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Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 and Park Ridge Education Association reach agreement on new, three-year contract

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 and the Park Ridge Education Association (PREA), the professional organization that represents the District's teachers, have reached an agreement on a new, three-year contract. The PREA membership ratified the contract on September 2. The Board of Education approved the agreement at its September 8 meeting.

"I'm very pleased that we were able to reach a contract amicably as the new school year gets underway," said Board President John Heyde. "The new contract respects the contributions our teachers make to our children's futures and also reaffirms our obligation to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money." Heyde explained that the contract terms reflect current economic conditions and the commitments made during the 2007 referendum campaign.

"I think the agreement respects present economic realities," said Fred Klonsky, PREA President. "It is a fair contract."

Terms of the contract include a 2.5 percent annual increase to base salary. No changes were made to the "step" increase based on a teacher's education and experience that averages approximately 2 percent. In addition, teachers will continue to contribute toward the cost of their own health insurance coverage.

District 64 employs more than 360 full-time equivalent teachers; about 81 percent have master's degrees or above. District 64 schools have a long-standing commitment to educating the whole child and consistently rank among the state's top schools academically.

District 64 serves almost 4,300 students in grades K-8 at five elementary schools, two middle schools, and an early childhood center.

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