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**RELEASE DATE:**
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2024

**DISTRICT 91 BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS ON TEACHER SALARY NEGOTIATIONS**

[IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO, May 23, 2024] - District 91 Board of Trustees values and respects its teachers who work tirelessly to support students daily. As elected officials, we must answer to the voters and honor our stewardship to ensure that the district stays solvent.

The funds simply do not exist to give our teachers the additional raise they have requested. Funding for the district is controlled by the state and our supplemental levy. This is a funding issue, not a performance or appreciation issue.

Despite the constraints, District 91 is proud of several factors regarding teacher compensation:

1. Teacher salaries are higher than all surrounding school districts.

2. Teachers were offered a raise between 3.64% to 7.32%, with one outlier group at the top of the salary range receiving a 1.8% increase plus a $2,000 longevity enhancement.

3. Two years ago, the district adopted the state insurance plan, saving teachers thousands in out-of-pocket costs but increasing district premium costs by $2.8 million annually.

4. The contract hours teachers are required to work daily is 7 hours, whereas surrounding districts require 8 hours.

"We are committed to providing competitive compensation within our means," Superintendent Karla LaOrange stated. "While we cannot meet the current raise request, we value our teachers tremendously."

“I believe that Superintendent LaOrange and Ms. Farmer, along with the negotiation team, followed the Board's directives during negotiations to maintain the district's financial stability for the upcoming year. They have worked diligently to meet the needs of all of District 91 during this challenging year and we look forward to finding a resolution.” Board Chair Hillary Radcliffe

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