

PRESS RELEASE

Diana Capra, Communications and Community Engagement
Rocklin Unified School District
916-757-4987
dcapra@rocklinusd.org
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Contingency Plans Approved in the Event of a Teacher Union Strike

In preparation for the start of school and after eight months of labor negotiations, RUSD Board of Trustees approved a resolution last week to help the district begin preparing for a potential teacher strike. While the district remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached, in order to keep schools open and students safe, it must prepare for a potential strike now.

The district has been engaged in bargaining with Rocklin Teachers Professional Association (RTPA) since October 2017. When the parties reached impasse, both parties shared their proposals with a neutral Fact Finding panel in an effort to find common ground. On July 24, that neutral Fact Finding panel shared its recommendations and both parties met yet again in hopes of reaching agreement. Honoring the Fact Finding panel's report, the district proposed an increase to the district's salary offer to 1.4% effective July 1, 2017 plus a .5% one-time-off schedule payment. For the 2018-19 year, the district proposed a 3% salary increase plus a .25% one-time off schedule payment plus a .3% for Special Education teacher stipends to recruit and retain (\$2000/\$4000 annually.) Total package: 5.45% with 4.7% ongoing (4.4 % ongoing for all members, a .75% one-time money, .30% Special Education stipends).

Beyond a recommended salary increase, the Fact Finding report commended both sides on the progress made toward agreement on Special Education, which included a Memo of Understanding. The important topic of safety, surrounding district/student discipline policy around training, reporting, policy creation and liability was also addressed. The district's proposal agreed with all the Fact Finding panel's recommendations on these issues as well. Despite the Fact Finding recommendations and the district's updated proposal agreeing to all these recommendations, no agreement with RTPA was reached.

"Although it has been our hope throughout the past eight months that we would reach a negotiated agreement with the RTPA leadership, we cannot ignore the very real signals the union leadership has sent indicating a strike is on the table," stated Rocklin Superintendent Roger Stock. "It would be irresponsible of our school district to ignore that threat and do nothing to prepare. Any school district in these circumstances has to have a plan for keeping the community's schools open and for ensuring its children continue to receive an education."

The district is committed to reaching an agreement that is in the best interests of its teachers, students and community. However, if a strike were to occur, Rocklin Unified School District will be prepared to have schools open and safe for student learning.

For more information and links to the Fact Finding Report, please visit <http://www.rocklinusd.org>.

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