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USD 415 board ratifies teacher's contract

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha School Board has ratified a negotiated agreement with teachers for the 2019-20 school year.

The action came following an executive session Monday evening on a 6-1 vote, with Board member John Wright casting the lone no vote.

The Hiawatha Teachers Association approved the agreement last month.

It calls for a 7.21 percent increase in the base salary from \$37,310 to \$40,000 plus movement on the salary schedule. Incorporated in the salary schedule are \$510 “steps” for years of service and \$800 “steps” for level of education.

In voting against the agreement, Wright said he would rather see money go to hiring more teachers in order to reduce class size instead of adding more money to the salary schedule.

A mediator met with both sides October 7 after an impasse was declared in contract negotiations. The teacher's negotiating team decided at that time to take the same offer made in August back for another vote.

The agreement is retroactive to August 1.

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