

## After 10-hour session, both sides decline to comment on District 15 negotiations

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Following their first bargaining session in a week, Palatine Township Elementary District 15 and its teachers were being tight-lipped on Friday on whether any progress was made.

At the request of the federal mediator, both sides agreed not to comment on Thursday's negotiations, which Superintendent Robert McKanna said lasted 10 hours.

Lisa Nuss, chief negotiator for the Classroom Teachers Council, the union that represents the nearly 800 District 15 teachers and certified staff, said the two sides are still scheduled to continue negotiations Friday.

While the teachers have filed the necessary paperwork with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board giving them the option of walking off the job at any point now, Nuss said they have not reached that stage yet.

"No strike date has been set," Nuss reiterated.

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

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

The last reported progress in the negotiations came last week, when the two sides agreed to tentative agreements on the following issues: teacher and union rights and responsibilities, working conditions, disability and liability insurance, leave of absence, tuition reimbursement and grievance settlements.

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