



JOINT PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 14, 2024

Candice Grose, Communications Officer
Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Candice.Grose@clevelandmetroschools.org | 216.501.2381

Meg Ryan Shockey, Executive Assistant to CTU President Obrenski
Cleveland Teachers Union

mryan@ctu279.org | 216-861-7676 x. 231
440-391-4832

**Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Board of Education
Passes Agreement Between CMSD and Two of Its Collective Bargaining Units, Cleveland Teachers Union,
and Service Employees International Union 1199**

Cleveland, OH – Tonight, the Board of Education for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has officially passed the previously announced tentative agreement with the Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU), signaling a new era of collaborative success and stability for the district's educators and students.

CTU President, Shari Obrenski: “The Cleveland Teachers Union is happy that the Board voted to approve this hard-fought agreement that shows respect for our members, helps to retain current educators, and will aid in the recruitment of well qualified candidates to our district. This contract is fair for our educators and good for our students and our schools.”

CMSD CEO, Dr. Warren Morgan: “This Board-approved ratified agreement marks a significant step forward in our commitment to providing a stable and supportive environment for our educators. It allows us to focus on long-term educational excellence and ensures that our teachers have the resources and support they need to educate the future leaders of Cleveland. This agreement embodies our promise to not only retain but also attract top talent who are pivotal to the educational journey of our scholars.”

CMSD Board Chair, Sara Elaquad: “This agreement is a testament to the power of cooperation and shared vision. We are proud to pass a contract that not only addresses the immediate needs of our teachers but also lays the groundwork for a thriving educational atmosphere for our scholars. This is about more than just a contract; it’s about shaping a promising future for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.”

Key Elements of the Agreement Include:

- Implementation of a District-wide online gradebook to streamline academic monitoring and enhance communication with parents.
- A new cell phone policy aimed at minimizing distractions and promoting a conducive learning environment.
- Revised professional time structures to provide teachers with greater flexibility and focus on essential non-instructional tasks.
- Significant salary increases for paraprofessionals, acknowledging the crucial role and the heightened attention they received in recent BOE meetings.



JOINT PRESS RELEASE



The agreement will take effect at the start of the 2024-2025 academic year. CMSD and CTU are excited to announce that CTU members will vote on ratifying this contract later this week. If ratified, we look forward to sharing this positive outcome with the public and highlighting the collaborative spirit that this process has embodied, celebrating two significant milestones in a single week.

The District is equally enthusiastic about the recent developments with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), District 1199 which represents our nearly 700 dedicated Clerical, Food Services, and Environmental Service Specialist employees. Since February 2024, consistent negotiations have culminated in a promising Collective Bargaining Agreement set to replace the expiring contract on July 1, 2024.

Scherhera Shearer, Member Vice President of SEIU District 1199: "Our workforce plays a critical role in the daily operations of our schools. This agreement reflects our ongoing commitment to improve the working conditions and benefits for our members, ensuring that we are supported. We are proud to align with the district's broader vision for a supportive work environment."

Highlights of the 1199 Tentative Agreement Include:

- An enhanced financial incentive for Environmental Service Specialists who mentor new employees.
- Identifying supports for dietary staff who are assigned to work alone and providing a pathway for substitute dietary employees to become permanent position members.
- Clear processes for clerical staff to receive compensation for assuming additional responsibilities.
- Numerous other adjustments to enhance clarity and organization within the CBA.

(END OF RELEASE)