

FAIRVIEW PARK

Pay increase for substitute teachers

By BRIAN GEORGE

Fairview schools is raising the daily rate it pays substitute teachers as a way to keep and lure more candidates to fill in for full-time staff who are absent.

The school board adopted new rates at its Oct. 18 meeting. The higher pay will depend on the number of days of service the substitute teacher has worked each school year. The rates started immediately upon approval.

Subs who work up to 20 days will be paid \$120 per day; those who fill in 21 to 40 days the pay will be \$125;

Turn to Pay on Page 2

Pay continued from Page 1

and for those who work 41 or more days will be paid \$130. Long-term substitutes also will be paid \$130 per day.

The old rate was \$95 regardless of the number of days a substitute worked.

The district has 35 active substitutes and is looking to add more educators to bolster the substitute teacher pool.

“We have been getting a lot of inquiries about substitute teaching,” Superintendent Keith Ahearn said. “We hope that with these new increases in the pay rates, we will be able to bring in more substitutes.”

The rate increase Fairview adopted brings it more in line with neighboring school districts.

Lakewood schools spokeswoman Christine Gordillo said that the pay rate for substitute teachers is \$128 per day, with retired Lakewood teachers receiving slightly more.

Rocky River schools pays its substitutes \$135 per day, Superintendent Michael Shoaf said. “Our substitutes have the ability to choose which school, district and grade they want to go to.”

The number of substitute teachers is determined on a day-by-day basis, he said.

During the months of September and October, Fairview Park School District saw a 62.29 and 66.4% substitute teacher fill rate. This was compared to 89.26 percent and 82.29% seen in those same months of 2019.

“The challenge is that, if we can’t find a substitute, another teacher will have to cover the class,” Ahearn said. “The principal may have to cover the class. Students may lose out

on their special periods - like music or art or gym. We don’t want to do that because we know how students love to have those 60-minute breaks away from the usual classroom. Other staff members or teachers may have to give up their lunchtimes to cover a class. It is really advantageous to have a substitute.”

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