



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **MINER REACTS TO SYRACUSE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION VOTE**

## *Superintendent and STA President Agree to Meet with Mayor Miner To Begin Talks*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today issued the following statement in response to results of a vote by Syracuse Teachers Association (STA) members.

“The vote by the Syracuse Teachers Association (STA) is understandable given the frustrations I have heard building among both teachers and administrators. The pressures, expectations and complications imposed on our educators today are unprecedented. Teachers are sorting through the twin challenges of implementing a new evaluation process while meeting the expectations of the Common Core. Educators and administrators alike continue to report a rise in behavior problems that make it difficult for teachers to teach and students to learn.

“On top of these challenges, Superintendent Sharon Contreras faces the immense task of dealing with the aftermath of an investigation by the Attorney General into past disciplinary practices in the district.

“I have spoken with Superintendent Contreras and STA President Kevin Ahern. They have agreed to meet with me to begin conversations that I hope will lead everyone back to common ground. To a person, everyone I’ve spoken with voices a strong desire to create an environment where all students are treated fairly and all teachers are treated respectfully. The goal for all of us now – elected representatives, administrators, principals, teachers, parents, and community leaders – is to channel our energies to create that environment in every school across the district.”

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