

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/24/2022

East Greenwich School Committee Approves Three-Year Teacher Contract

East Greenwich, RI – The East Greenwich School Committee and the East Greenwich Education Association (the “Association”) have agreed to a three-year successor agreement, effective as of the 2022-23 school year. The School Committee approved the contract by a vote of 5-0 at a special meeting on August 23, 2022. The Association ratified the contract on August 23. EGEA represents the teachers employed by the East Greenwich Public Schools.

The contract provides for salary increases for top-step teachers (over 75% of the bargaining unit) of 1.5%, 1.75%, and 2.25%, plus step increases for the lower steps, in the three years of the contract, with stipends of 1.5%, 1.5%, and 0.75% for all members – i.e., a 3% or greater increase in remuneration for over 75% of the membership including stipends, plus step increases and stipends for the remaining members. The cumulative fiscal impact of the contract is \$4.4 million, of which approximately \$700,000 will be reserved from the school district’s fund balance for the stipends.

In furtherance of the district’s strategic plan, “All Means All,” the contract also enhances distributive leadership in the middle and high school department heads, and, in year three, new team leaders at the elementary schools. In addition, the contract also provides for a revised Appendix B that simplifies and uniformly modifies stipends for coaches and advisors.

Perhaps even more notable, this marks the first teachers’ contract in at least two decades that has been approved before the start of the school year, as well as the first contract in the same amount of time that has not gone to mediation. The Chair of the School Committee, Anne Musella stated: “I am gratified by the collaboration between the teachers and our negotiating team. Between a significantly lower appropriation from the town than requested, and a significant loss in anticipated state funding, the concern was whether the School Committee was in a position to adequately compensate our teachers after many years of lean contracts, and given the ongoing challenges of Covid.”

“As a new member of this community, I am humbled to serve with educators and school committee members who come to the table, have the hard conversations, and find common ground. The level of candor and honesty was only exceeded by the level of respect we all demonstrated. This is a proud day for East Greenwich Public Schools,” remarked Dr. Brian G. Ricca.

The contract and fiscal impact statement will be posted to the school district website egsd.net the week of August 29.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Anne Musella, School Committee Chair @ amusella@egsd.net 917-363-3146
Dr. Brian Ricca, Superintendent of Schools @ bricca@egsd.net 401-398-1201