

Agreement lets RCSD wrap up one more labor issue

Justin Murphy

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

The Rochester school board Thursday approved a new five-year contract with its principals and administrators union, another step toward resolving its labor relations backlog.

The contract with the Administrators and Supervisors Association of Rochester (ASAR) includes retroactive 2.5% pay raises for the past three years, including the current year, when the union has been without a contract. It also has 3% annual raises for the next two years and ends in June 2024.

“Our administrators inspire our scholars, engage families and community, and support, develop and encourage our staff,” Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small said in a statement. “I am pleased that we have come to an agreement that honors and respects our ASAR members.”

The ASAR deal is RCSD’s third labor agreement in as many months. In July it signed a one-year extension of the Rochester Teachers Association’s current contract and in August it signed a three-year contract with its non-educators’ union, BENTE.

RTA and ASAR are the dominant unions in RCSD, and district negotiators approached the bargaining table with some hesitancy. The district did not want to factor its federal stimulus windfall into its financial position for the purposes of negotiating a contract, while the unions felt it needed to share the wealth.

Unlike teachers, administrators do not receive annual raises when no contract is signed, meaning ASAR members had gone without a pay increase for several years.

The relationship was strained earlier this month when Superintendent Lesli Myers-Small directed principals to inform their own families that some students might need to start the year remotely rather than having the call go out from central office. Principals objected, saying Myers-Small should communicate the bad news herself.

There also have been a series of departures of high-profile principals from the district recently, including longtime athletic director and Enrico Fermi School 17 Principal Carlos Cotto and Anna Murray Douglass Academy School 12 Principal John Gonzalez.

“We are grateful to have reached an accord for our members after several years without a contract,” ASAR President John Rowe said in a statement. “We will continue to collaborate with the District on their priorities and ensure that students are served at the highest level possible.”

Contact staff writer Justin Murphy at jmurphy7@gannett.com.

[Copyright © 2021 Democrat and Chronicle 9/25/2021](#)

[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)
