

To: MTA Membership

10/23/09

From: MTA Leadership

Two weeks ago District 207's Administration officially presented the Board with a new financial report which projects a negative education fund balance by 2014. On October 9th, the Board sent two letters to the MTA. One of those letters was a request to participate in discussions about non-contractual items. The Board is obligated to discuss the impact of changes in Board policy which effect wages, terms and conditions of employment. The MTA rep council authorized leadership to meet with Administration. The second letter requested that MTA open the 2007-2012 Agreement to bargain provisions which could reduce district expenditures. The MTA finance committee has not had enough time to study this request; therefore, Rep. Council voted to table (or suspend action on) the Board's request to open the Agreement for negotiations pending more information. The vote to table does not indicate a decision to open the Agreement or alter the current terms, but communicates MTA's need for more time to investigate.

Administration, under the Board's direction, has started making plans to cut expenditures. Administration has made it clear that there will be deep Reductions-in-Force (RIF). The numbers of union and nonunion positions to be eliminated have not been shared with the MTA. Staffing decisions are a managerial right and the Association has the right to discuss the impact of those decisions. The MTA will monitor the Reduction-in-Force procedure to make sure the Agreement is followed. The finance and curriculum committees are working to research strategies that will maintain the quality of education for our students and positions for our members.

MTA is releasing a statement to the press this week and has formed a PR committee for future communication to the community. Please continue to share your ideas and feelings on the MTA Ning website and with MTA reps.

MTA leadership will be hosting open forums to discuss the current situation:

- Maine West, Tuesday, October 27th
- Maine South, Wednesday, October 28th
- Maine East, Thursday, October 29th

All meetings will begin at 3:30. Locations will be announced soon.