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MEDIA RELEASE

Fresno Unified Submits First Package Proposal to FTA

Today, June 1st, 2023, Fresno Unified submitted its first package proposal to the Fresno Teachers Association. This package proposal is fiscally responsible and keeps our educators among the top of the salary and benefits scale compared to our local districts.

Fresno Unified currently provides an average annual teacher salary of $90,512 for 185 duty days, or about 10 months of work. This $90,512 does not include benefits, retirement contributions, stipends, or additional pay for summer school, coaching, etc., which takes the total compensation far into the six figures. Fresno Unified’s package proposal includes contingency language that would pass through 82% of the LCFF funded COLA, which Fresno Unified estimates will provide an 11% salary increase over the next three years. We estimate that would take our average annual teacher salary to a six-figure salary, or an estimated $100,305.

For comparison, LA Unified’s recently approved 21% in raises will take their average teacher salary to $106,000. When adjusted for cost of living, that estimates our teachers in Fresno Unified are making 133% of a LA Unified teacher, even after their 21% increases.

In addition, Fresno Unified’s health benefits are top-rate and only improving with our move to 100% district-paid coverage and a $260 monthly premium for a family of 3 or more. This means that for just $260 per month, our employees and their entire families, no matter the size, have their health procedures 100% covered by the district after their co-pay and deductible. Fresno Unified has further eliminated co-pays for spouses who are both benefitted employees of Fresno Unified and suspended the $10 per month health assessment fee for all employees.

With our continued investments in our educators during every bargaining agreement in recent history, we are proud to make this offer which ensures our teachers continue to be among the best paid and benefitted educators and ensures the fiscal solvency of Fresno Unified. As the economic picture is estimated to decline significantly in the coming years and we face flat or declining student enrollment, we are ensuring the stability of our educator’s livelihoods and the strength of Fresno Unified’s fiscal standing.
Lastly, we are proud to see Fresno Teachers Association’s focus on student achievement and meeting student needs as it is in alignment with our deep investments in student support in past years and upcoming years. While student investments are outside of the scope of bargaining, and therefore not in our package proposal, just last year Fresno Unified invested more than $30 million in ongoing school site staffing to support students, classrooms, and teachers. This year, Fresno Unified is proposing more than $90 million in direct site support through staffing, programming, and improvements. We are committed to transforming education for our students, ensuring our students and staff are valued and empowered to achieve their greatest potential.

Enclosed is Fresno Unified’s package proposal, which also includes language regarding class size, adult education, evaluation, hours, leave, special education and health services, transfer and assignment, working conditions, designated schools, and shared decision procedures.

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