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For immediate release

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Media Release from the United Educators of Pittsfield

As we emerge from the crisis created by the pandemic, the School Committee is creating an unnecessary crisis in our schools by not settling a fair contract with its educators.

The biggest threat the long-term future of our public schools is not the lack of a virtual academy, it is the lack of contract that will allow Pittsfield to attract and retain quality educators.

Our students only get one chance at an education and educator quality is the key to student achievement. The inability of the district to settle a fair contract with Pittsfield educators is why many quality educators are leaving the district for better salaries and working conditions in surrounding communities.

It is not in the long-term best interest of our community to fund new short-term programs when they come at the expense of the long-term, quality of the entire school system. Investments in educators are more than offset by savings in social services and increased earning power of graduates.

The most important thing the school committee can do to ensure the long-term success of our public schools, is to settle a fair contract with the UEP that will stop the hemorrhaging of experienced staff and that will allow our community to attract and retain high quality educators.