

Dear Members of the New Hope-Solebury School Community:

As members of the New Hope-Solebury Board of School Directors, we are writing to formally inform you that our school District's teachers' contract expires on June 30, 2010. We are proud of our school district, the excellent professional staff we employ, and the collaborative relationship we have with our teachers. In preparation for upcoming contract talks, the School Board, Superintendent and members of the administration have been diligently preparing for negotiations with the New Hope-Solebury Education Association (NHSEA), which is the teacher's collective bargaining group. The School Board will begin negotiating with the NHSEA for a new agreement starting in January, 2010.

We are reaching out to you now, as we would like to hear from parents, students, and other members of the community about your views concerning negotiations and a new teacher's contract. We ask that you contact us prior to January 15, 2010 to share your thoughts at our school board e-mail address: schoolboard@nhsd.org. You may also write to us at: [New Hope Solebury Board of School Directors, 180 West Bridge Street, New Hope, PA 18938](#).

Please know that the school board has been working with our administrative staff to gather extensive information and data regarding salary, benefits, and other conditions of employment in order to provide the school community with a teacher contract which is fair and which also meets the needs of the students and residents of the New Hope-Solebury community. We have been preparing since June, meeting regularly in Executive Session to review the current contract, contracts from surrounding school districts, and other data from the administration. We have also retained legal counsel to represent us in negotiations.

Contract negotiations are necessarily conducted in private, and our Board will therefore be limited as to the specifics of public statements regarding the substance of the negotiations. However, we value your opinion, and to the extent possible, the Board will make every effort to keep the community informed about the status of negotiations. We thank you for sharing your thoughts with us, as we want to ensure that we represent the views of our constituents during this process.

We wish you and your family a happy holiday season and the most joyful of New Year's.

Sincerely,

The New Hope-Solebury Board of School Directors

Rebecca Roberts-Malamis, President
Laurence R. Fieber, Vice-President
Amanda Elefante
Robert Heath, Jr.
Laura Irish Hefty
Christopher Nally
Marlene Panzica
John Vaughn
Genevieve Wahlgren