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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTRICT'S CONTRACT WITH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION UNCERTAIN

On Thursday, May 8, with the help of a federal mediator, negotiating teams from Jeffco Public Schools and the Jefferson County Education Association (JCEA) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the 2014-15 school year. The district and the association agreed that the terms of the MOU were tentative until reviewed by their respective boards.

There was tentative agreement in the areas of a step (pay) increase for teachers, maintaining and standardizing district benefits, providing additional compensation to cover the increased cost of PERA, and ensuring competitive pay for newly hired teachers.

Within a few hours of leaving the mediation session, the district negotiating team requested changes in the MOU before it was taken to the JCEA board. Those changes were based on feedback from members of the board of education. The district team wanted to ensure non-probationary teachers, who were rated as not effective or partially effective, would not be eligible for a step increase. However, JCEA presented the MOU to its members without the requested changes.

“The district believes it is important to differentiate in terms of compensation between the vast majority of teachers who are rated effective and the small number of teachers who haven’t met that standard. I hope JCEA will be thoughtful in only taking an agreement to its members for ratification that at the end of the day we, as a board, can support,” said Jefferson County Board of Education President Ken Witt.

Witt added: “Great teachers are critical to student achievement and we want to ensure that compensation reflects excellence in the classroom. Let’s work together in good faith to provide certainty for district employees regarding their compensation for the 2014-15 school year.”