



17th October 2016

Our Ref: 139/586

SALARIES SCANDAL!

After over a year of negotiating the Management Side made the insulting offer of 1% with no backdating of this paltry increase, in settlement of the 2015/16 cost of living rise to teachers. All the teacher unions unanimously rejected this offer which they regarded as unreflective of the important work teachers do every day in holding schools together in the face of inadequate budgets over the past five years. Management Side immediately responded by offering a pathetic 0.5% backdating to September 2015 with the other 0.5% from September 2016. This offer was also rejected.

Teachers are naturally angry about this treatment by their employers and all have agreed that immediate action is necessary. At a meeting of the unions today they have agreed to come together to draw up a timetable for action, starting with public demonstrations at the gates of each and every school. These demonstrations are to be held at lunchtime in the post-primary sector and at end of school in the primary sector. Leaflets will be drawn up to distribute to parents and will be handed out on the day. Full details will be sent out to you in the next couple of days.

We are also planning to write to Boards of Governors seeking their support in lobbying the NI Executive, and also a range of other activities to unfold over the coming weeks.

PLEASE NOTE, WHILE SOME OF THE OTHER UNIONS ARE TALKING ABOUT TAKING STRIKE ACTION, AT LEAST THREE UNIONS, INCLUDING UTU, HAVE PUT FORWARD THE VIEW THAT THIS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AS ANY PAY RISE THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED ULTIMATELY WOULD BE ERODED BY THE LOSS OF SALARY FOR STRIKE DAYS.

The ratcheting-up of industrial action, is, however likely over the coming period and UTU intends to hold a further ballot to protect members involved. Until further notice we intend to continue our current action relating to Assessment, planning and workload. (Full details of current action are on the UTU website at www.utu.edu)