Plummer-Worley Joint School District No. 44

Board of Trustees

Negotiations Session – June 28, 2022

Record of Proceedings

Present for the District was Paul Daman and Tami Gauthier

Present for PWEA was Jennifer Gates and Jennifer MacMillan

Also present was Karyn Stockdale, Marcia Hoffman, Sara Allen, Tony Vandever, Char Blakley, and Denise Cobden.

Meeting started at 7:38 a.m.

Jenn Gates advised Jennifer MacMillan is the new PWEA president and will be taking Diana Wick's place at the table. She stated inflation is at 8.5 percent across the United States, but the district has a lot of expenses that have increased astronomically as well. The increases filter down to the consumers without a way to offset. Good teachers teach for the kids and that's why they chose the career they did. We need to keep up with inflation or we will lose teachers to other districts or other careers. PWEA proposed a 4.5 percent increase.

Paul agrees inflation is a factor and the district doesn't want to lose teachers. As stated last meeting, the district is robbing Peter to pay Paul and that comes at a cost. In the interest of trying to get this wrapped up today, which is important, the district is willing to offer a 3.5 percent increase. He asked PWEA to understand that anything it does is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

PWEA caucused at 7:43 a.m.

Returned from caucus at 8:00 a.m.

Jenn Gates stated PWEA appreciates the partnership and recognizes the movement the district has made. While the teachers expected more and the governor stated there would be a ten percent increase in funding, they realize that wasn't actually what happened in regard to funding for salaries. That being said, PWEA is willing to accept the 3.5 percent increase offered by the district. PWEA is more than willing to help with the levy. PWEA hopes that in the future, the salaries are able to be competitive with other districts.

Paul Daman said he has always been for paying teachers but need support from the state and local. Jenn Gates stated people need to be in our district to see the children and amazing teachers and what is truly happening in the district.

Russ Mitchell stated the district will put them in contact with those people who are supporting the levy. This isn't a function of the district.