

MASTER AGREEMENT

Between

**THE BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

and

**BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL
SECRETARIAL ASSOCIATION**

2024-2027

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SECTION 1 - BASIC CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

1.1 AGREEMENT

A. THE PARTIES

This Agreement is entered into effective August 12, 2024, by and between the Board of Education of Benzie County Central Schools, Counties of Benzie, Manistee, Grand Traverse, and Wexford, Michigan, hereinafter called the "Employer" and affiliate of the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association.

B. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The employer and the Union recognize the importance of orderly and peaceful labor relations for the mutual interest and benefit of the Employer, Employees, and the Union. The Employer and the Union further recognize the mutual benefits of just and expeditious resolution of disputes which may arise as to proper interpretation and implementation of this Agreement, and accordingly, have included herein a grievance procedure for the effective processing and resolution of such disputes.

C. NO STRIKE

The Union agrees that during the term of this Agreement there will be no strike or work stoppage.

1.2 RECOGNITION - EMPLOYEES COVERED

The Employer does hereby recognize the Union as the exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment, for the term of this Agreement, of all school building secretaries.

1.3 DEFINITIONS

A. EMPLOYER

The term "Employer" as used in this Agreement shall mean the Board of Education of the Benzie County Central Schools, a quorum of the elected members of the Board, or the Board's authorized designees, such as the Superintendent or Supervisor.

B. UNION

The term "Union" as used in this Agreement shall mean the Michigan Education Association.

C. EMPLOYEE

The term "employee" as used in this Agreement shall mean a person employed in a position within the bargaining unit as defined in Section 1.2.

D. DAYS

The term "days" as used in this Agreement shall mean calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and days when the Central Administrative Offices are closed to the public.

E. POSITION

A position is an assignment within a classification.

F. YEARS

The term "years" as used in the "years" of service context in this Agreement shall mean calendar years for twelve-month employees and school years for school year employees.

1.4 TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be effective on August 12, 2024, and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2027. In witness whereof the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on their behalf by their duly authorized representatives.

FOR THE UNION:

FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

BY: _____
Its President

BY: _____
Its President

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Secretary

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

BY: _____
Its Negotiator

1.5 GRIEVANCES

A. DEFINITION

A Grievance is a claim by one or more employees or the Union that there has been an alleged improper application, violation, or misinterpretation of this Agreement.

B. GRIEVANCE FORM

Any grievance presented in writing must include the following:

1. Specific statement of facts giving rise to the alleged violation
2. Section or subsection of this contract alleged to have been violated
3. Date of the alleged violation
4. Relief requested
5. Signature of the grievant

Any grievance not in accordance with the above requirements may be rejected as improper. Such rejection shall not extend the limitations hereinafter set forth.

C. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Step 1 - Supervisor-Verbal: An employee with a problem or a complaint shall first discuss the matter with his/her immediate Supervisor with the objective of resolving it quickly and informally.

Supervisor-Written: In the event the problem or complaint has not been satisfactorily resolved, the matter shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the immediate Supervisor no later than seven (7) days from date of occurrence. Within ten (10) days after meeting, the Supervisor shall state a decision in writing and furnish a copy to the employee and the Union.

Step 2 - Superintendent: Within five (5) days after receiving the decision in Step 1 Supervisor-Written, the Union may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.

1. Within five (5) days of receipt of the written grievance, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the Union at a mutually satisfactory time and place. The affected employee(s) may be present at such a meeting.
2. Within five (5) days after the meeting, the Superintendent shall state a decision in writing, and furnish a copy to the Union.

Step 3 - Board of Education: Within five (5) days after receiving the decision of Step 2, the Union may appeal the decision in writing through the Superintendent to the Board of Education.

1. The Board President shall appoint someone to hear the grievance, who shall within ten (10) days of the Board's receipt of the grievance confer with the Union Grievance Committee chairman to set a mutually satisfactory time and place for the hearing. The affected employee(s) may be present at such meeting.

2. Within ten (10) days after the hearing the Board shall state a decision in writing and furnish a copy thereof to the Union.

