

January 2019

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Dear Member

Pay Dispute – Next Steps

The recent ballot of members has given the NASUWT a clear message and mandate on industrial action in furtherance of the pay dispute with the States Employment Board (SEB).

Simply publishing the result of the NASUWT ballot to the SEB has resulted in them coming back to the table with an offer of meaningful talks. Members are to be congratulated for the positive impact their strong stand in the ballot has already had.

The NASUWT will, of course, engage in those discussions and seek to secure a resolution to the dispute. However, this cannot be guaranteed and the pressure must continue to be applied.

Therefore, whilst engaging in discussions, the NASUWT believes that the Union must still prepare members for action, should the talks fail to make progress.

The NASUWT is the largest teachers' union in Jersey. Strike action by members will have a huge impact and the SEB knows that. All efforts now must be concentrated on maximising the impact of that action, if it becomes necessary.

One union, which has balloted for action, has issued information to its members and schools calling for them to attend a rally on Saturday 9 February. The NASUWT believes that this sends out entirely the wrong message to the States. When unions have taken the major step of balloting for action, to do anything other than make clear that the next step if the States fail to improve the pay offer is to take action, weakens the impact of the ballot and implies that there is a reluctance to take strike action and that the ballot was an empty gesture.

For these reasons, the NASUWT will not be organising members' participation in the Saturday 9 February rally. The time for giving up your own time and weekends to demonstrate is over. The SEB must be clear that members are angry and determined and that unless they address your concerns and show they value you, you will be withdrawing your labour.

There is a meeting of the SEB on Monday 4 February. If that meeting does not produce a positive outcome, members need to be on standby to receive information on the next steps. The ball is now in the SEB's court. Whether industrial action becomes necessary is now down to them.

The NASUWT is grateful for the continuing solidarity and support of members.

All best wishes.



Chris Keates (Ms)
General Secretary