

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 6, 2017

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A-CEA and A-C Central D262 reach impasse after months of negotiations

ASHLAND – The Ashland-Chandlerville Education Association (A-CEA) declared an impasse in contract negotiations with A-C Central Community Unit School District 262 on Monday night. A-CEA has been bargaining with the district since August and been without a contract since late June.

A-CEA represents 40 bus drivers, bus monitors, cooks, classroom aides, secretaries and custodians in District 262. A-CEA support workers have a low starting wage, no salary schedule and do not receive health insurance. Most of our members live in the Ashland and Chandlerville communities and have a vested interest in their students' success.

A-CEA has compromised on a majority of issues in exchange for a small salary increase. Our members are seeking a fair, living wage, which would begin at \$12.50 to \$13.50 an hour. The wage increase will be critical in retaining talented staff and providing a better education for our children and a better future for our community.

"We work here. We live here, and we care about the students we serve every day," A-CEA President Diane Sieving said. "Our members are some of the lowest paid employees in the area. We're asking for comparable wages to surrounding districts, so we can continue serving the community we love."

Our research shows the district can meet our requests without raising taxes. The district has a savings account in excess of \$2.1 million, which does not take into account additional money the district stands to receive from the recently revamped state school funding formula.

No further bargaining dates have been set at this time. The members of the A-CEA are planning several ways to reach out to community members to engage them on the issues.

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