Step 4 - Arbitration: If the Union is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Step 3 by the Board or if no disposition has been made within the period above provided, the Union may submit the grievance, within thirty (30) days of the expiration of Step 3, to arbitration before an impartial arbitrator.

If the arbitrator cannot be selected by mutual agreement of the parties, the arbitrator shall be selected by the American Arbitration Association in accord with its rules. Neither the Employer nor the Union shall be permitted to assert in such arbitration proceeding any ground or to rely on any evidence not previously disclosed to the other party. The arbitrator shall have no power to alter, add to, or subtract from the terms of this Agreement.

Both parties agree to be bound by the award of the arbitrator, and that judgment thereon may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction. The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the Union and the Employer.

D. REPRESENTATION

Both employees and the Employer have the right to be represented at any step in the grievance procedure by attorneys or other representatives of their own choice.

E. TIME LIMITS

Any appeal at any step that is not issued within the time limits specified shall result in a forfeiture of the grievance unless mutually agreed to, in writing, by both parties to extend the timelines.

F. GRIEVANCE HANDLING

All preparation, filing, presentation or consideration of grievances, shall be held at times other than when an employee or a participating Union representative are to be at their assigned duty stations unless mutually agreed to by the parties.

G. REINSTATEMENT

If any employee for whom a grievance is sustained shall be found to have been unjustly discharged or penalized, the employee shall be reinstated with full reimbursement of all compensation lost.

SECTION 2 - EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

2.1 EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

A. NONDISCRIMINATION

The Employer agrees that it will not directly, or indirectly, discourage or deprive or coerce any employee in the enjoyment of any rights conferred by the Michigan Employment Relations Act or other laws of Michigan, or the Constitutions of

Michigan and the United States of America; nor will it discriminate against any employee because of membership in the Union, participation in the lawful activities of the Union, participation in collective negotiations with the Employer, institution of a grievance as defined in this Agreement, or otherwise with respect to any terms or conditions of employment.

The Board and the Association agree to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on an individual case-by-case basis.

B. FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT USAGE

The Union shall have the right to use school building facilities and equipment after school hours for Union business following the district's building use policy. The Union agrees to reimburse the district for the cost of any materials used or damage to school property that is other than normal wear. No charge shall be made to the Union for such use, except in cases where maintenance personnel must be called to open and close buildings.

C. UNION ACTIVITY

The employees agree they will not engage in Union activities during working hours unless permitted within this Agreement or by permission from the immediate Supervisor. The Union shall be permitted to use E-mail to communicate with its members or representatives. Any employee who is absent from his/her assigned duties for the purpose of Union business shall have a deduction of the hourly wage for each hour or part of an hour of absence. However, if the Employer requires an employee to be engaged in activities on behalf of the Union with the Employer, the employee shall be released from scheduled duties without loss of wages.

D. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In response to reasonable requests, the Employer will provide to the Union all information, which is available under the Freedom of Information Act. The Union may be required to pay costs incurred by the Employer in providing this information.

E. PERSONNEL FILE

Employees will have the right to review the contents of their personnel file and, if they request, receive a copy of documents therein. At the request of the employee, a representative may be present. Employees may submit a written notation regarding any material in the personnel file, and the same shall be attached to the file copy of the material in question.

When an employee is requested to sign/initial material to be placed in the personnel file such signature/initials shall be understood to indicate awareness of the material but shall not be interpreted to mean agreement with the content of the material. The Employer agrees to notify the employee any time there is a request to review or release materials in his/her personnel file to a third party prior to the review or release of materials, provided it is possible to do so.

Written complaints or charges shall not be placed or retained in an employee's personnel file unless the complaint(s) or charge(s) lead(s) to discipline by the Board.

F. BULLETIN BOARDS

Bulletin board whose locations are specifically designated by the Employer shall be made available for use by the Union and its members.

2.2 THE EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS

The Employer, on its own behalf and on behalf of the district, hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation all powers, rights, authority, duties, and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Michigan and of the United States to the executive management and administrative control of the school system and its properties and facilities, and the direction of the activities of its employees within the scope of their employment; to establish written personnel and other policies; and to establish policies, bus schedules, the hours of work, and other duties, responsibilities and assignments of employees, terms and conditions of employment not in conflict with this Agreement. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities by the Employer, the adoption of policies, rules and regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and expressed terms of this Agreement and shall not direct or require any employee to violate any Federal or State law or regulation.

