

February 17, 2023

Yesterday we finished our fifth negotiation session with Bemidji MNA.

We had a productive day at the table, reaching tentative agreements on a number of key proposals related to increasing late stay premium, permanent off shift differentials, and straight night differentials. Sanford also provided MNA with sought after contract language confirming its intent to honor and recognize Bemidji's contract with MNA following the proposed merger with Fairview.

Although we just began discussing economics on February 2, we made progress in our base wage discussions as well. While MNA ended the day at an unreasonably high demand of 27% over the three years of the contract, Sanford responded with a counter proposal of 10% over three years – a significant, good-faith offer that already far exceeds the base rate increases in the current CBA.

We are deeply disappointed that MNA has not yet agreed to Sanford's proposed temporary contract extension or given Sanford any other dates in February that it is willing to meet and negotiate before the current CBA expires on February 28. Instead, MNA has threatened Sanford with receipt of a 10-day notice within the next few days.

While Sanford remains committed to reaching an agreement that reflects the valuable contributions of its nurses and will negotiate again with the union on MNA's next available day of March 7, in the interim Sanford wants to assure the Bemidji community that it has plans in place to avoid disruptions to patient care.

---