

<u>Teachers Unions and Volusia County Schools Reach Agreement</u>

On Monday, February 6th, 2022, Volusia County Schools and the Teacher Unions agreed on a new contract between the parties. However, the teachers and the Volusia County School Board still need to ratify it. Under the new deal, all instructional personnel will receive a total package of \$11.7 million.

Some of the specifics of the package are broken down as follows:

•\$5 million in Teacher Salary Allocation (TSIA) increases all teacher salaries, as dictated by legislation.
•\$2.1 million to continue the Longevity Supplement previously bargained. This money is on top of the \$11.7 million offer.

•\$3.9 million in a retention supplement for VCS employees with 10 or more years of service. •\$2.6 million increase to advanced degree supplements.

•\$250,000 in a one-time bonus for exceptional student education instructors who do not currently receive a stipend.

Volusia County Schools Superintendent Carmen Balgobin said

"I am pleased that an agreement was reached that raises the minimum teacher salary and includes increases for veteran teachers," she said. "This deal reflects the priorities of the salary committee and demonstrates our commitment to addressing the salary compression that has occurred due to recent legislation."

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Elizabeth Albert, president of the Volusia United Educators, said

"What we know is that our teachers and staff are struggling even on their best day. It's very challenging to work as an education professional with Volusia County, so our priority was to reach a resolution quickly and improve the lives of the people we are serving."

Next comes the vote by members of the instructional bargaining unit, which includes non-union members.

Albert said, "We're hoping we can get it wrapped up by the end of the month..."

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