

**PITTSFIELD FEDERATION OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LOCAL 1315
AFT, AFT-MA, AFL-CIO
789 Tyler Street Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone 413-447-PFSE (7373)**

TO: All Members

RE: Health Insurance

Dear Members,

The Executive Board would like to clarify the process regarding the possible change in health insurance for city employees. All decisions regarding employee health/dental coverage benefits are bargained by the Public Employees Committee (PEC).

Each chapter chair is a voting member of PEC. While PEC meetings are open to the public, *meetings in which negotiations occur or a vote takes place* are not. Under Robert's Rules of Order, members are not allowed to discuss the contents of meetings. All meetings were publicly posted by the PEC Committee Board and most were closed due to negotiation or voting.

~~Our Local was represented by the chapter chairs of each unit and Walter Armstrong, our AFT-MA rep. Additionally, Andy Powell, a non-partisan insurance representative, was present to advise our group as well.~~

On September 2, the PEC Committee rejected the Blue Cross/Blue Shield proposal with a unanimous vote of no. Our General Membership meeting was held on September 10 and those in attendance were informed of this decision. At this time, it was our understanding that the PEC Committee was drafting a letter to the Mayor stating that we will be staying with GIC.

On September 11, the Mayor countered the rejected proposal. The Acting Chair of the PEC Committee acting in good faith, asked the Committee to revisit the proposal. Another counter proposal was put forward and on September 17 an emergency, executive session meeting was held. On the evening of September 24, the PEC Committee voted to put the latest counter proposal forward to members. Q & A meetings were set up for September 26, 27 & 28.

The deadline to notify GIC of non-renewal, should the vote deem it, is October 1. Given the short notice, the Executive Board held an emergency meeting on Thursday, September 25. The by-laws state that each chair can cast a vote on behalf of its members. The result of this vote will be what is cast by our president on September 29.