



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road. Waterford, MI 48328

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Waterford Board of Education approves historic salary increases for teachers *366 support staff to also receive raises*

The Waterford School District Board of Education has reached an agreement with the Waterford Education Association (WEA), which represents all of the district's teachers.

The agreement, approved on Aug. 3, has been extended through 2025 and highlights significant wage increases for the 2023-2024 school year. Salary schedule steps in the agreement were also reduced from 20 to 15, helping teachers to reach the top step faster. In 2024-2025, all teachers will move up one step on the salary schedule.

"These raises are historic for our school district. I am humbled by the teamwork that took place to arrive at this agreement," said Mary Craite, longtime WSD teacher and WEA president. "District leadership worked together with the union throughout this entire process and we couldn't be happier with the results."

The wage increases illustrate part of the district's Strategic Plan - first implemented in 2021 - which is to attract, value and retain staff. Since that time, WSD has invested \$4 million in curriculum, \$9.8 million in technology and is building a brand new state-of-the-art \$30 million Stepanski Early Childhood Center.

"All of these investments are coming together to ensure WSD is a destination district for teachers and families," said Superintendent Scott Lindberg. "Our theme for the past two years has been The Future Is Bright because it is symbolic of the amazing momentum we are building here."

At the same meeting, the Board of Education also approved raises for 366 personnel, which includes paraprofessionals, who provide key support in classrooms. The approval of both of these agreements positively impacts approximately 900 employees districtwide.

"The Board of Education was happy to support this bold plan for our incredible staff," said Board of Education President Mike Ristich. "We're thrilled the entire bargaining team was able to come together to make this happen."

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