

Press Clippings 5/25/2018

---Courier News--- 5/25/18

Proposed U46 contract would alter long-standing pay schedule

Union votes on pact that ties pay bumps to out-of-classroom work

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Members of School District U46's teachers union cast votes Thursday whether to accept a proposed three-year contract that overhauls their long-standing salary schedule.

If it's approved, teachers' salary bumps would be based on more than years of experience and college educations. The updated pay schedule negotiated by the Elgin Teachers Association would provide increases based on the out-of-classroom work that teachers complete, such as obtaining national certification, pursuing professional development, doing curriculum writing and taking on leadership roles.

The salary bumps would be on top of base pay increases of 2 percent in the 2018-19 school year, 1 percent in 2019-20 and 1 percent in 2020-21, according to the tentative agreement. The starting salary for entry-level teachers would increase from just under \$43,000 to \$50,000 beginning in the fall in an effort to stay competitive with nearby school districts.

Elgin Teachers Association President Richard Johnson said the proposed deal recognizes the time and effort more than 2,400 members put into projects, work and advanced training before or after normal classroom hours. Whether teachers agree to ratify the deal should be known Friday.

"We certainly feel, as a team, that we have a strong kind of agreement that will support all of us, but in particular best support our teachers and — in turn — our students," Johnson said.

The current U46 teachers contract expires in August. Negotiations on a new deal started in January.

The current salary schedule used by U46 teachers has 10 lanes and 31 steps that compensate teachers, based on number of years worked and highest educational level attained. Johnson said the schedule has been used in the Elgin-based district since the early 1990s.

Under the proposed new system, teachers would earn career credits based on what they have accomplished. There would be 12 steps and one lane, he said.

Teachers would have to earn 150 credits to move up to the next pay step, with one year of teaching worth 40 credits, for example, and one credit hour of graduate school worth five credits, Johnson said. Out-of-classroom work would generate career credits of varying sizes. Obtaining National Board Certification would be valued at 30 credits; renewing the certification would earn 15 credits.

"This agreement really values the depth and breadth of the work our colleagues are working in and contributing to," said Suzanne Johnson, U46's deputy superintendent of instruction.

Teachers employed in U46 will be phased into the new schedule over the next three years. Current teachers may choose to adopt the career credit-based salary schedule at any time over the next three years, but new district hires automatically will be entered into the new system, Richard Johnson said. Teachers who choose to stay under the old system still will receive compensation increases during the duration of the contract.

The union's board endorsed the contract with a 13-1 vote, while the union's representative assembly rejected it 88-63. Both votes were advisory, Johnson said.

---Daily Herald--- 5/25/18

U-46 to host info sessions on new academy ideas

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Elgin Area School District U-46 will host information sessions next week on plans for developing high school career academies ahead of a school board discussion June 4.

Administrators propose creating new academies or educational pathways providing all high school students the opportunity to experience more integrated and project-based learning. New academies could be established as early as the freshman class of the 2020-21 and enroll 400 to 600 students each.

Among the academy ideas under consideration: hospitality and tourism; government, public administration and safety, including ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps); education, training and human services; business, management, marketing and finance; engineering; manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics; and health care sciences.

A recent [presentation](#) by district officials to the U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council has prompted numerous questions from parents about the career pathways being considered. Officials seek to answer them at the information sessions:

- 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St.
- 7 to 9 p.m. May 31 in the auditorium at Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive.
- 7 to 9 p.m. June 7 in Room 130 at Bartlett High School, 701 W Schick Road. This session will focus on the planned government, public administration and safety academy, which includes ROTC.

All sessions will include time for questions from the audience. Spanish translation and activities for kids 5 and older will be offered.

For more information about the district's preliminary plans to expand smaller learning communities within its five comprehensive high schools, visit u-46.org. Additional informational sessions on academies will be scheduled this fall.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 5/25/18

Softball: Bartlett advance to regional final

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Riley Scrivner's 2-run single in the sixth inning broke open the game as Bartlett downed Glenbard West 4-1 Thursday in the semifinals of the Class 4A Glenbard East softball regional.

Janelle Ulaszek tossed a 5-hitter for the Hawks, who will play Prospect Saturday for the regional title.

Taylor Rotondo, Dani Kleeman and Amber Pagan had 2 hits each for Bartlett in Thursday's win.

Sycamore 10, Rosary 0: In the semifinals of the Class 3A Rosary regional, the host Royals (8-8-2) had just 3 hits -- by Chloe Saltijeral, Riley McCue and Kaleigh Lentz.

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