

Winston School Board Votes To Increase Teacher Salaries **News**

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The Winston School board voted to increase the base salary for teachers and hired faculty and staff during their meeting Monday.

The board approved a \$500 increase to the Certified Teacher Salary Schedule base. This increases the school's salary schedule base to \$26,500. The board also approved an equivalent 2.85 percent increase to all non-certified staff and certified employees not on the salary schedule. In executive session, the board hired the following personnel: Derek Sharp for the summer custodian position, teacher Jen Lewendowski and paraprofessional Barb Malone for extended school year instruction, Stacy Gilson of Kansas City as the Art Instructor, Zachary Keller of Festus as the Band/Music Instructor and Angela McDaniel of Fulton as the K-12 Counselor for the next school year.

The school board offered extra duty letters of intent in the following positions: Tim Harding as Varsity Boys Basketball, Michelle Moore as Varsity Track Assistant, Wayne Alexander as Junior High Track, Brenda Pliley - Junior High Track Assistant, Zachary Keller as Girls Softball Assistant, Eric Lewis as Boys Softball, Jill West as Boys Softball Assistant, Zachary Keller as Music, Jacklyn Hunsucker as Elementary Student Council, and Zachary Keller as Cross Country.

Boy Scout Logan Caldwell presented an idea for his Eagle Scout Project to the board. Logan presented the school board with a proposal to rebuild the columns at the end of the front walk that were built by the classes of 1929 and 1930 and have fallen into disrepair in recent years.

Cher Stith addressed the school board about cheerleading.

Tim Harding addressed the school board about basketball coaching.

Discussions were held on the preliminary 2013-2014 school budget. Currently the state is predicted to only fund the school foundation formula at 94 percent. This is an increase from the 92 percent level that the state education foundation formula was funded at this year but still \$620 million short of being fully funded.

The board approved the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Model Compliance Plan. Adopting the plan ensures that the schools policies, procedures, and programs are consistent with the state's policies established under applicable Federal regulations.

The board discussed and tabled any action related to the current school board vacancy.

The board approved the addition of Cross Country as a fall sport for the next two school years in both Junior High and High School.

Superintendent Brian Robinson reported the final step in the school's A+ designation has been completed. The Missouri State Board of Education approved the Winston R-VI School District's A+ designation during their regularly scheduled meeting on April 16, 2013.

The Food Service Validation Review of the school food service program was conducted on April 23. Schools go through a validation review as part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The validation process includes the review of breakfast and lunch menus, production records, standardized recipes and labels for the week of review and the week that was submitted for certification. The review was found to be satisfactory with no further action required.

The Village of Winston has passed a traffic ordinance establishing a school zone with a speed limit of 15 miles per hour in front of the school. They will be getting signs put up in the future.

Maintenance projects for this summer include: instillation of new lighting, working on locker rooms, refinishing hall and classroom floors, painting hallways and classrooms mowing, fixing the preschool water pressure issue, improving drainage around gym basement, playground improvements, cleaning out storage areas, and a myriad of other small projects.

Robinson also reported on the recently completed legislative session in Jefferson City. The House and Senate approved the 2014 budget and it has been sent to the governor. The budget for elementary and secondary education includes an increase of almost \$66 million to the foundation formula over last year. With this increase, the formula is underfunded by approximately \$620 million. Transportation funding stayed level from last year at almost \$100 million. In order for the state to reimburse transportation expenses at the 75 percent level, it would require an additional \$167 million. Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) received \$1 million. There are nine centers throughout the state that provide professional development opportunities to educators in every school district. RPDCs haven't received state funding since 2010.

Teacher retirement benefits under the Public School Retirement System were passed by the House and Senate resulting in a permanent extension of the 25 and out provision but only a one-year extension of the 2.55 multiplier. Those benefits, which are established in state statute, allow employees to retire with a reduced benefit after working for twenty-five years in public schools. The other benefit allows employees that work thirty-one years or more to receive an enhanced benefit (the 2.55 multiplier) in their retirement calculation. Both of these were provisions of law that were set to expire on June 30, 2013. Together these two provisions would lower the normal cost of the retirement system by over \$11 million.