

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Raises approved for Agua Fria teachers

By Dennis Runyan
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Avondale, AZ -

At their March 21, 2018 meeting, the Agua Fria Union High School District Governing Board approved a 3.75% raise for teachers and a \$1,435 increase to teacher base salaries. The District will also provide additional teachers and sections in order to reduce class sizes as well as a number of other teacher incentives including, but not limited to, an increase in substitute teacher pay, teacher retention stipends, health insurance incentives and an increase to the hourly rate of pay for teachers performing work in a professional capacity outside of the classroom. This generous increase for the 2018-2019 school year is possible due to the November 2017 passage of the District's Maintenance and Operations Override, which authorized the additional funding to be used for teacher compensation, class size reductions and technology. Superintendent Dr. Dennis Runyan said, "We are extremely appreciative of the community's support in providing the additional funding making these enhancements possible for teachers." The Maintenance and Operations Override is authorized for five years, beginning to sunset in years 6 and 7 if not reauthorized by the community.

Agua Fria teachers will also see slight increases in their Proposition 301 performance pay, which is a funding source outside of that provided by the Override. The Governing Board also approved a 3.75% raise for District administrators and support staff and an increase in coaching stipends.

The recommendations resulted from a Meet and Confer process utilized annually by the District in which a committee comprised of staff members representing a cross-section of all employee groups meet to analyze projected revenues and expenses for the coming year and develop recommendations related to salaries and benefits. This year's Meet and Confer Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis since December. Sheila Sorenson, Executive Director for Human Resources and a co-facilitator of the Meet and Confer Committee stated, "I'm so proud of our Meet and Confer team for their professional advocacy for every single employee and for their willingness to think outside-of-the-box with regard to the total compensation package. I'm also grateful to our Governing Board for honoring the recommendations and respecting the process."

Agua Fria Union High School District, located in the Southwest Valley, serves more than 8,000 students in four high schools and one non-traditional high school. The District prides itself on excelling schools, award-winning teachers, high test scores, and championship sports programs. The Vision of the Agua Fria Union High School District is "All Students College and Career Ready." For more information, visit the district's website at www.aguafria.org.

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