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Teachers not satisfied with proposal

Mediator called

"The board's proposal on salary is not agreeable to us," said Marshall Hesla, chairman of the Morrow County teachers negotiating team.

Addressing the Morrow County School Board in Lexington last Thursday night, Hesla called for intervention of a mediator. The board, refusing to back down from its proposed 4 per cent cost of living increase, agreed that a mediator should handle the remainder of the contract. The teachers went down from their 12 per cent salary increase proposal to a 10 per cent increase at the mid-January session.

A three-week interim period is expected before a state mediator can be arranged. Apart from the salary disagreement, the two sides also conflicted in thinking concerning teacher in-service days, insurance premiums and valid claims, teacher leave of absence and educational advancement.

Board opposition to in-service days was partially influenced by public disagreement of the teacher work days. "Some taxpayers are going to vote against the budget because they are against the in-service days," said board negotiating chairman Dr. Wallace Wolff. "But don't you think a lot of opposition is due to lack of understanding of what in-service days are?" asked Hesla.

Many parents feel that the teachers are using the work days to do their grading and other related duties. They believe this should be done during school time. As a result, students would be getting a full day of teaching rather than one-half day. The other half day is utilized for teachers' in-service.

Pregnancy is maintained as a non-illness by the board. Such a status eliminates it from being included in sick leave and insurance benefits.

"We're talking about mis-
carriage and complications. I
would view that as logically
coming under sick leave," said
Hesla. Until the U.S. Supreme
Court makes its ruling on the
matter, the Morrow School
Board will continue its posi-
tion of ineligibility.

Educational advancement
of teachers is proposed for
closer scrutiny by the board.
"It will eliminate teachers
taking rinky-dink courses in-
stead of more serious ones,"
said Wolff. "We feel if a
teacher doesn't advance edu-
cationally then he shouldn't
advance on the salary sched-
ule either."

Teachers are required to
continue in their educational
growth under Oregon law. In
the past, Morrow teachers
have included such courses as
basic typing and leathercraft
in their graduate hours.

"The course shall be an
upper level graduate course
or any course the board may
approve because of special
interest to the district," stat-
ed Wolff.

Many articles remaining in
the 53-page negotiations pack-
et, subject to agreement by
the board, will depend on
teacher acceptance of the
board's contract proposal. A
multi-year contract, limiting
negotiations to multi-year in-
tervals, is under consideration
by Morrow teachers.

Grain market

Wednesday grain prices
reported by Morrow County
Grain Growers, f.o.b. Lex-
ington, found white wheat at
\$2.80 bu., red wheat at \$2.83
bu., and barley at \$107.00 per
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