



# Marlborough Public Schools

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**Mary Murphy • Superintendent**

*District Education Center*

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Dear Marlborough Parents and Guardians,

Earlier today, I released a public statement on behalf of the District demanding North Reading Transportation and Teamsters Local 170 come to terms on a new contract and stop putting their own interests ahead of the more than 4,700 students of Marlborough.

NRT is owned by Beacon Mobility, a division of Audax Private Equity of Boston, which invests in companies to “drive value creation” and “accelerate results.” Haggling with bus drivers over wages to build profits for investors is simply not right. At the same time Local 170 drivers are among the highest paid school bus drivers in the Commonwealth. As of January 1, 2023, Local 170 bus drivers received an hourly hike from \$26.50 to a minimum \$34/hour - that’s more than \$2 per hour above the statewide prevailing wage for bus drivers.

Marlborough Public Schools are committed to educating the children in our district. School buses are an integral part of executing that mission and sustaining a thriving and equitable education system. For thousands of our students, access to the school bus is the safest and most reliable way to get to school.

We won’t cancel school if there is a strike on Monday. However, the learning disruption that will be created by a strike is not only unnecessary but will disproportionately impact a student population where almost 75% are categorized as high needs students. More than half of our students rely on our schools to provide breakfast and lunch and many others receive mental health services. Every minute in school is critical.

Enough is enough. We ask all citizens of Marlborough to join us in urging NRT and Local 170 to come to an agreement before they impact our students,

Regards,

Mary Murphy  
Superintendent

[www.mps-edu.org](http://www.mps-edu.org)

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