

## **Teachers and District Reach Five Year Contract Agreement**

*GOLDEN, CO, May 10, 2016* – Jeffco Public Schools and the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA) have come to a tentative five-year agreement. Though the agreement will need ratification by the JCEA this week and the Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education in early June to be official, both sides are optimistic the agreement will be approved by both boards.

“I think the length of the agreement is a testament to the strength of the contract,” said Superintendent Dan McMinimee, “both parties feel stability is important and this negotiation has gone well. My staff worked hard, the Board gave as much to compensation as possible, and JCEA was understanding of district limits. It all came together.”

“Our team worked hard to do what was best for teachers and students,” added John Ford, JCEA President.

For the 2016-17 school year the Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education has committed \$2 million for Colorado Public Employees’ Retirement Association (PERA) increases, \$14.1 million in on-going compensation increases, and \$10.4 million in one-year compensation increases.

“We want our school district to have competitive pay to keep the best employees. A cost of a 1% increase to all our district employees is about \$5.2 million a year,” explained Board President Ron Mitchell, “so with our limited funds the board gave them all we could but we wish it was more, and more on an on-going basis. School funding continues to be a challenge.”

In 2010 Jeffco Public Schools employees agreed to a 3% pay cut to help with budget shortfalls and there have been increasing employee health care premiums for the last 13 years. These situations combined with state funding shortfalls have led to below-market salaries in the district. This agreement works towards closing that gap.

The JCEA agreement includes a Master Negotiated Agreement with a five-year term; a salary schedule for teachers and placement of all teachers back on the salary schedule; step movement for teachers who are effective in the classroom and who currently make less than the top pay Jeffco will be offering new hires; and one-time dollars in the fall for more veteran teachers who will not receive a step.

### **About Jeffco Public Schools**

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 60 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco school. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district serves over 86,000 students at 154 schools on 168 campuses. Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).





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## *Press Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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