2.3 SENIORITY

A. DEFINITION

Seniority shall be defined as the length of service in the district within the bargaining unit. Those secretaries who were hired prior to this contract will be considered as being members of the bargaining unit as to their date of hire.

B. SENIORITY LIST

Employees shall accrue one (1) day of seniority for each day (or portion thereof) paid. All Secretarial Employees shall be scheduled for eight (8) hours per day. Days or portions of days worked prior to the start of the school year shall count as days paid for seniority purposes. School year secretaries, depending on their work schedule, shall be allowed to accumulate either two hundred (200) days or two hundred five (205) days of seniority per year.

Employees shall be ranked on the seniority list, with the employee who has accrued the greatest number of days seniority being the most senior, and the employee who has accrued the least number of days seniority being the least senior. In the event two (2) or more employees have the same number of seniority days the employee possessing the Social Security Number with the highest last four digits shall be the most senior employee of this group.

The seniority list shall be prepared by the Employer, updated every year, and reviewed by the Union. This list will also be updated at any time that seniority is a part of an issue.

C. SENIORITY LOST

Seniority shall be lost by an employee upon termination, resignation, or retirement.

D. SENIORITY CONTINUED

Seniority shall continue to accumulate and shall not be lost when an employee is on leave due to an injury or accident which is compensable under the Employer's workers' compensation insurance for a period of up to twelve (12) months; when an employee is on leave to serve in the armed forces of the United States; or when an employee is on any paid leave of absence.

E. SENIORITY FROZEN

Seniority shall not be lost, but shall not continue to accumulate, when an employee is on unpaid leave of absence; when an employee is on layoff status; or when an employee transfers to a position under the Employer not in the bargaining unit.

F. PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

There shall be no seniority among probationary employees. When an employee finishes the probationary period, the employee shall be placed on the seniority list with credit for all days worked, in accordance with Section 2.4.

2.4 PROBATION

All new employees shall be on probation until they have worked ninety (90) days. Employees shall only be required to serve one (1) probationary period with the district. For the purpose of this section only, any part of a day worked shall count as a workday including being paid to attend required training. During the probationary period the employee may be laid off or terminated at the sole discretion of the Employer. A performance conference between the probationary employee and his/her immediate supervisor will be held within the probationary period.

Probationary employees shall not be entitled to insurance benefits, paid leave days, or holidays, however, upon completion of their probationary period the employees will be credited the paid leave days (excluding holidays) from the date of initial employment. The crediting of paid leave days shall be prorated for employees starting mid-year.

Employees, at the beginning of their probationary period, will be furnished with a packet of materials from central office that will help facilitate a successful probationary period for them. These materials could include: a copy of the contract, information and opportunities regarding the Hepatitis B vaccination process, appropriate job-related Board policies and a copy of any work rules that apply to their employment with the district. At the conclusion of the probationary period, the Employer will furnish the employee with a copy of the Master Agreement and applications for insurance benefits.

- A. After successfully completing probation, employees will be evaluated at least every two years using the Evaluation Performance form. A copy of each employee's evaluation shall be included in the employee's file. Responsibility for the evaluation lies with the building principal. If the employee disagrees with the evaluation, he/she may submit a written response, which shall be attached to the file copy of the evaluation. Any input the building principal collects for the evaluation must be attached to the original evaluation.

2.5 REDUCTION IN WORK FORCE

A. DEFINITION

The word layoff shall mean a reduction in the number of bargaining unit employees, with recall rights.

B. REDUCTION PROCEDURE

In the event a position within the bargaining unit is eliminated, the following procedure will be used:

1. The Employer will identify the position being eliminated.
2. All remaining positions will be posted for bidding by the employees.
3. An employee who, as a result of the elimination of a position finds no position remaining on the list for bidding shall be placed on layoff.
4. An employee who is on layoff shall have the right to apply for any vacancies outside the bargaining unit.

