

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To the PFT Leadership and Executive Board:

We are heartened by the ongoing contract negotiations with the district, and are very much looking forward to a resolution to what has been a long and bitter struggle.

To these ends, we request that, when a contract offer is brought to the general membership, that **all members be given a minimum one-week period to read and review the contract before voting.**

Our motivations for this request include, but are not limited to, the following reasons:

- **Contract reading periods are common in unions across the country.** Teachers in other AFT locals such as the UFT in New York and CTU in Chicago all give their members ample time to review their contracts in their own buildings and discuss the terms before coming together to vote.
- **A reading period would make the voting process clearer.** At the last contract vote in 2009, members only had a few hours to review an abbreviated version of the contract the same day as the vote. Most members didn't even know that the voice vote held on the floor is merely symbolic, and that the official paper ballot vote happens afterwards.
- **We want a contract that we can vote "yes" on with confidence.** Giving members a chance to review all terms means that, once it's time to vote, we will be able to speak knowledgeably to our families, students, and community members about how thoroughly this contract fights for the schools Philadelphia deserves.

We know that the PFT negotiating team is doing their absolute best to win us a contract that is best for all members. In previous years, a lack of information about all of the details of the contract have led to resentment among the rank and file -- **resentment that we believe could be avoided with increased transparency and democracy.**

We ask that you make a commitment in writing no later than one week from today -- **Thursday, May 18th**--to give the union a one-week reading period on receipt of a contract offer. Let's empower the rank and file to support you in bringing this long contract battle to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers

Name	School	Name	School
Adam Blyweiss	MLK HS	Nathaniel Bartels	Potter-Thomas
Jessica Way	Franklin Learning Center	Paul Prescod	Motivation High School
Daniel Symonds	Science Leadership Academy	Peggy Savage	Richmond
Rachel Grant	Eliza P. Kirkbride	Tiffany Lorch	Furness High School.
John M. Sines	Bayard Taylor Elementary	Maryjo Soledacki	Feltonville Intermediate
George Bezanis	Central High School	Scott Williams	Northeast High School
Maxwell Rosen-Long	SLA @ Beeber	Adam Bergsein	Meride
Jesse Gottschalk	Cramp School	Larissa Pshomov	Science Leadership Academy
Jonathan Leitovic	W.D. Kelleg	Nicole Molino	Bayard Taylor Elementary
Kurt Ahrens	The U School	Nicole Jackson	Bayard Taylor Elementary
Tiffany Rocco	Chester A. Arthur	Catherine Khella	Franklin Learning Ctr
Anissa Weinraub	Academy @ Palumbo	Charlie M'behan	U School
Amy Boat	Feltonville A + S	FREDA ANDERSON	U school
N. SHAW MacQueen	Mitchell Elementary	David Hensel	Taggart
Kathleen Melville	Workshop School	Beth Menasign	S CA
Nancy D. G. Schmitt	Anne Frank Elementary	WENDY GALSON	SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
Kristin K. Luebbert	Bache-Martin	Jonathan Estey	SLA @ CC