

NESHAMINY

Board OKs contract with administrators

The three-year deal is the same one the school board offered to and rejected by teachers.

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It's official — they've got a deal.

The Neshaminy school board Tuesday night unanimously approved a new contract for the district's administrators beginning July 1 and ending June 30, 2012.

The 30-plus members of the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association last month approved the three-year agreement that the teachers turned down, according to administrators' President Paul Minotti. The deal will replace the current contract that expires June 30, officials said.

Mirroring the proposal that the educators union turned down, the offer, includes a 3 percent annual salary increase and a requirement that employees pay 15, 16 and 17 percent toward health care premiums over three years, administrators said.

If teachers get a different deal, though, the administrators' contract will change as well, officials said.

Although some residents have said that the agreement is too generous, the board previously described the package as responsible to help control costs. The directors hope the teachers will follow suit.

Union president Louise Boyd has reiterated the district inaccurately claims that the teachers counter-offered a 6 percent annual salary increase, including steps, and asked for no change to the medical insurance. But she has not disclosed details.

The union reportedly proposed a Personal Choice PC20 and paying \$10 for generic and \$25 for prescription drugs, according to district Web site.

The 700-plus teachers continue to work under a deal that expired last June and although both sides have said they're still willing to negotiate, no further talks have been scheduled.

The contract changes the medical plan from Blue Cross PC15 to a less expensive PC 20/30/70 and the drug plan from Rx 5/20 to a cheaper Rx 5/30. But administrators still have the option of a Keystone HMO, according to the board's statement.

The agreement removes the full benefits package and a \$27,000 incentive upon retirement, as well as the single source item, which allows employees to pay a \$5 generic fee for \$20 brand name drugs when generics aren't available, the same as proposed to the teachers union. The deal also reduces opt-out sharing from 37 percent to 25 percent; that's the amount of the premiums the district pays to employees who use their spouse's insurance, said board President Ritchie Webb.

And, finally, the contract eliminates any future annual, long-term service bonuses, which are \$1,750 for employees with 20 to 24 years, \$2,150 for 25 to 29 years, \$2,550 for 30 to 34 years and \$3,000 for 35 years or more, officials said.

Administrators' salaries, excluding cabinet members, can range from about \$100,000 to \$124,000, officials said.

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