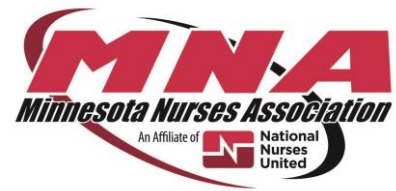




SANFORD BEMIDJI MEDICAL CENTER CONTRACT NEWS



June 17, 2020

Bargaining Resumes Following COVID Recess!

Tuesday, June 16, your MNA Bargaining Team met with the employer for the first time since late February. We also met for the first time utilizing the FMCS (Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services) virtual Zoom tool that allows parties to bargain while practicing safe distance and avoiding having large numbers in smaller areas. The tool allows all parties to meet separately and discuss items as well as allows both groups to meet together for issues.

We began by talking about what has changed since we last met several months ago. Nurses talked about reduction of hours in Surgical Services. The hospital contends “**no one**” was laid off even though the language they utilized to reduce hours is listed under lay-off in the contract. We talked about the challenges created by no school and caring for children and not working, and all the stresses that nurses dealt with. We talked about concerns with regard to PPE and protections for all healthcare workers. We talked about the staff shortages on units that were not being addressed and that the employer failed to talk to us about during our previous bargaining sessions. We discussed three new proposals and agreed to a tentative agreement on one of them regarding discipline. We shared with the employer that they are amongst the lowest paid MNA represented hospitals of 250+ nurses in the state of Minnesota. The three lowest-paying hospitals all currently have their contracts open and are in bargaining currently.

We talked about numerous issues and agreed on little. We will need to address our issues at our next session scheduled for Tuesday, June 30. The employer has requested including mediation services to participate in our bargaining going forward. This is not an uncommon and we are hopeful to proceed with a fair and equitable settlement that retains and attracts nurses to the Bemidji community. We will be having an **all-member** Zoom meeting on Monday, June 22 (see details below). Please review all proposals included prior to this meeting to help determine our courses of action going forward. Please attend this meeting, if nurses are going to get a settlement that retains and attracts nurses they will need to speak up and show their support with your negotiating committee.

In solidarity,
Your negotiations team!

All RN Meeting, Monday, June 22, 7 – 9 p.m.

Join via computer: <https://zoom.us/j/99556757978?pwd=clo4aVQyVXRqS1lsYkhURHZkTDc4QT09>

Join via phone: +1 (312) 626 6799
Meeting ID: 995 5675 7978
Password: 293148

Proposals so far: <https://mnnurses.org/news/2020-negotiations/all-sanford-bemidji-documents/>