



MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 37
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October 30, 2015

Re: Negotiations for Long Term Tuition Agreement between Manchester School District and Hooksett School District

Dear Members of the Hooksett School Board:

On behalf of the Manchester Board of School Committee, I would like to express our severe disappointment that you have failed to negotiate in good faith despite our return to the negotiating table in response to your request of September 8, 2015.

Manchester sent Board members (2 in the room and 3 available either nearby or by phone to be able to confer with our counsel) to the negotiation sessions on October 20th and 23rd; but Hooksett did not, choosing instead to send only Superintendent Littlefield and Attorney Graham, who then indicated that they had no power to negotiate.

Despite this lack of participation by Hooksett, Manchester offered on October 20th to modify its prior position. Our modification would have allowed for a 10 year agreement with Hooksett so long as:

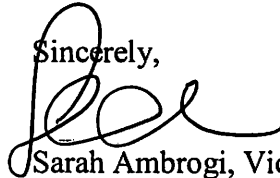
1. Hooksett agreed to a 11.1% adder (Manchester had previously held at 12.2% while Hooksett had offered 10%) to the Base Tuition determined under DOE 25 (or actual Special Education costs) as currently calculated by the parties; and
2. Hooksett committed to a total class “floor” of 160 students (combined from all High School grades including special education students) for the first 3 years of the new agreement to serve as a transition period with the “floor” for the remaining 7 years of the new agreement to be based, as Hooksett requested, on the actual combined class size average for those first 3 years.

Superintendent Littlefield informed the Manchester negotiating team that he would take this modification to you as a Board that night; and the negotiation session of the 23rd was scheduled by agreement.

At the 23rd session, Manchester was informed by Superintendent Littlefield and Attorney Graham that you as a Board refused to accept Manchester's attempt to reach a compromise and instead required Manchester to accept Hooksett's previous offer of a 10% adder only and no "floor" for the first 3 years of a new agreement with a "floor" starting only in Year 4 based on the actual average of the first 3 years.

Hooksett's terms are not acceptable to Manchester. While we have moved from our prior position, you have not. While that is your choice, your choice means that the long history of cooperation between our Districts appears to be at an end. That is something that you will have to explain to your Districts' parents and students; and we trust that you will provide interested parents and students with a copy of this letter to help clarify this situation.

Also, please be advised that the Manchester Board of School Committee will be revisiting the vote on a motion taken on September 14, 2015 concerning the ability for a Hooksett freshman to finish school in Manchester. That motion erroneously contained the phrase "in perpetuity". We believe that that phrase needs to be stricken and replaced with "for freshmen entering during School Year 2016-17" in the interests of clarity.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ambrogi, Vice-Chair.

cc: Superintendent Littlefield, Hooksett School District (via email: plittlefield@saul5.net)
Gordon B. Graham, Esq. (via email to graham@soulefir.com)
Superintendent Livingston, Manchester School District (via email)
Karen DeFrancis, Manchester School District Business Administrator (via email)
Christopher L. Boldt, Esq. (via email)