challenging process and look forward to continued cooperative relations in serving the best interests of our children and their education.