

Some progress made in Dist. 15 talks

By Chad Brooks

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Posted Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Palatine-Township Elementary District 15 and its teachers reported some progress during Tuesday's negotiations over a new contract.

"It went well, we made some progress," Superintendent Robert McKanna said.

During Tuesday's bargaining session, which was facilitated by a federal mediator, McKanna said the district and union agreed to tentative agreements revolving around the issues of teacher and union rights and responsibilities, working conditions, disability and liability insurance, leave of absence, tuition reimbursement and grievance settlements.

While acknowledging that the tentative agreements were on some smaller issues, Lisa Nuss, chief negotiator for the Classroom Teacher's Council, the union that represents the nearly 800 District 15 teachers and certified staff, said Tuesday's negotiations were a step in the right direction.

"We are pretty much hoping the momentum from today will carry forward," Nuss said.

The teachers have been working without a contract since the previous one expired Aug. 31.

Major issues still needing to be agreed upon include salaries and health insurance.

Besides another bargaining session planned for Thursday, the two sides also scheduled two additional negotiations for Oct. 5 and 13.

Tuesday's progress was the first reported since the teachers voted earlier this month to file the proper paper work with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, giving the union the option to strike.

While the teachers can walk off the job any time after Monday, Nuss has said the teachers plan to continue negotiations and that no strike date has been set.

District 15 serves nearly 13,000 children from Arlington Heights, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, South Barrington and Schaumburg.

For updates on the negotiations, visit the district's web site at www.ccsd15.net and the

union's Web site at www.ctctechers.com.

dailyherald.com