



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2010

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**STATEMENT BY GEORGE PARKER, PRESIDENT,
WASHINGTON TEACHERS' UNION,
ON THE CERTIFICATION OF TENTATIVE TEACHER'S CONTRACT**

D.C. Chief Financial Officer Natwar Ghandi has certified the tentative agreement between D.C. Public Schools and the Washington Teachers' Union.

WASHINGTON—For the past several weeks, D.C. residents witnessed confusion and lack of transparency around the D.C. Public Schools' (DCPS) financial condition. However, I am pleased that DCPS was able to find alternative sources of funding for the WTU's tentative agreement on a new teacher contract. We are one step closer to fulfilling our commitment to improve teaching and learning in D.C.'s public schools.

When we announced the tentative agreement, we expressed optimism that its provisions would help to dramatically raise the academic performance in our school system. And, we insisted on assurance that the District would be able to hold up its end of the bargain by ensuring that these provisions would not have to be rolled back due to inadequate funding. The certification announcement from the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer enables the Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) to fully engage in efforts to ratify the new teacher contract.

Over the next several weeks, the WTU will be holding additional informational meetings in schools to provide teachers with the opportunity to ask questions and receive more information about the tentative agreement. WTU members will also have an opportunity to vote on the agreement. After ratification, the contract will then go to the D.C. City Council for final approval. We expect to conclude the ratification process within the next several weeks.

Getting to this point was difficult, but the real work comes after the contract is signed. The WTU and DCPS will need to continue our efforts to ensure that teachers are provided with the tools they need to dramatically improve education in the District of Columbia.

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