C. RECALL PROCEDURE

1. Employees shall be recalled in inverse order of layoff.
2. Notices of recall shall be sent by certified or registered mail to the last known address as shown on the Employer's records. The recall notice shall state the time and date on which the employee is to report back to work. It shall be the employee's responsibility to keep the Employer notified as to his/her current mailing address. A recalled employee shall be given at least five (5) calendar days from receipt of notice, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, to report to work. The Employer may fill the position on a temporary basis until the recalled employee can report for work providing the employee reports or make arrangements to report within the five (5) day period. Employees recalled to work for which they are qualified are obligated to take said work. An employee who declines recall to perform work for which he/she is qualified shall be considered terminated.

SECTION 3 - WORKING CONDITIONS

3.1 ASSIGNMENTS

A. JOB ASSIGNMENTS:

Secretarial assignments shall be made through an interview process conducted by the building principal. Any member shall have the opportunity to apply for any bargaining unit position that is posted within the district. Vacant and newly created positions that the Employer has determined to fill will be posted online on the district's web site for at least seven calendar days. The Association president will be notified of any vacancies in the bargaining unit prior to posting.

B. TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS:

Temporary assignment of substitutes within the bargaining unit shall not exceed four (4) weeks unless covered by FMLA and/or Board approved Leave of Absence. Persons serving as substitutes to fill newly created or vacated temporary positions and later hired by the Employer for the exact position, shall have those days worked in the previous twelve (12) months outlined in section 2.4.

3.2 WORKING CONDITIONS

A. SAFETY

The Employer shall assign work in compliance with applicable statutes and governmental regulations relating to the safety of the person or the equipment. All work orders and safety-related repairs shall be processed and completed through the District's operational website.

B. WORKER COMPENSATION

Employees shall be covered by workers' compensation insurance under Michigan's Workers' Compensation law. Any employee who is absent because of an injury or disease compensable under the Michigan Workers' Compensation law, shall not have his/her accumulated sick leave days reduced while receiving pay through Michigan Workers' Compensation.

C. PHYSICAL PROTECTION

Employees may protect themselves, other employees, teachers, administrators, or students, from attacks, physical abuse or injury, or may prevent damage to school district property.

D. LEGAL PROTECTION

If any employee is subject to legal action by reason of an action taken by the employee within the scope of employment as defined by Board of Education and administrative policies, the Employer shall provide legal counsel for the defense of the employee, with the following conditions:

1. The Employer retains the right to name legal counsel, and to determine length of appeals, if any.
2. It is agreed that the employee must assist the named legal counsel in all possible ways.
3. The employee has the right to retain legal counsel at the employee's expense.
4. Time lost by an employee in connection with any incident mentioned above shall not be charged against the employee unless the employee is found negligent by a court of law, in which case the Board shall not be obligated to compensate the employee for time lost.
5. Time lost by an employee for appearance as a subpoenaed witness in any judicial or administrative proceeding arising out of the employee's employment shall not be charged against the employee if his/her appearance as a witness shall serve the interests of the Board.

E. MEDICALLY FRAGILE STUDENTS

Employees who are required to serve medically fragile students shall be provided appropriate training to deal with the special needs of the assigned student. Such training shall be at the district's expense and at the employee's regular hourly rate. The parent or the legal guardian of the child will sign a statement acknowledging that a lay person is performing such services and that this is permissible with the parent or legal guardian.

F. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

All Secretarial Employees shall be scheduled for eight (8) hours per day. Elementary secretaries shall be scheduled to work for two hundred (200) school days. Middle School, High School, and Athletic Department secretaries shall be scheduled to work for two hundred and five (205) school days.

Changes in job descriptions will not be implemented without prior discussion with the Association. The parties agree to meet to discuss job description changes at least thirty (30) days prior to implementation of new ones. New job descriptions shall be distributed to all affected bargaining unit members and to all new bargaining unit members when hired by the district.

The Board will provide reasonable notification to the Association prior to changing minimum requirements for job descriptions and provide reasonable training opportunities for those employees within the Association who wish to participate in upgrading their skills.

G. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The parties do hereby mutually agree that the school improvement process currently in effect will continue. Any plan developed by the committees shall not be in conflict with the master agreement or Board policy.

