

NTUI NEWS RELEASE

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HUGE HIGH SCHOOL DIST. 211 TEACHER SALARIES SHOW PUBLIC SCHOOL SALARIES ARE OUT OF CONTROL

CHICAGO-The president of Illinois' largest taxpayer organization charged that the huge salaries received by teachers of High School Dist. 211, the state's largest high school district, show that salaries of public school teachers are out of control and bear no relationship to the value of teachers' contributions to society. He further criticized the Dist. 211 School Board for caving in to the teachers in order to avoid a threatened strike.

"Any discerning citizen who reviews the salaries of Dist. 211 teachers will realize that the purpose of public schools is not to educate students, but to line the pockets of teachers and administrators," said Jim Tobin, President of National Taxpayers United of Illinois (NTUI). "And to make matters worse, the Dist. 211 School Board was so chummy with the teachers that it gave them an unwarranted pay-raise in their new two-year contract."

"Teachers will get a base raise of 3.8%, plus 'hidden' pay raises that will pad their wallets far more than 3.25%. In addition to the 'across-the-board base pay increase' of 3.25%, teachers receive a 'step increase' based on experience. They also receive a third type of pay increase referred to as a 'pay bump' for taking advanced courses."

"The *Daily Herald* reported that a Dist. 211 teacher just starting out will not only get the 3.25% base pay raise, but a step increase 5.2%, for a total raise of 8.45%, almost three times the base pay raise reported to the press!"

"The actual pay increases reportedly exceed even the district's official ranges of 6.2% to 8.5% for this year, and 4.9% to 7.9% for next year, because the pay bump raises are not included in the figures released."

"This fleecing of northwest suburban taxpayers occurs at the time when students in Illinois posted the lowest scores ever on the state achievement exam."

"Not counting the Dist. 211 Superintendent and three Assistant District Superintendents, a listing of salaries for school year ending 2006 shows that of 937 employees, 317 of the 937—over a third—received salaries of over \$100,000 per year."

"The highest paid teacher in the district received an incredible salary of \$160,135, and he was a driver education teacher. The next highest-paid teacher in the top ten received \$152,474, for teaching physical education. The third highest-paid teacher in the system received \$152,347. He taught Auto/Automotive Body repair."

"Dist. 211 teachers can retire after 34 years at 55, and in the 20 years after retirement, each of those who made \$100,000 or more will receive a total of over \$2 million in retirement pension. This is an outrageous rip-off of suburban taxpayers. It's time taxpayers held the school board accountable."