

SEBAC Leadership Resolution – June 27, 2011

SEBAC leadership acknowledges the affirmative votes of 57% of our members in favor of SEBAC 2011, as well as of 26 of our 34 bargaining units. We also acknowledge that 11 of our 15 voting members would cast their votes in the affirmative if the motion were fully voted, but that 11 of 15 is insufficient to “conclude negotiations” under section 10c of the SEBAC Bylaws. Those Bylaws were created for good policy reasons.

Specifically, they were created to ensure that pension funding waivers could not be used for short term purposes that failed to address, or even worsened, long term funding issues. Although SEBAC 2011 does not implicate any of those concerns – in fact it provides improvement in long term funding issues – Section 10c nevertheless governs its approval.

As a result, however, we face an unprecedented situation. Not only do a majority of our members, bargaining units, and SEBAC Voting Units favor an agreement they are presently unable to reach, substantial issues have been raised concerning misinformation being circulated amongst our members, some of it by outside groups adverse to the provision of public services and to interests of public employees.

Simply rejecting the agreement poses an extreme risk not only to the democratic will of the majority, but the services we provide to the public, and to the economic recovery upon which ultimately all of us depend. Accepting the agreement over the adverse votes of the members of 4 of 15 voting units under the current rules is also unacceptable.

SEBAC leadership therefore resolves:

- (1) To continue to work in good faith with the administration to find a solution that protects the legitimate interests of all of Connecticut’s working and middle class families, including its public employees.
- (2) To consider whether 10c of the SEBAC Bylaws remains the best vehicle for balancing the democratic interests of the majority with the need to protect the stability and viability of healthcare and pension benefits, including pension funding.
- (3) To explore and remedy the misinformation provided to many members about the tentative agreement, and about the consequences of accepting and or rejecting that agreement.
- (4) To do all we can to protect our members and the broad public they serve from those who seek to use the unprecedented fiscal crisis of the state as an excuse to weaken the voice of working families, public and private.