

Bargaining Update – June 25-26, 2018

The eleventh set of bargaining sessions between Munson Medical Center (MMC) and the MNA occurred on Monday, June 25, 2018, from 10:15 to 4:15 pm and on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 from 11:25 am to 5 pm.

Both sides focused on safety and the grievance and arbitration procedures this week, and spent all but a half hour on these two topics. MMC made multiple proposals to try to bridge the remaining gaps on both subjects.

With respect to safety, both sides are committed to a safe working environment, including issues such as workplace violence, safe lifting practices, and the protection of privacy. MMC has a long-standing practice of involving front-line multi-disciplinary staff, including nurses, on existing safety committees. We will continue this practice and agreed to allow the union to appoint a nurse from the bargaining unit to serve on the committees as well.

We also exchanged proposals on grievance and arbitration procedures. We got closer, but no agreement has been reached.

The union did make a partial economic proposal focused on wages. It is highly unusual to discuss wages so early in the negotiating process, and to submit only a partial economic package. Wages and all economics are generally discussed at one time. Our focus in the negotiating process is to reach a thoughtful agreement that preserves MMC's ability to deliver top-quality health care to our community.

MMC will continue to bargain in good faith for a contract covering nurses that is fair and balanced and focused on what is best for both patients and our entire Health Care Team. The next set of collective bargaining sessions will be on July 12 and 13.