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OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS

Educators ask for 3-7% pay increase

Donna Smith

The Oak Ridger
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Oak Ridge educators made their requests for pay increases to the city's Board of Education on March 30, requesting salary hikes for themselves

and other school system employees ranging from 3% to 7%.

Their requested pay increases for the next school year are:

- 7% for classified employees, which are the school system's noneducators including secretaries, maintenance and janitorial workers

- 5% for certified employees - educators who don't fall into the category of principals or school administrators

- 3% for those principals and school administrators

In addition, the Oak Ridge Education Association asked for a "longevity bonus" for employees who stay with the

Oak Ridge Schools, paying them for their unused sick days when they retire. That bonus would be:

- \$50 an unused sick day for retirees who worked six to 10 years with the city schools

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Author Kristy Woodson Harvey signs books at the 34th Annual Lunch for Literacy event, at Oak Ridge High School on March 24. Lunch for Literacy is a joint project of Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club and Altrusa International of Oak Ridge. CAITIE MCKEIN/NEWS SENTINEL

Bestselling novelist speaks at Oak Ridge High School

"The plan was to look back on my life and say, 'I wrote a book'"

Carolyn Krause

Special to The Oak Ridger

When Kristy Woodson Harvey, a bestselling novelist from North Carolina and this year's Lunch for Literacy keynote speaker, reached the stage in the Oak Ridge High School food court, she grabbed the microphone from the lectern stand and held it close to her mouth.

"Okay, I'm going to hold this mic because it makes me feel like Taylor Swift,"

she said. "I'm not a good singer like her, so this is my only opportunity to hold a mic like hers."

Like Taylor Swift, Harvey has already distinguished herself in her career and continues to rise to the next level. She started out as an avid reader and became a prize-winning one by the age of 10. After aspiring to become a doctor, earning two university degrees in journalism and literature, and selling insurance, she became an award-winning writer of 14 nov-

els, most of which made the bestseller lists of The New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly.

Her visibility is bound to increase, as her book "A Happier Life" is in development for film with MGM/Amazon, and "The Summer of Songbirds" is in development for television with Hulu.

Her work has received numerous

See **NOVELIST**, Page 4A

Lunch-funded grant targets digital literacy, online safety

Carolyn Krause

Special to The Oak Ridger

Last summer, volunteers from Altrusa International of Oak Ridge and the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club assessed literacy needs in Anderson and Roane counties to guide Lunch for Literacy funding decisions and support high-impact projects.

See **GRANT**, Page 2A

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