

First strike ever

Walled Lake teachers are back

By Phil Jerome
special writer

Teachers reported to work Monday ending the first teacher strike in the 50-year history of Walled Lake School District.

Students returned for classes on Tuesday.

Negotiating teams for the Walled Lake Education Association (WLEA) and the school board reached tentative agreement on a new two-year pact at 5 p.m. Friday after 34 hours of marathon bargaining.

The tentative agreement now must be ratified by both sides.

Karen Filar, the Michigan Education Association representative for the WLEA, said the agreement will be pre-

sented to teachers for ratification later this week or early next week.

The tentative agreement will not be presented to the board for approval until it is ratified by the WLEA.

The tentative agreement brought an end to the strike which started Sept. 8. Teachers went out on strike when an all-night bargaining session Sept. 7 failed to reach a settlement.

Teachers remained on the picket line Monday through Friday last week. Terms of the new contract were hammered out in marathon bargaining sessions which started 9 a.m. Thursday and ended shortly before 5 p.m. Friday.

FILAR SAID the two-year pact calls for a total improvement in wages of 19.62 percent.

Barry Roseborough, associate superintendent for personnel who headed the board's bargaining team, declined comment on the proposed settlement until he has an opportunity to present it to the board.

In the first year of the contract, all teachers on steps 1-10 of the salary schedule will receive an increase of 7.12 percent. Teachers at or above the 11th step will receive a 9.62 percent raise, according to Filar.

The second year of the contract calls for an across-the-board increase of 10 percent.

The graduated increases in the first year were a key element in negotiations. Teachers, on steps 1-10 will receive an increase in addition to the wage hikes, while teachers at or above

the 10th step receive only the wage increase.

Filar noted that 71 percent of the WLEA membership this year is at the maximum step. That figure is expected to increase to 78 percent in 1992-93 school year if a straight line projection on seniority is applied, she said.

IN FRINGE benefits, the new contract calls for an increase in dental benefits and the addition of vision insurance in the second year.

Also in the second year, the tentative agreement calls for teachers to be paid for half of their accumulated leave days at the rate of substitute teachers' pay upon retirement or resignation.

Scuba course begins

The Farmington YMCA is now forming a basic-scuba-certification class to begin Tuesday, Sept. 22. The class will run for six weeks on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7:45-9:30 p.m.

Cost of program (including all texts, equipment and class fees) is \$55 for members and \$100 for non-members.

Call the YMCA, 553-4020, and leave your name and phone number if you are interested. You need not come in to pay fees or register until Tuesday, Sept. 22, before class begins.



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