



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2017

Media Contact:

Mark Porter

Chair, Burlington School Board of Commissioners

878-6666 | mporter@bsdvt.org

School Board’s Request for Open and Public Negotiations Refused by Union

The Burlington School Board has been negotiating a new teachers' contract with the Burlington Education Association (BEA) since last fall to replace the current contract that expires this August. The Board requested open negotiating sessions so the community could be well informed throughout the process.

The Board’s negotiating team made these requests to the BEA at several closed-door bargaining sessions and in written communications between October 2016 and February 2017. The Union has, however, rejected these requests.

In an effort to understand the status of this issue across the State, the School Board checked with the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) and the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) and learned that nearly 60 percent of districts currently bargaining are doing so in open session.

“The people of Burlington want transparency,” said Mark Porter, Chair of the Burlington School Board of Commissioners. “We’ve made a concerted effort from the beginning to follow the same open negotiation process that many other school districts in Vermont have begun, but the BEA has not agreed to hold contract talks in public, in response to our many requests to do so.”

###

YAW OBENG – SUPERINTENDENT
