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# MORE ADMIN, MORE PAY AFTER D51 SHAKE-UP

By **KATIE LANGFORD**  
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## Big raises for District 51's top positions

The vast majority of top-level District 51 administrators will receive a much larger bump in pay this coming school year than classroom teachers. Here are differences in pay from 2017-18 to 2018-19 for 43 administrative positions — more than three-quarters of them will receive at least a 5 percent bump in pay — and how they compare to differences in teacher pay. The average pay raise for those 43 administrators was 6.3 percent.



**W**hen Superintendent Ken Haptonstall announced in January his plans to shake up School District 51's administration, he offered a vision that would hasten the rollout of a new learning model and get more top-level administrators working directly in schools.

At Haptonstall's first public presentation about the reorganization on Jan. 9, he told the Board of Education the proposed changes should save the school district money.

"There should be significant cost savings out of this," he said in a presentation that was also sent to District 51 employees. "The total savings is dependent on who is hired, so what I'm going to do is wait until we get everyone hired in April and then I'll let you know exactly how much this saves."

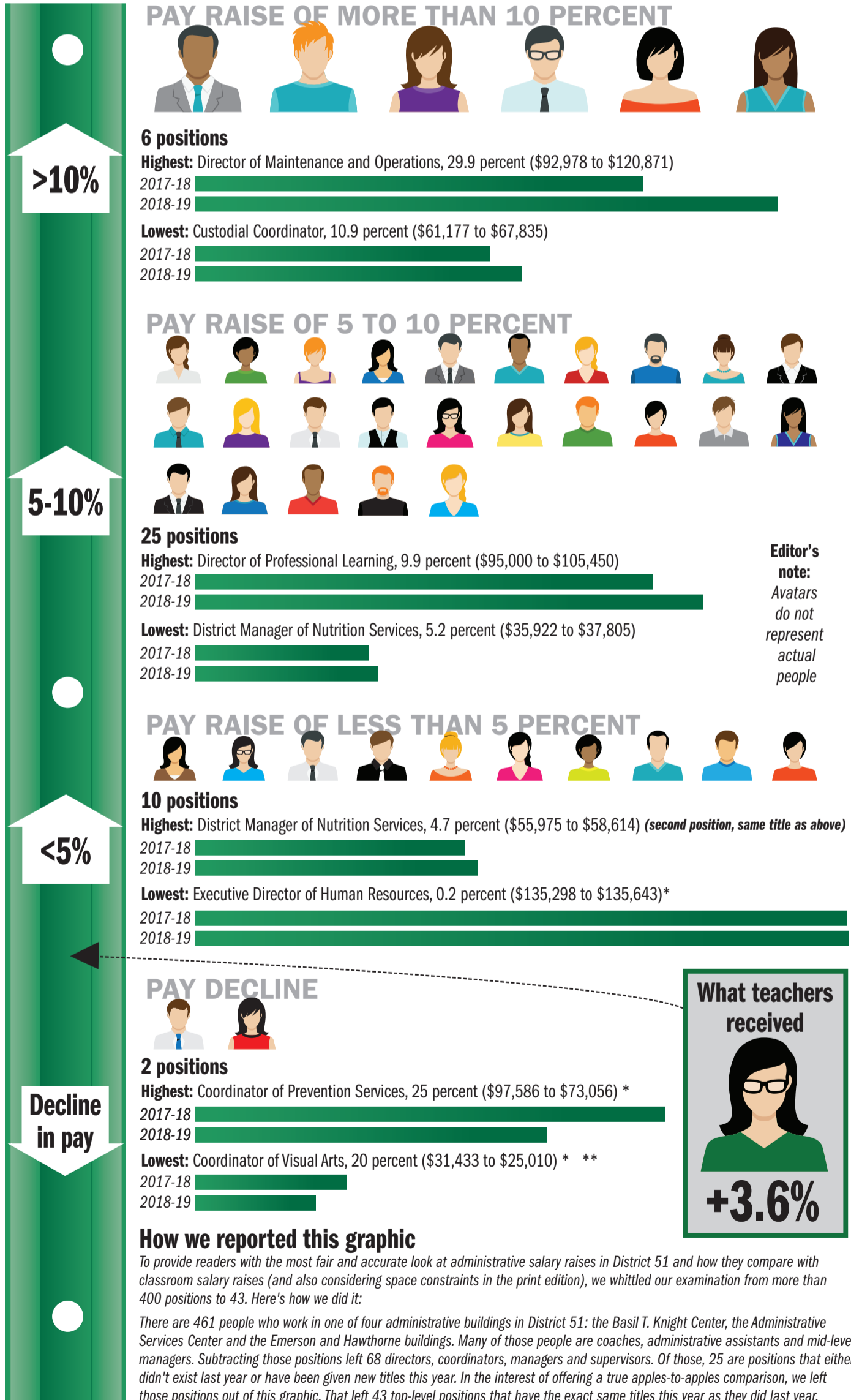
In an interview minutes after the announcement, Haptonstall said there would be fewer people in administration overall.

Six months later, the opposite is true.

A Daily Sentinel review of school district data and public records found that the administrative shake-up orchestrated by the superintendent has added staff to the top ranks of the administration. Haptonstall also arranged administrative pay raises that, on average, far exceed salary raises for teachers that were approved during negotiations with the teachers' union earlier this summer.

The net result will cost taxpayers \$1.2 million extra in salaries for those top leadership positions in the 2018-19 school year compared to 2017-18. The total amount in salaries for those 68 positions will increase from \$4.9 million to \$6.1 million, a nearly 25 percent jump.

In an interview last week, Haptonstall acknowledged the overhaul will cost the district money, not provide savings. But he maintained the structural changes and administrative salary hikes will improve schools and helped hire and retain qualified and effective district leaders.



## President turns ire on former attorney

'Inconceivable' that Cohen would tape client, he says

By **ZEKE MILLER**  
Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — Donald Trump said Saturday he finds it "inconceivable" that a lawyer would tape a client, as the president weighed in after the disclosure that in the weeks before the 2016 election, his then-personal attorney secretly recorded their discussion about a potential payment for a former Playboy model's account of having an affair with Trump.



**MICHAEL COHEN**  
Secretly recorded conversations with then-candidate Trump in 2016

The recording was part of a large collection of documents and electronic records seized earlier this year by federal authorities from Michael Cohen, the longtime Trump fixer.

In a tweet, Trump called such taping "totally unheard of & perhaps illegal." He also asserted, without elaborating, in post: "The good news is that your favorite President did nothing wrong!"

See **TAPE**, page 7A ▶

## Survivor recounts duck boat disaster

By **MARGARET STAFFORD**  
Associated Press

BRANSON, Mo. — "Grab the baby!"

Those were the last words Tia Coleman recalls her sister-in-law yelling before the tourist boat they were on sank into a Missouri lake, killing 17 people, including nine of Coleman's family members.

A huge wave hit, scattering passengers on the vessel known as a duck boat into Table Rock Lake near Branson, Coleman said. When the Indianapolis woman came up for air, she was alone. She prayed.

"I said, 'Lord, please, let me get to my babies,'" she told reporters from her wheelchair Saturday in the lobby of a hospital where she's recovering after swallowing lake water. "... If they don't make it, Lord, take me too. I don't need to be here."

Coleman recalled spotting the rescue boat and managed to reach it, "somehow." Earli-

See **SURVIVOR**, page 7A ▶

See **PAY**, page 8A ▶

Source: School District 51 Notes: \*New person in job in 2018-19 \*\*Half-time position

ROBERT McLEAN and KATIE LANGFORD/The Daily Sentinel

