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## Teachers' raises higher than disclosed

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Most teachers in a Palatine-based elementary school district will receive an average salary increase well above the disclosed base rate in the contract approved this week, according to contract documents.

The three-year contract between Community Consolidated School District 15 and members of the Classroom Teachers Council replaces one that expired Aug. 31.

School board members voted 4-3 last week to approve the contract, which calls for base pay increases of a little more than 2 percent for each of the three years. On Monday, union members voted to accept the contract by about a 2-1 margin.

Only about 150 of the district's 772 teachers and staff members who are in the union will receive just the base pay increases this school year, however.

About 600 teachers and staff members will receive raises of at least 5 percent during the first year, often closer to 6 percent, depending on their years of employment, the contract shows.

The district said it won't release details of the raises in the second and third years until the contract is signed, but board trustee Tim Millar, who voted against the contract, said it provides average salary increases of about 4.7 percent a year, for a total of more than 14 percent over three years.

"It doesn't afford us room to bring in any more programs or staff," he said.

In the 2005-06 school year, the average teacher received a pay increase of more than 7 percent, with some receiving almost 16 percent, according to the school district. The top salary for teachers in the district will be about \$94,000 this year.

The school year will be cut from 185 days this year to 183 days in the 2008-09 school

year.

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