



ATU LOCAL 1181-1061  
UPDATE TO THE MEMBERSHIP  
August 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope this update finds you all in good health.

MTA Bus Spring Creek

We are continuing with Impact Bargaining and will continue bargaining for your contract.

We would like to extend our thanks to those of you who attended the two rallies held back in June. They were a great success! We sent a message to the MTA that we deserve wage increases and a new contract.

We are continuing to work with the ATU International and our ATU sister locals (726, 1056 and 1179) on negotiating terms and conditions to ensure that the MTA bus service is safe and efficient during the COVID pandemic.

Paratransit Update

Thanks once again to MV Transit workers for the strong showing which brought a successful conclusion to our strike. In addition, I continue to work with Justin Wood, Director of Organizing and Strategic Research for the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, along with AARRG (Access-a-Ride Reform Group) and, I am happy to report that working together with these organizations, we were able to successfully get permission from the DOT to allow access-a-ride vehicles to ride on the Belt Parkway where there were previous restrictions by the Mill Basin Bridge.

New York City Department of Education School Bus Industry

As I reported in our last update, on May 1, 2020, the City stopped funding the New York City school bus contractors.

As you are aware, the New York City schools will be opening on September 10<sup>th</sup> and we will have much to do. Unfortunately, there is still a lack of communication between the New York City Department of Education, the union and the companies.

Although refresher courses, 19A physicals and drivers' licensing have been extended, we urge you, if you are able, to stay in compliance. Those of you who do not have the means to do so, we have been informed that the companies will provide refresher courses as in the past, at no cost to you. The companies and/or the union will let you know when the Department of Education contacts us about service.

We are currently in Effects Bargaining with your companies to ensure that the return to service is in full compliance with the CDC and Department of Health regulations.

Know that we are following these guidelines and that your local union is working diligently with the contractors to provide the utmost safety measures required to make the return to service safe for all our members.

We have also included in our negotiation demands a commitment from the companies that they will work with us to provide, as best they can, for you to be compliant with your 19A physicals.

Our Effects Bargaining session began on August 12<sup>th</sup> and we believe it will wrap up within a week or so.

I can say with great confidence that the companies and the union will work hand in hand to provide the safest possible environment for drivers, attendant, mechanics and the children of New York City.

#### Wage Accrual

As you may recall from the last report, we have submitted the wage accrual arbitration. That arbitration will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom. I will be attending this arbitration to ensure that everyone receives their proper wage accrual.

#### Pension and Welfare

Those of you who participate in the Division 1181 Pension and Welfare plans can rest assured that when we return to work, your benefits will resume and that the Welfare Fund is still quite healthy at 3.8 months reserve. In addition, the pension fund has recovered well from its investments and is currently healthy as well.

The Trustees of the Funds (of which I am the Chairman), would normally meet every three months. However, since the pandemic, we have been meeting on a monthly basis monitoring the Funds closely to ensure that when we return to work, you should not worry about the status of the Funds.

#### Reliant Negotiations

Negotiations with Reliant have been ongoing. The Executive Board and myself met on again August 7<sup>th</sup> via Microsoft Teams and I can report that we are close to a settlement to the 2019-2020 school year.

In order to resolve this contract, we are insisting on such items as wage accruals, Easter week, medical benefits and pension contributions, so that your contract will mirror the contract we have with the New York City Legacy Contractors.

As of this update, we are awaiting the company's response to our final proposal. If we are in agreement, we will be bringing it to you for a vote.

In addition, we have begun negotiations for the 2020-2021 school year with Reliant.

We know there are many rumors circulating throughout the industry, in particular, a newspaper article in the New York Post, that Reliant may be negotiating with New York City. The facts

remain that the company intends to negotiate a contract with Local 1181 for the 2020-2021 school year.

### School District Contracts

As of this report, all school districts intend to open in September. Those districts are Croton Harmon, Clarkstown, Half Hollow Hills, Elmont, Franklin Square, and Floral Park.

Joe Micciulli, myself, Tomas Fret, Fred Andreani, Ernie Maoiné, and Guy Prosper of the Long Island office are currently working on Impact Bargaining for safety protocols. We expect that the school districts will work with us to comply with the regulations set forth to ensure a safe return to work for our members.

### Long Island Private Contractor Bus Companies

Pierce Coach Line – Effects Bargaining continues. We met on August 4<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom.

WE Transport – We met on August 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and are close to an agreement.

I feel this is worth mentioning – To those of you that are understandably concerned with the return to work, I'd like to say that all during this summer, WE Transport has been transporting approximately 600 children by 110 of our union members safely, with no incidents and no transmission of the COVID virus. Proving that it is possible, with the right protocols in place, to get back to work safely. Thank you to our members and to the company for keeping us equipped to be safe!

First Student – no one worked during the summer - we will meet with the company on Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of August via Zoom for Effects Bargaining to ensure a safe return to work.

In addition, our contract with First Student expires February 2021. We will be taking proposals from our members when we return to work.

We were informed that First Student has acquired some of the Acme-Bauman routes in both Hempstead and Uniondale school districts.

### Negotiations

CPT – we met via Zoom on August 5<sup>th</sup> to give our proposals and will be setting up future negotiations shortly.

Royal Coach – Negotiation sessions have begun. We met on July 1<sup>st</sup> via Zoom with the company and the committee to exchange proposals.

Clarkstown School District - just prior to the New York pause, we had reached an agreement in principle with the Clarkstown School District. The committee and the union are currently reviewing the documents received last week from the district. When the language in the agreement is finalized, we will bring the agreement to the members for a contract ratification vote.

Croton Harmon U.F.S.D. – Negotiations have begun. As a follow-up to our meeting in February, Tomas Fret and Fred Andreani held a meeting with the committee via Zoom on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> .

Remember your Union is still working for you. The Executive Board meets via Zoom every Monday at 10 o'clock and I meet with the ATU International and all of the Presidents of ATU Locals, International school bus officials and MTA workers across the United States and Canada every other Thursday night at 7:30pm through a town hall meeting.

I have been working daily with politicians, in particular Senator Jackson, our lobbyists in Albany and the City, New York State AFL-CIO officials, New York City Central Labor Council, New York City Councilmembers, as well as parent groups all in an effort to ensure a safe return to service for our members while at the same time, the Executive Board is conducting hearings and other union business at our properties that remained open during the pandemic.

In closing, I would ask that we prepare for the mental challenge that lies ahead. It will not be easy but I know we are up for the challenge because we are professionals. We have been through adversity before including the attacks on 911, the strike for the EPP during the Bloomberg administration, Hurricane Sandy and now a pandemic.

Our union is strong, we have your backs and we will be with you throughout this transition back to work.

We are here for you, your families and as always, the children we transport.

Together we will overcome adversity! United we become strong!

God bless you and your families!  
God bless the ATU Local 1181-1061

In Solidarity,  
Michael Cordiello, President/Business Agent  
ATU Local 1181-1061 and the Executive Board