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**FOR RELEASE**

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## **DISTRICT 181 BOARD, TEACHERS APPROVE NEW CONTRACT**

Following a vote at a special meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 1, the 339 teachers who work in Community Consolidated School District 181 have a new contract. At the special meeting, the Board of Education voted 5-0 to approve the contract. Teachers cast their ballots on Friday, Sept. 26. A tentative settlement was announced on Monday, Sept. 22.

Highlights of the negotiated contract include:

- Three-year duration
- Increase to the base salary of 2.2 percent each year of the contract
- Phase out of BA+45 lane of the salary schedule
- Teachers will continue to pay a portion of the premiums for single and family health care insurance coverage.
- Domestic partner coverage added to health care options.
- A revision of the retirement incentive program
- Increased new teacher orientation, and improvements to current contract provisions concerning professional responsibility and the school day
- Improvements to the administration of special education programs, as well as provisions addressing interventions for student success.

“The Board of Education and the HCHTA have worked diligently and long toward this settlement. We began meeting in April and can now declare the work finished. I want to thank all who were a part of the process. This new contract is a positive reflection of their efforts,” said Lisa Armonda, board president.