

**Promise Made, Promise Kept: School Board, Martin County Education Association Come to Agreement on Teacher Stipends Funded by Half-Mill Property Tax Increase**

On Wednesday, September 18, the Martin County School Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the school district and the Martin County Education Association (MCEA) that will provide salary stipends to teachers. Funding for the salary stipends will come from proceeds generated by the half-mill property tax increase, which was approved by Martin County voters in August 2018.

“One of our main goals when we approached voters for the property tax increase was to fund our teacher recruitment and retention efforts,” said Superintendent Laurie J. Gaylord. “We are always looking to hire quality educators, but we also want to retain the outstanding educators we already have. The fact that voters chose to pass the ballot item, as well as the fact that we were able to come to an agreement so quickly with MCEA, is a testament to the way this community and school district value our teachers and education.”

According to the Memorandum of Agreement, teachers’ salary award amounts will be based on their total years of instructional experience. Eligibility details are as follows:

Years of Instructional Experience	Annual Award Amount
0-5	\$1,800
6-9	\$5,000
10 or more	\$7,800

Salary awards will be disbursed to teachers on or before September 1 following the academic year to which the award applies. The MOA is scheduled to sunset in June 2020, with the School Board and MCEA agreeing to enter into a “mirror” MOA for two additional years which would sunset in June 2022.

To view the complete agreement for teacher salary stipends funded by the half-mill property tax increase, please click [here](#).