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**HISTORIC AGREEMENT PROVIDES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS
TO TEACHERS' SALARIES, PLANNING TIME**

Over half of teachers to get 5% raise, teachers at top get \$2,000 increase

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL -- In a landmark tentative agreement settled in the early morning hours of April 25, 2017, the Broward Teachers Union and Broward County Public Schools agreed on perhaps the highest raises for teachers in the state for the 2016-2017 school year, as well as numerous wins for teachers on planning time and evaluations.

The BTU negotiations team, led by Chief Negotiator Anna Fusco, reached a 3-year contract with economic re-openers for year 2 and 3. The tentative agreement will be voted on by the BTU bargaining unit members next week.

After both BTU and the School Board have ratified the contract, increases will be added to paychecks with pay retroactive to July 1, 2016.

The teams agreed to return to the bargaining table within 2 weeks of ratification to work on the 2017-2018 raises, with the intent to reach agreement on increases for the 2017-18 school year before classes start in August.

Highlights of the tentative agreement include raises for teachers on grandfathered salary schedule as follows:

- 3 percent for teachers on levels B through D
- 5 percent for teachers on levels E through M
- 4 percent for teachers on levels N through S
- A \$2,000 raise for teachers at the two highest levels, T and U

Annual contract (AC) teachers who are rated Highly Effective will receive a 5.1 percent raise, while AC teachers rated Effective will receive a 3 percent raise.

Additional wins involve more teacher preplanning days without any scheduled activities, an increase in the number of workdays teachers have to produce lesson plans when asked and the ability to submit them electronically, improvements to when and how teachers can be evaluated and remedies for grieving evaluations, increased job opportunities for Highly Effective teachers who are surplus from their school at the end of the year, and final decisions for evaluations will now be made by the Broward Teachers Union President and the Superintendent instead of school district administrators.

In addition, the two parties created a labor management *Collaborative Education Project* to address high caseloads for school social workers, SLPs, ESE specialists, school psychologists and school counselors as well as to address interruption to teacher planning time and prep time

“The Broward Teachers Union is thrilled to have achieved a 5 percent raise for over half the teachers in Broward, a 3 to 4 percent raise for our Annual Contract teachers and a \$2,000 increase for our most veteran teachers at the top of the scale,” said BTU President Anna Fusco. “It was clear from the start that the school district was negotiating in good faith. We listened to our members, and our negotiating team worked with fidelity and determination to ensure that the negotiations’ outcome would benefit teachers in all the areas that they said are important to them. We are extremely pleased with the outcome and anticipate that teachers will unanimously ratify the contract next week.”

The Broward Teachers Union represents all Broward County teachers, education support personal, technical support personnel and Pembroke Pines Charter employees, and has nearly 11,000 members.

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