



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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G-PISD Board of Trustees Approves Salary Increases with No Change to Tax Rate for 2017-18

Some of the highest-paid teachers in the Coastal Bend are employed at Gregory-Portland ISD, where Tuesday night the district's Board of Trustees approved raises for educators and other professional staff, as well as a significant salary adjustment boosting the base pay for auxiliary employees to a minimum \$11 per hour.

G-PISD teachers, librarians and nurses who have at least four years' experience will earn up to additional \$1,200 per year. Those with between five and nine years will receive a \$1,500 raise, and those with 10 years or more will receive a \$2,000 raise. This amounts to an average 3.4 percent increase for G-PISD educators, based on the reported market median salary for Region 2 (\$48,860).

This increase establishes a new base pay of \$50,384 for a teacher holding a Bachelor's degree in their first year of service, and \$51,384 for those with a Master's degree. Other professional staff will receive comparable raises at 3 percent of the midpoint in their pay grade.

Each auxiliary employee, including those in food service, maintenance/grounds, custodial and transportation departments, as well as clerical staff, will benefit from a \$2.00 boost in the hourly rate across every pay grade (minimum, midpoint, and maximum across the scale).

"The best investment we can make is in our staff," said Dr. Paul Clore, G-PISD Superintendent of Schools. "We want to remain competitive in terms of pay, providing as much incentive as we feasibly can so that our students benefit from having qualified, committed staff at every campus and office across the district."

For more than 15 years, the G-PISD school board has approved salary increases for every employee. "Our Board Members have been very generous in providing these increases at every possible opportunity to date," said Ronald M. Wilson, the district's Chief Financial Officer and Safety Coordinator. "When in recent years there were districts across the state who may not have seen salary increases, our conservative approach to financial management has made these kinds of pay raises an option for us. Our Board has been extremely supportive every step of the way. We are grateful to have their leadership, and our people benefit from it."

During a budgetary presentation to Trustees at a regular meeting on August 15th, Wilson stated that salary adjustments would not affect the existing tax rate for the district. "We will maintain our current tax rate, with \$1.17 for Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and \$0.18 debt service (I&S), for a compressed total of \$1.35 – the same rate we had last year."

Wilson also presented salary recommendations at the meeting. The board approved with a unanimous, 7-0 vote. Pay increases will be reflected in September 2017.

"We are extremely proud of the work that our employees do every day, and we are very thankful to our Board of Trustees for their support as we continue to offer competitive salaries and increases whenever possible," said Dr. Clore. "We will continue to do everything we can to remain among the highest-paying school districts in our region."

ATTACHED: Teacher Salary Schedule, 2017-18

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