

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

April 17th, 2007

This Special meeting was scheduled to ratify the collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 73 for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Board Member Wendy Rowden was available by phone. The other six Board members were present along with Dr. Robert McKanna, Dr. Jean Sophie and Kevin Noehly.

Board President Nancy Lee Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

A motion was made to ratify the contract and seconded.

Discussion –

Dr. Sophie wanted to comment and point out some changes in the contract.

- Regarding promotion, the salary for a regular custodian to a head custodian reflects a 15% increase. This should help the District recruit for head custodian positions. Sophie also mentioned that if a head custodian moves back into a regular custodian position, there would be a 15% reduction in salary.
- The night custodian substitute rate was increased as an incentive to substitute.
- There was much discussion regarding subcontracting. It was agreed that if the District ever decided to subcontract, the union must be given a six month notice.
- Overall, the union was happy with their contract.

Kevin Noehly outlined the financial aspects of the contract.

- There are 109 union members. This year, salaries amount to \$4,432,565 and stipends amount to \$52,500.
- The salary increase for the life of the contract is 15.5% for five years.
- Year 1: 3.5%; Remaining four years: 3% a year
- Base salary increased to \$29,098 for a custodian laborer; per hour rate for substitute custodians is increased to \$13.23; part-time custodian rate increased to \$14.21
- The base increase of 3% a year stays in line with CPI
- For the first year, the highest increase is 5% for a small group of union members; 3.3% for the majority of members for an average of 3.5% overall
- Second year: Majority of the bargaining unit members receive a 2.8% increase; smaller group receives 5% for an average of 3%
- Years 3, 4 and 5: All members receive 3% increases

Dr. Sophie made a general comment that this was an easy contract to negotiate. It was done in four sessions. Commented that the District and Union were far apart on the first day but came a long way. Sophie wanted to thank Tim Millar, Scott Boucher and also Nancy Carlson, who spoke with them by phone.

Tim Millar commented on the minimal legal bills that were involved.

Dr. Sophie stated that the District attorney only looked at the contract once.

Vote to ratify the collective bargaining agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 73 for the years 2007-08 through 2011-12

Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.