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BTC, unions reach tentative contract agreements; school to begin Monday

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BELLINGHAM -Bellingham Technical College, the BTC faculty union and the union that represents the college's classified clerical, technical, instructional and retail support staff reached tentative contract agreements late Saturday, Sept. 28, according to a BTC press release.

Details of the agreements are being finalized between the college and both unions. BTC's board of trustees will meet to consider approval after Bellingham Education Association and Bellingham Education Support Team have ratified their contracts. Details about the contract settlements will then be made available online at btc.ctc.edu.

BTC plans to open and follow a regular schedule on Monday, Sept. 30. A new instructional calendar will be available soon. The calendar is not finalized until the contract is approved by the board of trustees.

"Bellingham Technical College is pleased to have reached agreement with both the BEA and BEST unions today. We are now able to look at the year ahead, and focus on our shared mission of helping our students achieve their educational success," said BTC President Patricia McKeown Saturday evening in a press release.

BEST, the union that represents the college's classified clerical, technical, instructional and retail support staff, had been in negotiations with the college since May. That union voted to strike last week, joining the BTC faculty union, which had been on strike since Tuesday, Sept. 24.