

Oct 24/86 DC

Teachers ratify contracts in Renfrew, Leeds-Grenville

By Carol Doran and Jack Walker
Citizen staff writers

PEMBROKE — About 300 teachers, principals and vice-principals at the Renfrew County Board of Education ratified a one-year contract this week.

The new agreement gives them a salary increase of 4.65 per cent for the year beginning Sept. 1, 1986.

Salaries were the main item in dispute during eight bargaining sessions that began in early January.

The new pact affects teachers at the eight public high schools in Renfrew County. The deal was reached Sept. 24, the same day a mediator was called.

The new contract will raise salaries for teachers at the top end of the scale from \$45,690 to \$47,815.

Teachers earning the minimum salary of about \$20,000 now will earn about \$23,000 under the terms of the new contract.

Maximum salaries for principals will rise from \$60,593 to \$63,411.

According to the new contract, heads of departments and teachers with extra responsibilities will receive a 3.5-per-cent increase in addition to their regular earnings.

"I am pleased that the secondary school teachers have reached an agreement with the board," said Elmer Raycroft, chairman of the board's negotiating team.

"With good hard work, we were able to come to an agreement that is good for the board and good for the teachers," he said.

Isobel Richmond of Renfrew Collegiate, president of the local

chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, said the teachers are happy with the agreement.

In Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, meanwhile, separate school teachers have ratified a new one-year agreement which provides for an across-the-board pay increase of five per cent.

The contract raises the minimum starting salary to \$21,612 from \$20,579 and the maximum to \$46,520 from \$44,305.

Principals, vice principals, consultants and co-ordinators will also receive the five-per-cent hike, plus a further five-per-cent increase in their responsibility allowance.

The new agreement, which runs from September 1986 to June 1987, covers 200 teachers.

The board has also reached wage settlements with two other employee groups for the current school year.

School secretaries and board office staff will receive a five-per-cent wage hike while custodians and maintenance employees will get a 4.5-per-cent increase.

In a third salary settlement, senior administrators with the Leeds and Grenville Board of Education have been awarded a four-per-cent salary hike for the current school year.

Retroactive to Sept. 1, the increase boosts the salaries of the four superintendents to a minimum of \$70,488 and maximum of \$72,568.

The salary of Education Director Wayne Tompkins, which is pegged 10 per cent higher than the maximum for a superintendent, will also be increased to \$79,825.

Nov. 19/86

High court asked to halt full funding

TORONTO (CP) — There is no constitutional justification for a court decision allowing extended public funding of Ontario's Roman Catholic high schools, public school groups say in a document filed with the Supreme Court of Canada.

By relying on a narrow technical interpretation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Appeal Court's ruling has expanded the legislative power of the provinces, says the document, filed by lawyers for nine public school groups.

The ruling last February "seriously impairs the future protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in Canada," the 32-page document says.

It was filed by groups that fought unsuccessfully in the Ontario court last year against legislation introduced in the summer of 1985 that extended Catholic school funding three grades to the end of Grade 13.

The legislation eliminates tuition fees of about \$1,000 for students continuing Catholic education after Grade 10. Extended funding began in September 1985 with Grade 11 and is to be complete this September with Grade 13.

The Supreme Court has scheduled five days in late January and early February to hear the appeal, the outcome of which could affect education systems in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec and Newfoundland — where Catholic schools are fully funded.

The public school groups urge the Supreme Court to overturn the Ontario court's decision and find that legislation extending Catholic funding is inconsistent with charter provisions.

The group includes the Metropolitan Toronto School Board, three other school boards, two provincial teachers' federations, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Loyal Orange Association in Ontario and a Toronto-based coalition of church groups.