

Sticker shock for schools

By Boston Herald Editorial Staff | Thursday, January 5, 2012 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | [Editorials](#)

The Boston Teachers Union is asking for a 10 percent raise over the life of its next contract, according to an analysis conducted by a city watchdog group. It's as if the union leaders slept through the Great Recession and woke up thinking happy days were here again.

The Boston Municipal Research Bureau has done taxpayers (and parents) a huge favor by releasing its analysis of the contract proposals offered by the BTU and by the city, which have been in negotiations since the last contract expired in August 2010.

The city's offer is a four-year contract with a total 5 percent salary increase. Included in that is a requirement that teachers work a longer school day, part of an effort to improve student achievement and bring Boston, which has one of the shortest school days of any big city at 6.5 hours, in line with other districts and with the more innovative city schools (charter, pilot, etc.) competing for Hub kids.

Meanwhile the Research Bureau concludes that, contrary to its more modest claims, the true cost to taxpayers of the BTU proposal is \$116.1 million, putting the two sides at a staggering \$83.5 million apart. And, of course, those figures relate only to the annual raises in the contract and don't reflect the cost of automatic raises based on things like longevity and graduate credits.

We would never begrudge Hub teachers adequate compensation, so please, spare us the lectures about rewarding teachers for their heroic work. But the BTU leadership is living on another planet if it thinks that in times like these a 10 percent increase — yes, even *with* a longer school day — is reasonable.

Article URL: <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/opinion/editorials/view.bg?articleid=1393366>

[Contact us](#) | [Print advertising](#) | [Online advertising](#) | [Herald history](#) | [Send a news tip](#) | [Electronic edition](#) | [Browser upgrade](#) | [Home delivery](#) | [Mobi](#)

[Save on Boston Herald Home Delivery](#)

[Jobs with Herald Media](#)

For back copy and collectible issue information please call 617-426-3000 Ext. 7714. [Click here for Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox, and Bruins back cop](#)



© Copyright by the Boston Herald and Herald Media.

No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)