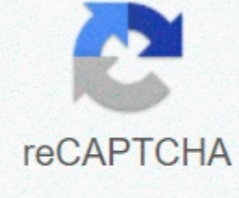




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Kent school district salary schedule 2018

CERTIFICATED CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTE AND TEMPORARY TEACHERS Educators to get a 10 percent pay increase this year, 4.5 percent the next, deal prevents possible strike, classes starting Thursday School will start on time in Kent. Teachers and the Kent School District reached a late-hour contract agreement Wednesday, avoiding a likely strike on Thursday, the official first day of classes. The Kent Education Association (KEA), the union representing about 1,500 district teachers, ratified the two-year, preliminary agreement at a general meeting at the Kent-Meridian High School gymnasium Wednesday night. Teachers receive a 10% pay rise in the first year, the following year 4.5%. Sixty-nine percent of the 1,149 KEA members who attended voted in support of the contract. Better pay was at the heart of the dispute. Teachers wanted living wages all the while, making them at a competitive level with other school districts. Melissa Laramie, school district spokesperson, said: The agreement includes a major investment in school district teaching staff. The negotiation process took longer this year, given the new and complex funding formula for staff compensation. Some teachers called the deal a miracle, as both sides remained far apart in a fight to reach an agreement and avert a strike. Controversial talks called for mediation. Both sides negotiated for 2 p.m. Sunday, talks that stretched to 4:30 a.m Monday. Negotiations continued throughout Tuesday and into early Wednesday. Teachers had already authorized a strike if kea's negotiating team and school district officials could not reach a preliminary agreement on a new teacher pay schedule before noon Wednesday. The dispute centered on new state money the school district received from the McCleary Supreme Court settlement. Kent is one of many statewide districts that renegotiate teacher salaries following the state supreme court ruling that guaranteed about \$1 billion toward teacher wages. Surrounding school districts and their teachers have established themselves, giving double-digit pay increases to educators. The Auburn School District and the Auburn Education Association this week agreed on a two-year teacher contract that calls for salary increases of 11 percent in the first year and 1.9 percent in the second year. Other districts are still under negotiation. Money affairs KEA members have adamantly said that the new state money is intended for teacher salaries, not to bail out the district's financial problems. The Kent School District, which is trying to recover from a budget deficit, is expected to receive about \$74 million for K-12 Salaries. The school board approved a 2018-2019 budget during a special session and public hearing process at the district's headquarters last Friday night. According to the school district, the hearing was added to ensure that that schools could start on time and that the school board could set a budget for the state-imposed deadline of Friday, August 31. Despite teachers and staff urging school district leaders to adjust the budget to allow better salaries, the board passed the same budget it rejected just two nights earlier at the regular meeting. The school board approved a budget that reflects a \$33 million rainy day on ending general fund balance, but offers no more than the district's offer of a 3.1 percent, cost-of-living increase to teachers. Ben Rarick, executive director of budget and finance for the school district, said the \$33 million is for the long-term fiscal sustainability of the district's financial situation, given that local revenue will decline and additional costs will occur in the future. The budget was made in consultation with the district's four-year financial forecast, as required by state law. Teachers said additional government money should go toward salaries, keeping the district competitive with others who offer better pay. About 300 teachers have left the district since April 15, according to the union, and more will follow if the district doesn't support its educators. Talk to us Share your story tips by emailing editor@kentreporter.com. To share your opinion before publication, please submit a letter via our website . Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. (We only publish your name and place of residence.) Store letters up to 300 words or less. Less.

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