

Green Mountain National Education Association



"Continuing excellence in education."

July 22, 2009

Wells, Haug & Leopold, PC
Attorneys at Law
95 St. Paul Street, Suite 440
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Dennis:

I received your letter regarding scheduling negotiations meetings and I am in the process of polling the Association's negotiations committee to get available dates. I'm sure you understand that contacting people and coordinating schedules in the summer months takes more time than it would during the school year. It would be helpful if you could let me know which dates are available for the Boards to schedule a meeting to discuss ground rules. Please forward those dates to me.

In your letter you clarified the Boards' position concerning the bargaining for the 2008-09 contract. In response to this, the Association has scheduled a full membership meeting on August 27, 2009 to discuss all the options open to us concerning this matter. At that meeting we will determine the appropriate avenue to take one of which may be a decision to strike.

I would also like the Boards to consider another matter. As I'm sure members of the Boards will recall, following the strike that preceded our last contract settlement, the Association requested that the Boards join the Association in a pre-negotiations training session facilitated by a neutral third party. The Boards, however, declined the Association's offer. Obviously since then relations between the Boards and the Association have only deteriorated. Once again, we ask that the Boards consider entering into a joint labor relations training, facilitated by a neutral third party, as a prelude to our upcoming talks.

I understand that should the Boards agree to such a format, the scheduling of negotiations sessions will be affected, but I hope the Boards will give the Association's suggestion full consideration before responding.

Please let me know how the Boards would like to proceed and if you can, give me a more definite idea of the Boards' available dates.

Sincerely,

Jon Harris
Chief Negotiator, Green Mountain NEA

cc: Chittenden East School Board Members
GMNEA Negotiations Committee

RECEIVED

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LAW OFFICES