H. DISPENSING MEDICATION

If employees are required to administer medication to students the following conditions will be met:

1. The parents or legal guardians have given prior written approval for the administration of medication through school personnel.
2. For prescription medication, the medication will be in a current prescription bottle. For over-the-counter medication, the medication will be in the original container.
3. Prior training is provided by the parents or legal guardians with regard to medication protocol, equipment and procedures when deemed necessary.
4. The medication and necessary equipment will be delivered to the school site by the parents, legal guardians or an adult designated by parent or legal guardian. A form shall be signed by the parent or legal guardian approving the adult delivering the medication or necessary equipment.
5. A dispensation log is maintained.

The employer shall indemnify and save harmless from any liability, employees who administer medication to pupils when directed to do so by school supervisory personnel, provided they have acted in a reasonable manner and followed the above conditions.

It is expressly understood that members of the bargaining unit will not deviate from this policy. The parties agreed to form a committee to develop protocols to adhere to the above guidelines.

3.3 **DISCIPLINE**

A. JUST CAUSE

Employees shall be disciplined (including warnings, reprimands, suspensions, reductions in rank or occupational advantage, discharges, or other actions of a disciplinary nature) only for just cause. Discipline shall be subject to the grievance procedure.

- B. In the case of dismissal, demotion, discharge or suspension of an Employee, the Association President shall be advised of the reasons for such action as soon as reasonably possible. Written notification of dismissal, suspension or other disciplinary action shall be sent to the Employee and the Association. Causes which shall be deemed sufficient for suspension, demotion, dismissal or other disciplinary action include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Unauthorized excessive absence from work;
2. conviction of any criminal act that would damage the employee's effectiveness in the position they currently hold;

3. incompetence;
4. insubordination;
5. bringing intoxicants into or consuming intoxicants on any school property or reporting for work under the influence of intoxicants of any kind in any degree whatsoever;
6. willful damage to school property, waste, or misappropriation of school supplies or equipment;
7. deliberate falsification of records and reports.

C. REPRESENTATION

An employee shall be entitled to have a representative of their choice for any disciplinary matter or when a discussion could result in disciplinary action being taken. The employee shall be advised by the Employer of the right to representation under this provision of the Agreement.

- D. No suspension shall be effective for a period of more than ten (10) working days without the approval of the Board of Education.
- E. A “demotion” shall be defined as a reduction in pay and shall not include involuntary transfers not subjecting the Employee to any reduction in pay. Involuntary transfers may occur with mutual agreement between the Board of Education and the Association.
- F. The Board agrees that Employees shall not be disciplined, dismissed, demoted, or reduced in compensation without “due process” – Provided that the first ninety (90) workdays of employment all new employees shall be deemed “probationary employees,” and dismissal of any such employee prior to completion of his/her probationary period shall be made at the sole discretion of the Board and shall not be subject to appeal under this Agreement.
- G. Employees may submit a written statement of objection to the imposition of any of the above disciplinary sanctions, specifically stating any reasons why the disciplinary sanction should not be imposed, and such statement shall be included in the Employee’s personnel file.
- H. When the Board or its designee is investigating a complaint of such a serious nature that in Board’s or its designees’ opinion, the Employee should be removed from the workplace, such Employee shall be given a paid leave until the investigation is complete.

I. COMPLAINTS

Written complaints regarding an employee shall include names of the complainants and any administrative action taken, and if appropriate, remedy clearly stated. Complaints shall be reviewed with the employee before placement in the personnel file. Written complaints or charges shall not be placed or retained in an employee’s

personnel file unless the complaint(s) or charge(s) lead(s) to discipline by the employer.

3.4 PHYSICAL ABILITY

A. EXAMINATIONS

The Employer reserves the right to require that an employee submit to a physical and/or psychological examination by qualified persons(s), in which case the Employer is entitled to all information relevant to job performance. If such person declares an employee is unable to fulfill his/her assigned obligations, the employee may request another examination to be performed by some other qualified person designated by the Employer. The Employer shall bear the full cost of these examinations, other than annual physicals.

3.5 LUNCH AND BREAK TIMES

All secretaries who work at least five (5) hours per day will have a continuous uninterrupted unpaid lunch period of at least thirty (30) minutes and no longer than 45 minutes per day. They shall also receive a fifteen- (15) minute relief period in the morning and in the afternoon.

