FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Sharon Teachers Are Disappointed

After more than two years of negotiations and almost a year without a contract, the Sharon Teachers Association accepted the Fact-Finding report. The Association is very disappointed to learn that the school district rejected the impartial ruling of the fact-finder.

On April 13, 2017, both sides had the opportunity to present their positions to an impartial, third party fact-finder assigned by the state. After listening to all the facts and the proposals from both sides, the fact-finder issued a report that the Association feels is fair and will have no impact on the taxpayers of Sharon City School District.

The teachers absorbed two consecutive years of pay freezes at the request of the school district. Because of these concessions and historically low pay increases, Sharon teachers have the **lowest** career pay rates in Mercer County by more than $5500. Also, the students and the staff have seen class sizes increase to thirty (30) students in a classroom. During this same time, according to the District, they have been able to amass the largest fund balance in Mercer County. According to documents provided by Business Manager, the fund balance has ballooned from approximately $6,000,000 in 2008 to nearly $12,000,000 in 2017! If you add the savings from the health insurance concessions the teachers agreed to, the District can easily afford to fund the fact-finder's report with no impact on the taxpayers.

The Sharon Teachers Education Association is comprised of 152 professionals who are dedicated to delivering quality education to their students. We hope to continue without any interruption, due to a work stoppage. We urge the district to reconsider their decision and change their minds, by the deadline of May 15, 2017.