District 20 teachers will not be in limbo this fall when it comes to a pay and benefit package.

During their meeting Monday night, District 20 school board members approved a settlement with the Gothenburg Education Association that boosts teachers's salaries and insurance 4%.

Base pay for new teachers will increase 4.8% or $1,400, from $29,300 to $30,700.

During last year's negotiations, the salary package for teachers was unresolved until Oct. 28. Because yearly contracts begin Sept. 1, faculty members were paid the difference through a special payroll for September and October.

Teachers employed for more than a year in the district are compensated according to their position on the pay scale based on years in the district and education beyond a bachelor's degree.

Nate Wyatt, head negotiator for the board, described the settlement as a compensation package that allows the district to attract quality applicants.

"That's one of the goals of the district," Wyatt said.

Superintendent Mike Teahon said the package is based on comparability studies of schools of similar size which are located within a similar geographic area to Gothenburg.

GEA president Heather Franzen said she was pleased with the package.

Last year's increase for teachers was 5.9%.

In other action, the board approved a salary/benefit increase of 4.9% for administrative staff and a 4.8% hike for non-certified staff or employees who don't teach students.

Teahon said the non-certified package is based on

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