C'ville teachers reach labor accord

By Dan Vecchioni
staff writer

A new, one-year contract containing a 5-percent raise was agreed to last week by the Clarenceville Board of Education and its 102 teachers.

The board officially endorsed the contract at its meeting Thursday. The teachers, represented by the Clarenceville Education Association, ratified the contract by a 7-to-1 margin a day earlier.

"I think it was a very equitable agreement," said Robert Wolf, a Clarenceville High School teacher and president of the CEA. "We received as much money as was available for us." Teachers last year accepted a wage freeze, he said.

"Our teachers were very fair to the community," superintendent David McDowell said. "The board also tried to be fair with the money it had."

Both McDowell and Wolf agreed that the increase was made possible this year because of a new state aid bill for schools which enabled Clarenceville to collect about $240,000 more than last year.

"IF THE STATE aid bill had not gone through, we would not have got the raise," Wolf said. "Also, if student enrollment hadn't stayed about the same, we would not have got the raise." State aid is calculated on the basis of student enrollment.

Starting salaries under the new contract are $15,350 for teachers with a bachelor's degree and $16,575 for teachers with a master's, McDowell said. After 10 years, teachers with a bachelor's degree will earn $25,218 and teachers with a master's $30,249.

About 90 of Clarenceville's teachers are at the top of the range in the bachelor's and master's categories, Wolf said.

McDowell said Clarenceville teachers earn somewhat less than their counterparts in other districts in Oakland and Wayne counties. (Clarenceville represents both counties since it takes in parts of Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington Hills.)

In Oakland County, where Clarenceville teachers' salaries rank 20th out of 28 school districts, the average mean salary for starting teachers with a bachelor's degree is $15,364 and with a master's $16,778, McDowell said. The maximums are $27,587 and $31,855, respectively.

In Wayne County, he said, the average mean salary for starting teachers with a bachelor's degree is $16,482 and with a master's $18,351. The maximums are $28,553 and $33,378, respectively.

FRINGE BENEFITS and other items were left unchanged in the new contract which is retroactive to Aug. 29, Wolf said. During negotiations, teachers worked under the terms of the previous contract, he added.

The length of the new contract matches that set by previous contracts, McDowell said.

"We've been writing nothing but one-year contracts through the financial crisis," he said. "The last five contracts have been one-year contracts. It's hard to project into the future what kind of revenues we'll have next year. So to remain solvent, we only agreed to a one-year contract."

McDowell said the CEA contract settlement was the first in the school district for the 1983-84 year. Other groups requiring contracts include the Michigan Education Support Personnel Association, representing custodians, cafeteria workers and bus drivers, and the Secretarial-Clerical Association.

"The CEA contract generally sets the tone for the others," McDowell said.

Clarenceville administrators also have not received raises as yet for the 1983-84 year, he added.

Beware of fake firefighters

Several men posing as firefighters claiming they represent the Farmington Hills Fire Department have been soliciting donations from area merchants. But city fire officials want merchants to know they are not backing the imposters.

"We don't like them implying they are with the Farmington Hills Fire Department," said Lt. Richard Marinucci.

Although some of the merchants contacted by the imposters were quick to call the fire department for verification, at least one merchant gave a $50 donation, Marinucci said.

In the sales pitch, Marinucci said, the imposters apparently implied to merchants that if they did not make a donation, fire protection would be withheld.

"We want people not to feel obligated to give," Marinucci said. "The money is not associated with the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

Although some firefighter's associations and unions do solicit donations, the Hills firefighters are not involved in those activities, Marinucci added.

In fact, any organization or group that wishes to ask for donations from merchants must be registered with the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

"They are supposed to go there for a letter of approval," Marinucci said.

Jodi Soronen, chamber executive director, said that no one associated with any firefighter's associations have registered with the chamber lately.

So Marinucci is asking merchants to contact the fire department at 553-0740 or the Farmington Hills Police Department at 474-6181 if they are asked to donate money to a firefighter's organization.

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Emphasis upon skill-training in assertiveness, stress management, attitude change, improving self-image, identifying and expressing emotions, and improving family relationships. Twelve weekly sessions beginning Monday, January 16, 1984, from 6-8 PM and Wednesday, January 18, 1984, from 6-8 PM.

Enrollment in each of the above groups will be limited. A flat-rate initial interview fee will be assessed to each participant, but weekly fees will be based upon a sliding fee schedule.

In addition to the above-noted groups, the Psychology Clinic routinely provides individual and conjoint psychotherapy in the treatment of a broad spectrum of psychological problems. Smoking Cessation and Weight Reduction groups are also available. Services are not limited to the student population, and fees are based upon a sliding schedule.

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