



## Dunlap teachers, district reach tentative deal

Dunlap started school year without a contract

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**Journal Star**

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DUNLAP — A tentative agreement has been reached in contract negotiations between the Dunlap teachers' union and the Dunlap School District.

The teachers started the school year Aug. 16 without a contract.

"Through a collaborative effort and a commitment to maintaining Dunlap's educational leadership, both parties are satisfied that a fair contract has been negotiated for the Dunlap Education Association and the Dunlap School District," read a statement attributed to Superintendent Jay Marino and Machele Seiver, the president of the teachers union.

Details of the agreement were not disclosed.

The two sides first met last April with the previous three-year contract set to expire July 1. They met every couple of weeks during the next couple of months, but then summer arrived and it became difficult to schedule meetings when all participants could attend. The group made it a point to meet only when everybody could be there.

Both sides reported last week that the discussions continued to be amicable and productive and they hoped an agreement would be reached soon, perhaps as soon as the next scheduled meeting on Sept. 8.

The sides met from 5 until 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, when the tentative agreement was reached.

Part of the discussion has centered on creating a fair contract in difficult economic times, even though Dunlap is not experiencing the same kind of budget challenges common in area school districts. Dunlap not only didn't find teacher layoffs necessary as some districts have, it hired an additional 12 to 15 teachers this school year, some of them part time. A high school addition opened up after Labor Day, and the district plans a referendum on the November ballot to raise money to build a new grade school.

The three-year contract approved by the School Board in August 2007 included salary increases of between \$2,400 and \$3,400 (depending on the teacher's level of education) during each of the first two years and a 5 percent increase in the third year. It also, for the first time, put in place procedures for teachers to call into question their class size in the growing school district.

A vote on the tentative agreement by the 170-plus members of the union has not yet been scheduled. If approved by the teachers, it would then have to be approved by the Dunlap Board of Education. Marino said that process will take an estimated one to four weeks before the contract is official.

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Comments (11)

Stomper

13 hours ago

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Thank goodness the district came to its senses and reached an agreement with the union.

whochemama

13 hours ago

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Report Abuse

Thank goodness the union came to its senses and reached an agreement with the district. This is something that will never happen. It is always the other way around. Some people think the taxpayers have deep pockets, deserve to get bent over and reamed and the 'righteous' union workers deserve every penny they earn.

Whoberto  
13 hours ago  
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A 7K raise and then a 5% increase the third year?!!???

So some kid can graduate and not know when to use the words 'then' and 'than'? The world has gone crazy.

We should have blown the Middle East off the map when we had the chance.

I can't help but think Ray LaHood had something to do with this!

IL86  
4 hours ago  
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May the union and teacher bashing begin! For those of us without sour grapes... congrats to the Dunlap board and teachers for working together on a fair contract.

oftenrunning52  
4 hours ago  
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It's too bad that very few of you have any clue what you're talking about. There is very little animosity in Dunlap over this. An inability to find time during the summer is what caused this to be dragged into the school year. Dunlap is a growing district with a growing tax base. As it transitions from a rural school district to a suburban one, the pay scale needs to reflect that change as well and this contract, along with the last one, is a step in that direction. Dunlap students certainly know the difference between 'then' and 'than' given their test scores on various assessments.

Whoberto- what do your last two statements have to do with anything?

Y  
4 hours ago  
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The city needs to start buying property in Dunlap. Then they can offer free housing to its crack dealers and gangsters. That should help with freeing up some budget dollars for the city and district 150.

Stomper  
3 hours ago  
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Actually the City of Peoria needs to start approving some multi-family zoning for subsidized housing projects in the Dunlap school district. It isn't fair for the City to have approved such zoning only in areas serviced by Peoria District 150 (the lone exception possibly being the subsidized housing behind Gander Mountain which might be in the Dunlap district).

The City needs to start locating some of what-is-viewed-as-problem housing in the Dunlap school areas. OR ELSE!

oftenrunning52

3 hours ago

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OR ELSE what? Are you declaring war on the city of Peoria until they start shipping the undesirables out of the city. Very open-minded of you.

Stomper

2 hours ago

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Areas of the Dunlap school district are IN the City of Peoria. This would not be shipping anyone out of the city. It would only be not practicing de facto segregation by allowing zoning only for certain areas when it comes to high-density multi-family housing.

Dunlap Mom

1 hour ago

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Cheers to both the union and school district for working out this agreement. Dunlap students come out of this district with excellent skills and credentials because the teachers, administrators and parents all work together for the good of the students.

www.oscrecruiting.com

38 minutes ago

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Union bashing is just that, Union bashing. Unions merely bargain collectively to improve working conditions, wages, and protect members just cause rights.

Unions do not establish curriculum, tell board members how to run their schools or administrators how they can or cannot implement strategic educational policy.

The focus needs to be on how to motivate students, parents, and the community to achieve academic excellence, and the rewards academic excellence can lead to. Things like economic empowerment, job opportunities, career development, and personal growth.

This has been the goal of education since it's inception. This is why some parents and segments of society actively promote educational opportunities to their children because they understand the true value of academic achievement.

Parents who do not hold these same values for their children are short changing them, and their children enter the public schools already behind the eight ball.

One needs to compare the values parents have in regards to the importance academic success is to them and their children. In simple terms, parents who value academic achievement as a means to improve their childrens lives and economic opportunities tend to produce students who perform well in educational settings.

On the other hand, parents who don't see any real value in education or learning in general tend to produce students who do poorly in the same setting.

Again, this has nothing to do with a Union, if it did, I would be the first one to say let's outlaw Unions in education.

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