



## LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit #27

One Highlander Court

Litchfield, NH 03052

Phone: (603) 578-3570 & Fax: (603) 578-1267

Equal Opportunity Employer

Michael Jette, Ph.D.

- *Superintendent of Schools*

Cory Izbicki

- *Business Services*

Mary Widman

- *Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

Hollie Messenger

- *Human Resources*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Media Contacts:

Brian Bourque, Litchfield School Board Chair

603-578-3570

[bbourque@litchfieldsd.org](mailto:bbourque@litchfieldsd.org)

Darlene Gymziak, President

Litchfield Support Staff Association

617-257-6261

[dgymziak@litchfieldsd.org](mailto:dgymziak@litchfieldsd.org)

[www.litchfieldsd.org](http://www.litchfieldsd.org)

#### **Agreement reached on a 2-year contract for Litchfield support staff:**

#### **Litchfield School District reaches agreement with the Litchfield Support Staff Association, NEA-NH**

LITCHFIELD, N.H., JANUARY 13, 2020 -- After hard negotiations since the fall of 2018, and with the assistance of a neutral mediator, the Litchfield School Board has unanimously reached an agreement with the Litchfield Support Staff Association, an affiliate of NEA-NH. The parties feel that this agreement is fair to our administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, food service technicians, monitors, custodians and grounds staff who work in partnership with the district to secure a solid educational experience for our students. As a group, they are committed to providing Litchfield students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12 with a strong education, as well as a safe and comfortable environment while they are at school.

According to Brian Bourque, Litchfield School Board Chairperson, "At the heart of our mission as a school district, we have people who work tirelessly to ensure the children of Litchfield are able to grow and develop as individuals. To maintain and improve as a school system, we need to attract and retain high quality staff to support our efforts. This agreement positions the district to grow and improve for many years to come". Darlene Gymziak, President of the LSSA, said "This contract will allow greater training opportunities for all support staff, ensuring everyone is prepared to do their jobs well and meet the needs of the students in Litchfield."

The main details of the agreement are:

- The agreement is for 2 years (2020-2022).
- A shift in healthcare insurance from a no-deductible plan to a plan that includes deductibles. By shifting to a consumer-driven plan, both parties expect to realize long-term savings with our healthcare dollars.
- The agreement will cost \$67,521 (3.00%) in the first year and \$44,377 (3.00%) in the second year. These costs include salary increases for all support staff members with insurance savings in year two reducing the overall cost to taxpayers.
- Language clarifications that will continue improvements to workplace safety and enhance communication methods.

The agreement will appear on the 2020 Litchfield School District warrant as "Article 2". In order to approve the article and encumber the funding for year 1, a majority of voters will have to vote "yes". Voting will take place at Campbell High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Voters are encouraged to attend a school board meeting (1/22, 2/5, 2/19 or 3/4), the school budget deliberative session (2/8) or contact a board member with any questions about the agreement.

**About Litchfield School District** - The community of Litchfield supports educational programming from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Imagine Greatness ~ Expect Success!

###