

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Park County School District Provides Comprehensive Proposal to Meet SPEA's Goals for Recognition, Voice, and Negotiations in a New Professional Agreement through June 2021

Fairplay, Colorado – Following several days of mediation with a federal mediator, the Park County School District RE-2 (“District”) provided the South Park Education Association (“SPEA” or “Association”) with a comprehensive proposal of a New Professional Agreement, along with two Memoranda of Understanding that could resolve the outstanding conflicts. In particular, the proposal meets SPEA’s goals of being recognized as the bargaining unit for teachers and SSPs in the District and having a voice in discussing District finances and negotiating salaries and working conditions.

Some of the highlights of gains to the Association in the New Professional Agreement include:

- Regaining recognition as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent by the District for two years.
- A new right to negotiate salaries, a right it did not formally have.
- Increases to the Supplemental Pay rates.
- Compensation to mentor teachers.
- Inclusion of a Board representative to the joint problem solving team to assist with good communication and additional transparency.
- Removal from the contract year of the previously agreed-upon additional two (2) work days to the 2020-2021 school year, which would have been provided to all teachers and SSPs at their per diem in the salary schedule.
- The ability to “open up” the complete Professional Agreement for negotiations every other year.
- An additional Disclosure and Discussion Process for negotiating salaries.

Along with the New Professional Agreement, the parties would enter into two Memoranda of Understanding related to the reentry of teachers to work, making up some of the missed instructional time for students with per diem pay, and a commitment to utilize a monthly meeting process to discuss District finances and other pressing concerns to the Association.

The proposal recognizes a balancing of the competing interests and provides a path forward for the parties to work together. If SPEA ratifies the New Professional Agreement, the Board is ready to approve it and will call a special meeting to do so.

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