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The BEA and the Board of Education of Batavia Public School District 101 Announce New Collective Bargaining Agreement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2017 (Batavia, IL) - The Batavia Education Association (BEA) and the Board of Education of Batavia Public School District 101 have reached an agreement on a new two-year contract that will run from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019. The contract contains a total salary increase of 1.6% in the first year and 2.2% in the second year. On average, individual educators will see an increase of approximately 2.5% each year.

Both parties agreed to retire the current salary schedule at the conclusion of this contract. “The structure of our salary schedule hasn’t changed in over 15 years,” said Tony Inglese, chief negotiator for the Board of Education. “The work of educators has changed a lot since then, especially with regard to professional development and learning. We need to ensure that our compensation structure is competitive, responsive to the needs of our students, and sustainable.” Over the next two years, the BEA and Board will convene a joint committee to examine teacher compensation and make recommendations for the bargaining team to consider in negotiating the next contract.

Other highlights of the agreement include repurposing the Student Services Committee to meet the specific social-emotional needs of all students. “In light of Senate Bill 100 and what we are learning about brain science and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), the BEA and administration felt that it was vitally important for Batavia to lead the way in becoming a trauma-sensitive school district that trains all staff in restorative practices and resiliency for our students,” BEA President Amy Biancheri said. The new Student Services Committee will have representatives from every school and will focus on trainings and professional development for all staff. It broadens the scope and purpose of the former committee without costing any additional funding.

Additionally, the agreement adds a mentoring program for our new teachers that focuses on giving educators the day-to-day tools and resources that they need to succeed in our district. The mentoring program was designed around feedback from other teachers in the district.

“The truly wonderful thing about Batavia Public Schools is its commitment to doing what’s right for the children of Batavia,” BEA President Amy Biancheri said. “When BEA and the Board negotiate our contract, both parties have the best interest of the students in mind as our primary concern, and I think our agreement illustrates that.”