



Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association

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Hillsborough CTA Calls for Economic Relief Now

TAMPA – Negotiations began today between the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association (HCTA) and Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) over employee compensation for the 2022-2023 school year.

In a time when Tampa Bay leads the nation in sky-rocketing housing costs, HCPS employees are making hard choices on whether they can afford to teach in Tampa. To attract and retain great talent, the need for genuine and substantial increases to employee salaries is undeniable, especially as HCPS has faced hundreds of classroom vacancies, leaving students without qualified and dedicated teachers.

The Governor's newly signed state budget provides over \$135 million in additional funding for HCPS. The cost of granting experience credit to employees for time served—the most contentious issue in last year's protracted contract negotiations—amounts to a fraction of that amount, closer to \$15 million.

Today's proposal by HCTA included granting experience credit for both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 in addition to raising the minimum salary across the district to \$15.00 per hour, as is now required under state law. Additionally, HCTA proposed increasing all employee salaries by \$3.57 per hour to account for inflation and make district salaries competitive.

"I didn't leave Tampa because I wanted to. I loved my school and my students but could not afford the \$500 rent increase on the salary I was making," said former McLane Middle school teacher Pamela Runager who is relocating to teach in Illinois this summer.

"The last couple of years have pushed our schools and our employees to the breaking point as hundreds of classrooms go without certified teachers. Superintendent Addison Davis and our School Board must do better, and they must act now," said HCTA President Rob Kriete to HCPS representatives.

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Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association is the certified bargaining agent for over 17,000 teachers, guidance counselors, nurses, paraprofessionals, secretaries, clerks, and other educational employees of Hillsborough County Public Schools.