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## **Rochester Board of Education Approves Collective Bargaining Agreement with Board of Education Non-Teaching Employees (BENTE)**

This evening, the Rochester Board of Education approved the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Board of Education Non-Teaching Employees (BENTE). This is a significant move to support the backbone of schools, and the contract helps with the recruitment, growth, and retention of BENTE membership. BENTE workers represent a vital workforce within the Rochester City School District, including custodial and maintenance workers, clerical and administrative support, bus drivers, food service workers, and security personnel.

Highlights of the three-year agreement include the following:

- General salary increases for all members: 3.8%, 3.7%, and 3.6% in each respective year of the agreement.
- Enhanced service increments for employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service.
- Enhanced pay differentials for positions that carry specialized skills, training, and in shortage areas.
- Uniform and safety equipment to reflect and maintain a safe and professional work environment.

“Our BENTE members are the backbone of the District,” said Angelo Palmerini, BENTE President. “This agreement reflects our collective strengths and the hard work each member puts in to support our students and schools.”

“This agreement acknowledges the critical role that BENTE members play in the day-to-day operations of schools and our commitment to fostering a supportive and equitable work environment,” said Demario Strickland, Interim Superintendent of Schools. “I want to express my deepest appreciation for our BENTE members. This agreement ensures they are fairly compensated and recognized for their dedication and hard work. Together, we continue building a District where every student feels seen, affirmed, and valued.”

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