SECTION 4 - LEAVES

4.1 PAID LEAVES

A. PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

The employee may use all or any portion of leave days accumulated to recover from illness or disability, which shall include childbirth and complications of pregnancy.

B. ILLNESS OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER

The employee may take a maximum of five (5) days per illness of an immediate family member. In the event of serious or critical illness of a spouse, son or daughter, step-child, or other dependents that require the employee's presence beyond the five (5) days, an attending physician's note will be required. Employees who have worked in the District for at least five (5) years and have at least thirty (30) sick days in their bank, may use three (3) sick days a year to convert into personal days. These days may not be used before a regularly scheduled holiday or break. Plans must be approved with the Building Administrator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. The Building Administrator has the right to limit the number of secretaries requesting the use of this time to no more than two (2) secretaries taking leave at the same time across the District.

C. DEATH IN THE FAMILY

The employee may use days reasonably necessary in case of death in the immediate family. Immediate family includes: spouse, children, step-children, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step-parent, brother, step-brother,

sister, step-sister, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and grandchildren.

D. DEATH OF CLOSE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

No more than three (3) days including travel to attend the funeral of a close friend or relative outside the immediate family. Upon application employee may be granted additional travel time.

E. PERSONAL BUSINESS LEAVE

An employee may take two (2) days to be used for personal business reasons. An employee must request use of a personal day at least one (1) day in advance, in writing, except in emergency situations. Personal business days may be used to attend functions of immediate family members such as, but not limited to, field trips, college graduation ceremonies, or other school activities. Personal business days shall not be used in situations for which leave is provided under this Agreement, nor to extend vacations, holidays, or travel related thereto, nor for purposes related to a second income or seeking other employment or recreation. If necessary, the Employer may limit the number of employees taking personal business leave on any day. If, for any reason, an employee is unable to use the aforementioned personal days within the applicable contract year, then all unused days shall be converted to sick leave days and will be added to the employee's sick leave accruals.

Employees who have worked in the District for at least five (5) years and have at least thirty (30) sick days, may use up to three (3) sick days a year to convert into personal days. These days may not be used before a regularly scheduled holiday or break. Use of the days, including travel plans, must be approved with the building administrator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. The building administrator has the right to limit the number of secretaries requesting the use of this time to no more than two (2) secretaries taking leave at the same time across the District.

F. COURT APPEARANCE/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Leave with pay not deductible from sick leave or personal leave shall be granted for court appearances in any case connected with the employee's work when the Union is not a party to the litigation. Paid leave of absence will be granted for jury duty, volunteer firefighting or EMS services, but any compensation received by the employee in the form of witness fees or jury pay, excluding expense reimbursement, will be given to the Employer to offset wages paid.

G. UNUSED SICK DAYS

When an employee who has ten (10) years' service in the district retires or resigns from the district, the employee shall receive a final payment of twenty-six dollars (\$26.00) for each accumulated unused paid time off up to a maximum of one hundred and eighty (180) days. A death benefit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or twenty-six dollars (\$26.00) for each accumulated unused paid time off day,

whichever is greater, shall be paid to the estate of an employee within thirty (30) days of death.

H. RETURN FROM EXTENDED PERSONAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY LEAVE

An extended personal illness or disability leave shall be defined as twenty (20) or more consecutive workdays. Employees returning from such leave may be required to certify their ability to return to work at least five (5) working days prior to the requested date of return.

I. ASSOCIATION LEAVE

At the beginning of every school year, the Association shall be credited with fifty (50) Association hours to be used by officers or agents of the Association to conduct Association business. The Association President must notify the Superintendent at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a member taking such leave. The Association will pay the cost of substitutes.

4.2 UNPAID LEAVES

A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Leaves of absence for reasonable periods not to exceed one (1) year may be granted upon request for:

1. serving in any public position;
2. maternity and child care leaves. Such leave may be extended for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of the supervisor;
3. extended illness (physical or mental) beyond accumulated sick leave;
4. prolonged illness in the immediate family;
5. educational leave without pay for a period up to an academic year for each employee who wishes to attend school as a full-time student;
6. short-term personal leave;
7. military leave;
8. other leaves approved by the Superintendent;

Benefits shall not accrue during an unpaid leave.

