

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## MARLBORO BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MTEA RATIFY AGREEMENT TO KEEP FROM OUTSOURCING INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS, BUS DRIVERS AND BUS ATTENDANTS

MARLBORO – For the past two months, the Marlboro Board of Education and the Marlboro Township Education Association have been in negotiations, working together toward a solution to keep the district’s almost 200 instructional assistants, bus drivers and bus attendants from being outsourced as of July 1, 2011 in order to balance the proposed 2011-12 school year budget.

Negotiations were successful. The MTEA membership voted to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement and on Tuesday, February 22, the board, at a special meeting, also voted for ratification.

The agreement covers a three-year period, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14. Overall, salaries for the 189 full and part-time employees are reduced, on average, by 30%. Medical, dental, and prescription coverage for those currently receiving benefits will be for employee-only coverage. Employees will have the option to buy up in order to receive family benefits. For the first two years of the agreement, there will be no salary increase. In year three, there will be a 2% salary increase. Annual savings are estimated to be comparable to what would have been achieved through the outsourcing of these positions.

In addition to the salary and benefits savings, the district also will save substantial unemployment costs.

Board President Terry Spilken said, “We are very pleased that the board team of Michael Lilonsky, Victoria Dean and Paula Fasciano and the MTEA team of Robin Zegas and Kathy Bartsche were able to work together and craft an agreement that enables these valued and dedicated staff members to remain in the employ of the Marlboro School District.”

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