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For Immediate Release:

PMSD Board of Education rejects PSEA proposal that would cost taxpayers more than \$5 million

The Pocono Mountain Board of Education rejected a proposal from the Pocono Mountain Education Support Professionals Association pertaining to Option 2 during the latest meeting between the two parties to negotiate a new contract for support staff personnel on Wednesday evening, January 29, 2020.

Although PSEA actually brought a written proposal to the Board for Option 2, which would allow for the contracting out of Student Transportation Services, the Board found the proposal unreasonable as the offer included a severance packet for any displaced transportation employee equivalent to one year of pay and one year of benefits for each individual at a cost of more than \$5 million to district taxpayers.

In addition, the new costs to the district of the other PSEA proposals made have not yet been fully calculated, but would be substantial as PSEA's proposal included many new wage and benefit increases including, but not limited to, the following:

- Adding a 30-minute paid lunch to the workday for support staff employees
- All new hourly rate scales with 4% and 5% pay raises annually for 5 years
- An early retirement offer of 50% of the employee's wages
- A \$5,000 stipend for any employee furloughed as a result of contracting out transportation who is not hired back by the district
- Additional personal leave for 9- and 10-month employees

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Although the two parties did not reach an agreement on a new contract for support staff employees last night, the Board would like to thank PSEA for agreeing to contract out Student Transportation Services.

The Board also remains willing to consider reasonable proposals from PSEA as part of its ongoing commitment to the good faith bargaining process. The Board hopes PSEA will bring reasonable and serious offers to the table at the next negotiation meeting on February 12, 2020.

Attached is a copy of the PSEA New Language Section presented to the Pocono Mountain School District Board of Education on January 29, 2020.

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