

Teacher Pacts: One Ratified, 5 Elections Set, 2 Unsettled

Teachers have ratified a new contract in only one of eight Okemuncie school districts as of today.

Five other school boards have reached agreements with teachers bargaining teams, but the teachers themselves must vote yet.

In two school districts -- Plymouth and Wayne -- no contract settlement has been reached, and the sides are far apart.

Here is a district-by-district report:

REDFORD UNION Education Association members Thursday gave 87-22 approval for a new two-year contract.

They voted a modified agency shop clause. New teachers will be required to join the union, but tenure teachers will have a choice.

Salaries and the agency shop clause will be renegotiated next year.

CLARENCEVILLE Education Association will vote Tuesday on a proposed one-year contract that will raise salaries an estimated 10.4 per cent.

A 22-hour bargaining session ended early last Tuesday morning, resulting in the proposed settlement. Some 190 teachers will be covered.

Salaries for a bachelor's degree range from \$7,400 for a beginner to \$11,700 after 11 years. For a master's degree, the range will be \$7,900 to \$12,900 after 11 years.

FARMINGTON teachers -- 500 strong -- cheered news Thursday morning that a one-year agreement had been reached that will give them a 10 per cent pay hike.

The FEC, whose total membership is 700, won't vote until Sept. 6, but ratification seems likely at this point.

Salary ranges from a B.A. will be \$7,450 to \$12,050 for an M.A., \$8,050 to \$12,850 -- both in 10 years.

LIVONIA teachers will vote Tuesday on a proposed one-year pact negotiated last week by the school board and the LEA.

Class size will be reduced by 0.5 to a 29:1 pupil-teacher ratio. The agency shop was retained, but the LEA failed to win binding arbitration.

Salary range will be \$7,500 for a beginning B.A. to \$13,900 for an M.A. with 10 years experience.

The previous contract expired June 30, but there was no summer school this year because of a rejected wage proposal.

The contract would run from Sept. 3 until Aug. 14 of 1970.

SOUTH HAVORD teachers will vote Tuesday on a proposed one-year contract negotiated by the school board and the SREA.

It would provide a starting salary of \$7,500 for teachers with a B.A.

PLYMOUTH teachers and the school board were reported far apart as of Thursday, with more bargaining sessions scheduled for Friday and the weekend.

Teachers are scheduled to report Tuesday for work, and classes are to begin Thursday. The Plymouth Education Association members haven't decided, however, whether to go to work without a contract in case no contract can be written by then.

Bargaining was stalled for most of the summer until voters approved a 6.5 mill property tax package.

GARDEN CITY teachers will vote Tuesday on a one-year contract proposal. The school board is scheduled to give its approval Monday night.

Wayne is the area's problem district. Most major issues are unresolved -- class size, salaries, agency shop and so on. The two sides are reported to be \$500 to \$550 apart on pay.

Three years ago, the Wayne district, which covers the south part of Westland, saw a four-day strike. Last year the union ratified a one-year pact on the first day of classes.



KENNETH F. RICHTER has been named manager of City National Bank of Detroit's Schoolcraft-Telegraph office.

Richter started with CNB in 1959 as a teller. He later served as a head teller and an assistant branch manager before being named manager of City National's Redford Township office.

Modern Decorations Utilize Louver Doors

Louver doors are leading a high-fashion life in modern homes.

Long considered "standard" for Colonial houses, wood louver doors have bridged the generational gap to become equally popular for contemporary styling.

In new homes and remodeling, as closet doors, connecting doors, room dividers and privacy screens.

The slim lines and open-slat design of louvers were a natural entry to modern decor which stresses the "textured" look.

asa pine are also available as folding and sliding units, with special tracks and hardware for easy operation. Sliding units require no floor clearance.

Folding doors which open and close in accordian fashion, need minimal clearance. Both styles free wall space for flexible furniture arrangement. They are especially practical for bedrooms and halls, where floor space is limited.