B. APPLICATION FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An application requesting a leave of absence pursuant to this Article must be submitted to the Superintendent no later than three (3) weeks prior to the time the leave is to commence. Exceptions shall be made under extenuating circumstances. The Board reserves the right to limit to a reasonable number the employees on

leave at one time. The request for the leave of absence must be in writing setting forth the reasons for the leave of absence and the anticipated length of time; and if requested, verification shall be submitted. Any extensions for leaves of absence shall be handled the same as the request for the regular leave.

In instances of unpaid absence caused by non-health related conditions (e.g., vacation trip and/or for personal reasons not covered in Section A of this article), the employee may take a total of five (5) unpaid days off before becoming responsible for the employer's share of the per diem cost of health insurance. On the sixth and succeeding such days the employee shall be responsible for the Board of Education's portion of the per diem cost of the health insurance premium while on unpaid leave of absence.

C. RETURNING FROM LEAVE

Employees returning from a medical leave of absence may be required to certify their ability to return to work at least five (5) working days prior to the requested date of the return. Employees returning from leave will generally fit into one (1) of three (3) categories. They are:

1. Returning Early: Employees returning early from leave of absence must submit a request to return to work in writing. Employees returning early from leave other than medical leave must wait for the next available position opening within their classification.
2. Returning on the Planned Date: Employees returning on the planned date will be placed in the position they left, if that position still exists. If the position does not exist, they will be placed in a position which their relevant job-related qualifications and seniority allow them to occupy. Should this cause another senior employee to be displaced, the provisions of Section 2.5 B.2 and B.3 shall be followed.
3. Returning after the Planned Date: Employees returning after the planned date must apply for an extension as described in Paragraph B. of this Article.

D. FAILURE TO RETURN

Failure to return from an approved leave on the agreed upon date shall mean the employee has voluntarily terminated his/her employment with the Employer.

E. MAINTENANCE OF BENEFITS

Employees who desire to maintain their healthcare benefits during the period of the leave may do so by arranging to pay monthly in advance the cost of the premium to the Employer. The parties expressly recognize that it is the employee's responsibility to have the money in the business office in advance of the scheduled date of premium payment. Failure of the employee to do so shall result in the loss of healthcare coverage except in emergency situations approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee. It is understood by the parties that the employee may qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for paid healthcare benefits for up to twelve (12) weeks while on unpaid leave.

F. FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, an employee who has been employed at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours during the prior twelve-month period is entitled to twelve (12) work weeks of leave during any twelve-month period without pay but with group health insurance coverage maintained in accordance with the FMLA.

G. MPMLA

In accordance with the Michigan Paid Medical Leave Act ("MPMLA"), MCL 408.961 et seq., an eligible non-exempt (hourly) employee may use up to 40 hours of paid leave under this Agreement for any of the following for the employee or family member per fiscal year.

1. Mental or physical illness, injury or health condition, including related medical diagnosis, care, treatment, or preventative medical care.
2. For a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, any related medical care or counseling; victim services or legal services; judicial proceedings, or relocation.
3. For closure of the employee's primary workplace by order of public official; for an employee's need to care for a child whose school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official, or a determination by health authorities that the presence of the employee or family member in the community would jeopardize the health of others due to exposure to a communicable disease.

A family member includes a child, parent, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling as defined by the PMLA. This provision shall be interpreted and applied consistent with the MPMLA, and shall not provide greater benefits than that allowed by the statute.

To be eligible, the non-exempt (hourly) employee must be employed for more than twenty-five (25) weeks in a calendar year, worked an average at least twenty-five (25) hour per week during the immediately preceding calendar year.

4.3 HOLIDAYS

Employees shall receive full day pay for Thanksgiving Day, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well as New Year's Day but shall not be required to work on these days, provided that the employee was at work on the scheduled work days before and after Thanksgiving and Christmas unless their absence is excused with a doctor's note which indicates that the employee was unable to work on the scheduled day in question.

