

Volusia United Educators Support Bargaining Update 10/2/2025

Today your union met with the district to bargain for support staff for the fourth time.

The discussion was focused only on salaries. All other articles have been settled.

VUE presented the following:

- We accepted the 2% salary increase
- We proposed the following adjustment to the longevity supplement:
 - \$35 x each year of VCS service for support personnel in years 5-9. (ex. 5 x 35 = \$175)
 - \circ \$70 x each year of VCS service for support personnel with 10 or more years. (15 x 70 = 1,050)

This proposal would be recurring and would build toward retirement. The cost of our counter is slightly less than the proposed 1% bonus. We came in slightly lower in order to make the funding recurring and pensionable. Additionally, bonuses are taxed at a higher rate than supplements.

After a caucus, the district provided a verbal counteroffer that they would accept the change in longevity as long as it was only for the 2025-26 year. They would not commit to funding the supplement beyond this year. A lengthy conversation occurred about equity, priorities, and bargaining in good faith.

What's Next?

We are waiting to receive the district's counter proposal in writing. In the meantime, we will cost out various scenarios to determine which proposal will result in more money in your pocket. Since we have agreed to the 2% COLA, we are working to determine which scenario will do the most good for the most people.

The next bargaining session is **October 8**th. Bargaining is a public meeting, and <u>we need YOU in the room</u>. Please plan to engage in the work of your union. We only win what we are willing to fight for, and fighting for higher salaries is worth it

If you are interested in watching the bargaining session the link to the video of today's bargaining session is <u>HERE.</u>

In Solidarity, Elizabeth Albert