



News Release

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Center Grove Board Adds Funds to Stipend to Cover Award Shortfall

Greenwood, IN (December 13, 2014) – Center Grove Community School Corporation's (CGCSC) Board of School Trustees approved a proposal to add funds to the planned stipend for teachers at a special board meeting held on Saturday, December 13, 2014. Other employees who qualify will also receive the increased stipend.

The funds were added to make up for the shortfall created by the lower than anticipated State Performance Award and the added distribution parameters for that award. Last year, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) estimated Center Grove's award would be approximately \$370,000. The Collective Bargaining Agreement for teachers was based on a \$350,000 award. When the grant was awarded earlier this month, the total was \$286,181.44, which is more than \$83,000 less than the state's estimate. The state also added the expectation that each school's award be paid only to that school's teachers.

In order to comply with both the distribution instructions for the performance award and the stipend amounts outlined in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement, the CGCSC Board will allocate additional funds from the Cash Balance account. The additional funds will increase the average amount of the stipend for teachers from 1.5 percent to 2.04 percent. The board approved a proposal in September to pay qualified staff and administrators a stipend comparable to the teacher stipend. Both payouts require approximately \$240,459 be paid from the Cash Balance account.

"While it is frustrating that this year's School Performance Award was less than the estimate we initially received from the state, I'm glad the board had the funds available to cover both the shortage and additional money necessary to meet the state's new distribution request," said Scott Alexander, board president.

"This situation put our board in a tough position," said Dr. Rich Arkanoff, superintendent. "But we sincerely appreciate their decision to approve the additional money needed to satisfy both the state and our commitment to our teachers."

"With the performance grant coming in under estimates and the conflicting opinions on how we can distribute the money, UTACG is thankful our administrators and board members were willing to make up the shortage and then some to ensure our teachers will receive the stipends previously

bargained," said Katie Hoffmann, president of United Teachers' Association of Center Grove. "Their willingness to reward our hard-working staff is welcomed and appreciated."

In September, the Board approved a new one-year master teacher contract which included the highest salary increase in more than 10 years. The contract included an average salary increase of 2.57 percent, along with payment of the stipend. Most staff members in all other employee groups also received a salary increase of 2.57 percent and payment of the stipend.

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