**Medling Speech [EZ Speech No. 16614]**

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Remarks by Travis Medling regarding the current CBA negotiations between the Hillsburough County School Board and its teachers.

members of the board . . . mr superintendent . . . my fellow faculty members . . . and members of the greater hillsburough county school district community:

i stand here before you this evening not to criticize, not berate, and not to condemn anyone. i come here this evening simply to implore those in this room who have the power to do so, to listen with an open heart to the supplications of a faculty who ask only that you honor the terms of our last colelctive bargaining agreement: that you pay us as you promised you would — on time, and in full — and that you treat us with the respect we’ve both earned and deserve.

there’s not a single person in this room this evening who could argue rightly that we teachers haven’t lived up to our side of the bargain. indeed, while many of us have dipped into our own pockets to pay for essential classroom supplies and materials, the board has seen fit to spend the community’s tax dollars on redecor-ating its board room downtown. we do not begrudge you those improvements, those comforts. we have no doubt that they’ll help you do your jobs better.

but in all humility we ask whether those expenditures were, in your hearts, *truly* more important to you than supplying our classrooms with the materials we teachers need to do *our* jobs better?

whether new paneling and carpets in your board room were *truly* more crucial than empowering us to accomplish the mission to which we’re all committed?

whether they were *truly* more important than teaching your children well?

I think it’s indisputably clear that, by action and by deed, the faculty and staff of the hillsburough school district have consistently demonstrated the qualities of pride, principals, and professionalism. we’ve tried our conscientious best to put our students first in everything we do. i would only ask our partners across the negotiating table who are here this evening if they can honestly say the same?

thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

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