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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Methacton School Board Approves Early Bird Contract with Methacton Education Association

Agreement improves district competitiveness for high-quality teachers

October 25, 2022 (Eagleville, PA) – Following a vote of 6-0, the Methacton School District Board of School Directors approved an amendment to collective bargaining agreementⁱ between the Methacton School District and the Methacton Education Association dated July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024, and to further extend the collective bargaining agreement through June 30, 2026. The amended agreementⁱⁱ increases the annual starting salary for professional staff from \$49,000 to \$60,000 over the next three years. The new salary schedule will take effect beginning December 1, 2022.

“This agreement reflects the Board’s commitment to our teachers and their role in delivering an exceptional education for our students,” said board president Elizabeth Drummond. “It allows our district to be more competitive in attracting and retaining the best talent.”

Like many school districts in our region and across the nation, Methacton School District has experienced a shortage of available teachers. Fewer college students are choosing education as a major, leading to smaller numbers of new teachers entering the fieldⁱⁱⁱ. This has led to an increasingly competitive labor market for educators. The agreement will shrink the gap of Methacton starting salaries and provide substantial increases to offset the nearly \$7,000 to \$10,000 pay differential that currently exists.

“With the ratification of an extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, MEA would like to thank the Methacton School District Board of Directors for their role in finalizing this agreement. Additionally, we want to thank Dr. Zerbe and Mr. Regina for their substantial time spent working towards this agreement,” said MEA co-presidents Christopher Lloyd and Anthony Haley. “We believe that the investment that Methacton has made in their professional staff will serve to improve morale as well as help MSD retain their staff in an increasingly competitive educational environment. This agreement is the result of many open conversations over long hours, and we thank the MSD administration for their commitment to this process. We believe that this contract extension reflects a renewed commitment to the professional staff at MSD and are thankful that we could reach this agreement prior to the expiration of our current collective bargaining agreement. Our members look to continue the tradition of excellence with which Methacton has become synonymous.”

Methacton School District routinely sees tax increases well below the Act 1 Index. As such, while Methacton realizes one of the lowest school tax levies in the county^{iv}, the marketplace along with the shrinking labor pool requires measures like this to best position our district in supporting our community's high educational standards.

To finance this agreement, the Board estimates the need for a tax increase for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This would result in an approximately \$154.01 tax increase for a property with an assessed value of \$174,400. In years three and four, the estimated tax increase is projected to be much lower around the 1.5 to 2 percent range.

This agreement supports the strategies outlined in the district's strategic plan^v to prioritize an improvement in the district's competitive attractiveness.

ABOUT METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Methacton School District is an exemplary student-focused and community-centered public school district that prepares learners to meet the demands of our evolving world. The District wants every student to have the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 31.7 square miles in Lower Providence Township and Worcester Township and serves approximately 4,600 students in four elementary schools (K-4), one upper elementary school (5-6), one intermediate school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Methacton School District, call (610) 489-5000 or visit www.methacton.org

ⁱ [MEA Agreement Infographic](#)

ⁱⁱ [Presentation: Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) (October 18, 2022)

ⁱⁱⁱ PDE: "[The Foundation of Our Economy: Pennsylvania Educator Workforce Strategy 2022-2025](#)"; Pg. 9

^{iv} [Millage Chart](#) (Excerpt from June 15, 2022 Budget Presentation)

^v [Strategic Plan](#)