

## **4.2% rise in pay, benefits for teachers**

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Friday, 14 February 2014 15:29 -

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### **Base wage to increase \$1,000 for District 20 educators**

Both sides of the negotiating table seem pleased with a salary and benefit agreement for teachers.

Salaries will increase 3.18% and benefits 1.04% for a 4.2% rise in the compensation package in 2014-15.

Beginning teachers will bring home \$1,000 more as base pay increases from \$32,400 to \$33,400.

District 20 school board members approved the agreement Monday night which was earlier ratified by the the Gothenburg Education Association.

The GEA is the bargaining unit for teachers.

Additionally, the insurance package continues with a \$750 deductible.

However teachers can select a higher deductible with a health savings account at the same cost to the district.

School board vice-president and lead negotiator Nate Wyatt said the board appreciates the dedication of district teachers.

“They make a big impact on student lives,” Wyatt said.

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GEA president Ann Foster said teachers appreciate that the board has the backs of teachers, noting that members also serve as a wonderful sounding board.

Wyatt said compensation is based on comparability with schools of similar size and located within a similar geographic area.

In 2012, the board and GEA negotiated a 4.8% increase in salary and benefits for two years.

They returned to a yearly agreement this year.

In addition to Wyatt, board negotiators included Amber Burge and Lisa Geiken.

Lead negotiator for the GEA was Kim Graff. Other teachers on the team were Foster, Travis Coe, Erin Feather, Lori Long and Chris Lecher.

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