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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Bentonville Schools Board of Education Approves Staff Bonus *District will allocate \$1.6 million to award one-time payout to all employees***

#### **At a Glance**

- Special Board Meeting held on Monday, November 23
- 1.2% one-time payout, not to exceed \$1,000, on December 17 paycheck
- Bonus paid to all active employees of Bentonville Schools
- Token of appreciation for extraordinary work performed by staff in trying 2020

**Bentonville, Ark.**—November 23, 2020—The Bentonville Schools Board of Education has unanimously approved the reallocation of \$1.6 million to fund teacher and staff bonuses. The bonus represents a 1.2% payout of the employee’s annual contract, not to exceed \$1,000. The lump sum bonus will appear on the employee’s December 17, 2020 paycheck.

“When you go into our schools, you don’t see a defeated work force. Their chins are up and they’re strong. They don’t do this work for a bonus payout, but I’m honored we are able to provide it. This bonus is a small portion of what they deserve right now,” said Eric White, President of the Bentonville Schools Board of Education.

While some budgets, such as custodial, have increased in the District. Others, such as substitute teacher pay, have decreased. The District also recently came in under budget in its planning of the 13<sup>th</sup> elementary school by \$2.7 million. After careful review of the District’s financial health, there are no reservations in the funding of this vote.

“Nothing about 2020 has felt routine. Our teachers and staff, like grocery store employees, nurses and so many others, have set aside their concerns for personal safety to facilitate some sense of normalcy for our 18,000 students,” said Bentonville Schools Superintendent Dr. Debbie Jones.

“I’m grateful the Board of Education wanted to take this step for our staff,” she concluded.

#### **Interview Opportunities**

Eric White  
President, Bentonville Schools Board of Education  
479.553.7049

Pete Madsen  
English Teacher, Bentonville West High

573.680.6295

Lori Knight  
Teacher, Centerton Gamble Elementary  
870.377.0911

Marisa Snow  
Counselor, Ruth Barker Middle School  
479.644.0556

***About Bentonville Schools***

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas serving more than 18,000 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Twenty-three schools, spanning more than 140 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit **[district.bentonvillek12.org](http://district.bentonvillek12.org)**

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