All ponderosa pine louver doors come in stock sizes at local lumber dealers and building supply stores. The doors are available with full or partial louvers (slats in the top half, a closed wood panel in the bottom). They can be painted any color, or simply stained or varnished.

IN ADDITION to their visual appeal, louver doors have the advantage of versatility. They're suitable for informal kitchens, formal dining rooms, or as connecting doors between the two.

As screens, the louvers let in air, but screen out light, hide clutter, and permit privacy.

As closet doors, and in high-humidity areas, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry room, ventilation provided by louvers combats odors, staleness and mildew.

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Lumberman Is Gardener's Ally

Go to a lumber mill when planning your garden? No, you won't find a bloom's plant. But sawdust from your local saw mill operator can decrease maintenance requirements and give unity to your landscape.

"Inexpensive sawdust can be used as a 'common denominator' to relate individual flowers, shrubs, and trees together for a single pleasing effect," says Joseph Cox, extension specialist in landscape architecture at Michigan State University.

"Spreading sawdust over the soil among your plants forms a unifying background," he says.

"It acts as a guide leading the eye from a focal point to the complementary flora. The focal point may be a single plant or tree or an artificial piece such as a sculpture or birdbath," he explains. "The complementary elements may be massed flowers, groups of shrubs, or any other less dominant arrangement."

SAWDUST also provides an aesthetically pleasing contrast.

"The contrast," he explains, "can be between sawdust and foliage or between various planted areas. That is, between sawdust-covered areas and areas exposing darker soil."

"Benefit of sawdust in your garden extends beyond aesthetics," Cox notes.

Sawdust helps to hold more moisture in the soil, thereby decreasing the amount of water the gardener must supply.

"It also inhibits the growth of weeds. And since it is not a food source, it reduces the damage inflicted on plants by rodents," Cox adds. "However, sawdust should be kept several inches from the base of the plants to avoid mold or other fungus activity."

Because of its natural decay and breakup, one application of sawdust will last a lifetime. Additional sawdust will have to be added every two or three years.

"However, don't try to remove old sawdust," the specialist warns. "Instead, blend it into the earth slowly and it will eventually enrich your soil."

Cox issues a word of precaution though. "When sawdust decays, nitrogen in the soil is consumed. Unless replaced, this will cause a yellow appearance in your plants."

"LOST NITROGEN can be replaced readily, however, by blending lawn fertilizer into the soil according to directions on the fertilizer package," he says.

"Your saw mill operator can be a source of other 'common denominators' besides sawdust," Cox notes.

"Chopped bark, either a by-product of local operations or commercially packaged, is available for use in the same manner as sawdust. Depending on the tree source of the bark, he has said, it can be both texture and color variation."

"Chopped bark is packaged and marketed commercially under several trade names. In addition to being inexpensive, it is also specially treated to be fire resistant," he explains.

Stones and gravel have also been used by many gardeners.

"But," Cox warns, "they can be dangerous if they are thrown by children or are hit by the lawnmower."

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Lawn Mulch Encourages New Growth

Mulching a newly seeded lawn will keep it moist, reduce soil erosion and help the lawn get a head start on weeds, according to Dr. James Beard, Michigan State University turf-grass researcher.

Straw is the most commonly used mulch, he says, and should be spread over the newly seeded area at the rate of 60 to 80 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The straw should be free of weed seeds, dead grass, quack grass and nutsedge.

After the straw is in place, it should be stabilized by rolling and watering. About 50 to 65 per cent of the straw mulch should be carefully removed with a rake or fork when the grass is one to one-and-a-half inches high. This will permit greater light penetration and insure rapid, uniform establishment, says Beard.

To hold straw on large areas, an asphalt spray can be used.

Use Base Coat As Floor Sealer

Planning to varnish a floor? Consider the application of a floor sealer before you begin to varnish.

These sealers penetrate the fibers of the wood and form a wear-resistant surface which does not extend above the surface of the wood. And they make an excellent base for the application of varnishes.