

## **Statement of Chris Burke, President of the Greater Lawrence Regional Teachers Federation, AFT Local 1707**

February 20, 2021

The Greater Lawrence Technical School educators are stunned that the agreement we negotiated in good faith with the superintendent was rejected by the school committee Friday night. Our agreement provided appropriate COVID 19 protections for teachers and students, while also ensuring that all-important teaching and learning can continue uninterrupted.

The faculty at Greater Lawrence Technical School has been hit hard by the COVID 19 pandemic. Several teachers have contracted the virus and one of our colleagues is currently in the hospital on a ventilator. Our students and their families are struggling with similar impacts in their daily lives.

The Superintendent and the School Committee owe teachers, parents, and students an explanation why that have acted in bad faith and jeopardized the education of our students by rejecting this agreement. They need to honor the agreement negotiated by the Superintendent. Greater Lawrence Technical School educators will be on strike until they do.