



KEENEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #20

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 Reaches Contract Agreement with Teachers

Hanover Park (December 4) On Thursday, November 30, during a regular board meeting, the Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 Board of Education voted to ratify a five-year contract with the Keeneyville Education Association (KEA). This comes after nine negotiation sessions over a five-month period.

“This was a respectful, professional and collaborative process on both sides,” said Heather Weishaar, District 20 Board of Education President. “The Board of Education and the Keeneyville Education Association engaged in meaningful dialog and have concluded a contract we feel is fair and supports our faculty in the hard work they do each day educating students, while continuing our district’s commitment to being good stewards of precious local resources.”

The contract includes salary adjustments that are in line with the Consumer Product Index (CPI) and moves away from the traditional teacher salary schedule. During the first year, teachers will receive a base salary increase of 3.0%. As the contract moves through the cycle and reaches the third through fifth years, salary adjustments will be based on CPI.

The Board of Education and the Keeneyville Education Association mutually agreed to utilize an Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) process during negotiations. Unlike traditional bargaining which includes proposals and counterproposals, the IBB process relies on open dialog, a commitment to identifying common interests and a collaborative effort to develop options that meet the needs of both parties. This process was facilitated by a Commissioner from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

An agreement to extend lunch and recess for elementary students was also agreed upon. Beginning on January 8, 2018, kindergarten through fifth grade students will have a back to back 25 minute lunch and 25 minute recess period. This replaces a 40 minute system.

“The KEA team appreciated the opportunity to have meaningful dialogue with the Board of Education,” stated Chief Negotiator, Terry Karner. Karner and KEA President, Joanne Champagne, both agreed that ‘the conversations with the Board of Education were respectful, insightful and productive.’”

Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 serves approximately 1550 students at Greenbrook and Waterbury Elementary Schools, Spring Wood Middle School and an Early Childhood Center.

Igniting the power and potential of each student!