Base pay for teachers at $27,100.

Brady school board members breathed a collective sigh of relief Monday night after approving a negotiated agreement with the Brady Education Association for new teacher contracts that fit into the 2009-10 budget.

Certified employees will receive an average salary increase of 3.5% based on the base salary that was set at $27,100.

Board members accepted the negotiated agreement during their regular monthly meeting.

The board also set the pay scale for classified staff, raising the total spent on their salaries from approximately $201,000 last year to $214,000 for this school year or 6.5%.

“I am a little concerned about the variability of increases,” said board member T.J. Walker of the raises for non-teaching staff members.

Superintendent Bill Porter explained that the distribution hasn’t been exactly as it should be and the new scale attempts to close the gap between employees.

Employee salaries and related items such as insurance make up the biggest portion of the school’s budget which was also approved during the meeting.

General fund expenditures are expected to be $1,628,125 with the bond fund at $336,381 and qualified capital purpose undertaking fund of $72,215 for a total of $2,036,721. No one spoke during the public hearing.

In other district business, school board members:

- received a $200 donation from Consolidated to be used for awards in the Accelerated Reader program.
- approved a 16-day extended contract for technology coordinator Robbi McKenney for $3,072. McKenney is responsible for staff and student records and has spent a considerable amount of time preparing those records for the state department of education. Porter said it is necessary work and payment for the time cannot be avoided.
- authorized Twin Platte Natural Resources District to act on the district's behalf in writing a multi-district mitigation plan at no cost to the district.
- hired Don Knudsen as a part-time dishwasher and Amy Most as a part-time assistant cook.
- approved the purchase of three projectors and accessories for $2,820 and an Apple server and accessories for $11,271. Funds will come from left-over REAP grant money. The server will allow students using new laptop computers in elementary keyboarding and programming courses to save information to the server rather than individual computers and provides for the possibility of expansion if the district completes a one-to-one computer initiative.

- authorized hiring Denise Finnell as a full-time special education aid. Porter said this is a position created to fulfill a new student's individualized education plan and the salary will be paid using federal funding.
- learned the enrollment for K-12 is currently 208 students. The official enrollment number must be reported to the state the last Friday of September.
- heard from Porter that plans are being made for the school to host a free dinner for the community's senior citizens as a showcase for the school. He said the meal, program and educational tour will hopefully be offered in December.
- discussed with principal Jerry Wallace curriculum and achievement goals. Wallace told the board enrollment in English courses has increased from 103 students last year to 133 this year with credits offered rising from 55 to 80. He also said the average ACT score has increased from 17.3 in 2007 to 21.8 for this year's seniors tested so far and the number of senior students taking the ACT has risen from 31% in 2004 to 55% in 2009.
- learned from Wallace that the district is taking a proactive approach to eliminating the spread of the H1N1 virus. He said custodial staff is disinfecting more now than ever and that anti-bacterial sanitizer is available to students and staff throughout the school. Vaccinations may be offered to students in mid-October.