SECTION 5 - WAGES AND BENEFITS

5.1 WAGES AND REIMBURSEMENT

A. REGULAR WAGES

The Employer may alter the work schedule to the extent the Employer determines necessary to comply with applicable local, state or federal laws or regulations; the availability of utilities; or for other circumstances beyond the control of the Employer, except that in this latter regard if school is closed by reason of adverse weather or other emergency and employees are not requested to come in to work, they shall receive their regular rate of pay for such days. Secretaries will be paid for any "Act of God Days" not required by the state to be made up. If an employee is required to work on these days he/she shall be paid at the regular rate. Central Office will make determinations on a district wide basis as to when secretaries may depart on days when school is closed early due to inclement weather. The District shall attempt to release secretaries no later than one (1) hour after the buses depart.

B. SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Secretaries will not report for work on snow days. Secretaries will be paid for any "Act of God Days" not required by the state to be made up.

Secretaries will report for work one (1) hour later on days in which the delay of school is announced as a one (1) hour delay and the appropriate number of hours if the delay is greater than one (1) hour.

C. EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Employees will be paid their regular hourly rate while in attendance at classes required by the Employer or the State of Michigan. The employer may make available mandatory training by classification. All bargaining unit members shall attend training when notified at least fifteen (15) days prior to the training.

Employees will be paid their hourly rate while attending such training. In the event of an emergency the employee may be excused with prior consent of the superintendent or his/her designee.

D. MILEAGE

Employees will be reimbursed at the IRS rate per mile when they are required to drive their own vehicles on official school business at the request of their supervisor.

E. SALARY ADVANCEMENT

The parties agree that all employees shall have their pay rate adjusted to the next step/change on the first day of the first pay period of the new school year.

F. WORK ASSIGNMENT

Any Employee asked by a Supervisor to temporarily (minimum one (1) day) assume the duties of another Employee will be paid on the employee's step in the new classification. An Employee's pay rate shall not be reduced by any temporary change in duties or because of any involuntary transfer.

5.2 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employees that were taking healthcare for 2-Person of Full Family prior to the 2021-2022 school year will have their healthcare premiums paid at the rate of the 2022-2023 hard cap limit for the three (3) years of this contract.

The Board of Education will pay up to the following contribution levels toward employee healthcare premiums for employees who are scheduled to work eight (8) hours (or more) per day and begin taking insurance in the 2024-25 school year:

Insurance Type	Annual	Monthly
Fully Family	\$14,000	\$1,167.00
2 Person	\$11,000	\$916.67
Single	\$7,000	\$583.34

The balance of remaining premium will be paid by the employee deducted from their pay each pay period.

Bargaining unit members may select from the following options:

Program A - Health Insurance Plan 1, Dental Insurance, Vision Insurance, Long-Term Disability and Life Insurance

Program B - Dental, Vision, Life, Long-Term Disability and Cash-in-Lieu of Insurance Payment from the Board based on the number of hours worked per day.

Program C - Health Insurance Plan 2, Dental Insurance, Vision Insurance, Long-Term Disability and Life Insurance

Bargaining unit members electing Program B will also receive the following cash in lieu of medical insurance:

Per Month
\$430.00

- Employees selecting Program B must pay 10% of the healthcare program costs. (Dental, Vision, Life and Long-Term Disability through payroll deduction).

The Association has the right to instruct the employer to make plan changes in coverage one time per contract year. This notification must be in writing and signed by the BCC ESP Executive Board.

The Board and Association may, by mutual agreement, change the identity of insurance carriers during the term of this agreement.

- Spouse coverage/cash-in-lieu language
All District employees are required to have proof of insurance. In the case of spouses that are both employed at the District, one will take medical benefits and the other will take cash-in-lieu. The spouse that elects cash-in-lieu shall receive sixty-five percent (65%) annually.

5.3 COMPENSATION

Years	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
1-2	\$17.88	\$18.24	\$18.60
3-4	\$18.38	\$18.75	\$19.12
5-6	\$18.88	\$19.26	\$19.64
7-9	\$19.38	\$19.77	\$20.16
10-14	\$19.88	\$20.28	\$20.68
15-19	\$20.38	\$20.79	\$21.20
20-24	\$20.88	\$21.30	\$21.72
25+	\$21.38	\$21.81	\$22.24

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