

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Franklin Lakes Board of Education

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Page 1

Regrettably, members of the Franklin Lakes Education Association (the “Union”) today refused to report for work and instead participated in a strike. This illegal job action defies the instructions of Superior Court Judge James DeLuca and breaches the Union’s November 2018 agreement with the Franklin Lakes Board of Education (the “Board”). The Board, through its attorney, is seeking emergency court action ordering the teachers back to work.

Despite the Union’s assertions, the Board has sought to engage in constructive dialogue throughout this process; it is the Union that has refused to meet unless the Board first agreed to certain pre-conditions. Most recently, the Board President and the Union’s representative from the New Jersey Education Association (the “NJEA”) met for direct negotiations on a number of occasions beginning in April and continuing through Sunday evening (last night, June 9). Although it appeared the parties were very close to mutually acceptable terms, today’s Union action calls into question their commitment to resolving this dispute. The Board nevertheless met with the Union’s representatives as scheduled at 9:00 am this morning and agreed to a follow up meeting for further negotiations.

The health and safety of students is always the district’s primary concern. The district learned of the teachers’ strike early this morning and immediately initiated a reverse-911 call notifying parents. Any students who arrived at school were supervised by district administrators until released to a guardian. Elementary buses were cancelled before beginning their routes.