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## **OCPS DEMANDS A 64% HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM HIKE FROM TEACHERS AFTER REJECTING MAGISTRATE’S RECOMMENDATION**

OCPS has been unmovable in demanding steep premium and plan design increases to teachers’ health insurance—seeking to impose an overall health insurance rate hike of over 60%. **The contentious issue was submitted to a neutral special magistrate, who issued a recommendation that the district not proceed with the rate hike.**

OCCTA, the teachers’ union, asked the District to accept the neutral magistrate’s recommendation on all issues and settle the outstanding collective bargaining agreement. **The District refused, further delaying salary increases for the 2023-2024 school year.**

**Under the District’s proposal, annual premium increases would increase by thousands of dollars for some teachers. The District’s characterization of these changes as insignificant is misleading and insulting to teachers, many of which are living paycheck to paycheck.**

Health insurance is the only issue that remains at impasse and will ultimately be decided by the School Board in a public hearing.

*“Too often public officials shower praise upon teachers, but don’t support these dedicated educators when it comes to critical issues. Teachers are looking for the School Board to do the right thing and not sneak in an enormous health insurance increase on the very last day of a contract,”* said Clinton McCracken, President OCCTA.

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