



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHAIRMAN MENDELSON STATEMENT ON WASHINGTON  
TEACHERS' UNION CONTRACT**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement in response to the announcement of an agreement:

"I am pleased that this agreement finally came to be," Mendelson said. "Educators should not have to teach on an expired contract. The agreement between WTU and DCPS replaces a contract that expired a year ago.

"It was completely avoidable to take this long. For over eight months the city's negotiators screwed with process, not substance, endlessly negotiating ground rules, demanding 5:00 a.m. negotiating sessions, and filing an unfair practices complaint against the union.

"Teachers are celebrating that both salary and working conditions have been addressed. That's especially worthy because the District's financial condition no longer facilitates generous wage increases.

"I thank the City Administrator for bringing negotiations over the finish line, and I congratulate him for a contract that stays within our fiscal means.

"The best news is that now both DCPS and teachers can shift their focus to be solely on educating our youth -- no longer with distractions. Moreover, the new contract improves workforce stability, facilitates teacher retention, and keeps the District competitive. It's a win for all."