

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Salary schedule facts

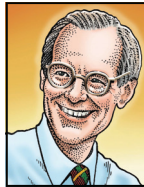
In recent months, Pottstown teachers have been showing up in force at school board meetings, wearing lime green union T-shirts to emphasize their solidarity. Numerous teachers have spoken out for salary increases.

As a board member, I'm delighted to see teachers attending board meetings so they can see first-hand what goes on.

Having visited virtually every classroom in the district last year, I have personally witnessed the great job they do.

Our problem is money. The Pottstown School District's tax base has been steadily declining for more than 15 years. Because of the drop in assessments just in 2015, our current tax millage will generate about \$400,000 less this year than last year.

Our tax rate is already the 12th highest out of 500 school districts in Pennsylvania, and every time we raise taxes we encourage more property owners to sell and move, or to challenge their assessments as too high. It's a vicious downward cycle.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Looking at the current salary schedule for Pottstown and its two neighboring school districts, it's interesting to note Pottstown actually pays more for its most experienced teachers than Owen J. Roberts does.

This is remarkable considering Owen J. Roberts is one of the wealthiest school districts in Pennsylvania.

At the same time, however, starting teachers at Owen J. Roberts earn more than Pottstown teachers. This is a considerable help in recruiting new teachers.

Moreover, after five years, salaries at Roberts increase rather evenly as teachers move up the ladder.

At Pottstown, however, salaries barely move for many years, and then leap by almost \$20,000 in just the last two years.

Who thought it was a good idea to handsomely reward teachers at the top at the expense of everyone else?

Not the school board.

This might be something teachers should discuss among themselves.

Teacher salary schedules 2015-2016

Step	Pottstown		Pottsgrove		Owen J. Roberts	
	Bachelor	Master	Bachelor	Master	Bachelor	Master
1	\$ 43,768	\$ 45,940	\$42,710	\$46,108	\$ 46,085	\$ 50,763
2	\$ 44,045	\$ 46,254	\$43,677	\$48,032	\$ 46,313	\$ 50,991
3	\$ 44,360	\$ 46,646	\$44,644	\$49,953	\$ 46,389	\$ 51,067
4	\$ 44,705	\$ 47,074	\$45,612	\$52,129	\$ 46,540	\$ 51,219
5	\$ 45,131	\$ 47,563	\$46,581	\$54,331	\$ 47,989	\$ 53,034
6	\$ 45,636	\$ 48,077	\$47,547	\$56,471	\$ 49,666	\$ 55,075
7	\$ 46,202	\$ 48,626	\$48,515	\$58,395	\$ 51,343	\$ 57,116
8	\$ 46,748	\$ 49,438	\$49,482	\$60,442	\$ 53,031	\$ 59,157
9	\$47,144	\$ 50,428	\$50,450	\$62,426	\$ 54,697	\$ 61,199
10	\$ 48,369	\$ 51,760	\$51,419	\$64,472	\$56,374	\$ 63,240
11	\$ 48,529	\$ 53,278	\$55,289	\$68,314	\$ 58,051	\$ 65,281
12	\$ 50,701	\$ 54,902	\$60,423	\$73,611	\$ 59,728	\$ 67,980
13	\$ 53,300	\$ 59,268	\$65,557	\$78,909	\$ 61,733	\$ 70,677
14	\$ 57,723	\$ 65,603	\$73,072	\$84,363	\$ 63,737	\$ 73,374
15	\$ 66,022	\$ 73,750	\$81,329	\$90,568	\$ 65,742	\$ 76,072
16	\$75,035	\$ 85,050			\$ 67,848	\$78,869