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Joint Statement from the Elgin Teachers Association and School District U-46

In the past few months, representatives of the Elgin Teachers Association and the U-46 Board of Education have held 22 bargaining sessions totaling 108 hours. This year's negotiations have, to some extent, been driven by changes in Illinois law (Senate Bill 7).

Because it has been four years since our last full discussion of contractual issues, both sides have brought forward many important issues. Please remember that last year's negotiations were expedited with both sides agreeing to bring forward only a few select issues. As in the past, we are using the interest-based bargaining approach in addressing these issues.

We are making progress towards agreements regarding RIF/recall (SB7), and are finalizing a tentative agreement regarding the transition to the new state ratings system. The new state ratings have been addressed with the Teacher Appraisal Plan (TAP) Oversight Committee making recommendations to the bargaining teams. We will be gathering recommendations for implementation of the state ratings for all current rubrics, including social workers, itinerants, counselors, and so forth.

At this time, every issue brought to the table has had at least some discussion. We are attempting to move forward as quickly as we can; however, our desire is to reach a tentative agreement that meets the interests of both teachers and the U-46 Board of Education.

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