



Pocono Mountain School District News Release

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Date: February 12, 2020
Release #: 02-02-2020

Pocono Mountain SD reaches contract agreement for Support Staff employees

POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT, Swiftwater, Pa. – The Pocono Mountain School District Board of Education has reached a contract agreement for Support Staff employees with the Pocono Mountain Education Support Professionals Association today, February 12, 2020.

The new five-year contract provides for annual increases of 3% pay raises for all support staff employees with career and grandfathered employees receiving an additional .5% annually. Support staff members also received an additional paid holiday for Columbus Day. Offsetting these increases will be the additional cost sharing by each support staff member toward their health care coverage.

“This has been a very long and difficult contract negotiation process,” said Rusty Johnson, Board President. “The Board recognizes the impact the new contract will have on the District’s Student Transportation Service employees and included additional compensation for the bus drivers and vehicle mechanics who will be impacted by contracting out transportation.”

The new contract agreement allows the District to move forward with contracting out Student Transportation Services estimated to save the District more than \$4 million annually. The contract includes a provision for any bus driver or vehicle mechanic who loses their position as a result of contracting out Student Transportation Services to receive \$5,000 compensation as long as they remain with the District until the end of the school year. The contract also provides for three months of continued medical insurance from July 1 ending September 30 at the employee’s coverage level for those bus drivers and vehicle mechanics who continue with the District until the end of the school year. Both provisions are contingent upon employees meeting attendance parameters established in contract.

“The Board feels this is a fair and generous contract for the support staff,” said Rusty Johnson, Board President. “Each side had to make concessions to come to an agreement that will help us move forward as a District. This agreement demonstrates to our support staff members that the Board values their role in providing for a healthy and safe school environment for all of our students.”

The new contract is effective retroactively as of July 1, 2019 and will be in effect until June 30, 2024.

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