

# **MASTER AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**THE BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

**And**

**THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION**

**For**

**BENZIE COUNTY CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT  
PERSONNEL CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE**

**2025-2028**

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## **SECTION 1 - BASIC CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS**

### **1.1 AGREEMENT**

#### **A. THE PARTIES**

This Agreement is entered into effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 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 the Northern Michigan Education Association, an 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 fulltime custodial & fulltime maintenance personnel, specifically excluding custodial substitutes and part- time custodial staff, central office secretaries, mechanics, supervisory employees, and all other persons.

### 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 Northern 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.


#### G. FULLTIME

A bargaining unit position scheduled to work eight (8) hours per day, 260 days per year.


#### 1.4 TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be effective on July 1st, 2025 and shall remain in effect until June 30th, 2028. The parties agree future contracts will run July 1-June 30 for those respective. In witness whereof, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on their behalf by their duly authorized representatives.

FOR THE UNION

BY:   
Its President

Date: June 9, 2025

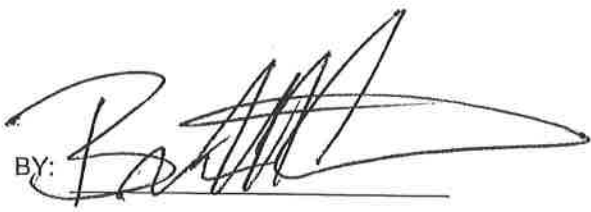
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Its Negotiator

BY:   
Its Negotiator


BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Negotiator

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its Negotiator

FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY:   
Its President

Date: June 9, 2025

BY:   
Its Secretary

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.

The grievant and supervisor shall meet within five (5) days after the receipt of the written grievance

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, but the association shall reimburse the retirement costs incurred by the District during release time.

#### **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 rebuttal 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 in a classification within the bargaining unit. The classification shall consist of the following: (1) custodial and (2) maintenance personnel.

### B. SENIORITY LIST

Employees shall accrue one (1) day of seniority for each day (or portion thereof) paid. Two hundred sixty (260) days shall be the maximum seniority accrual in any school year (July 1 through June 30) for employees.

Days or portions of days worked prior to the start of the school year shall count as days paid for seniority purposes.

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. Seniority shall accrue within classification.

Beginning September 1, 2011, the two current maintenance employees shall maintain their previous custodial/maintenance seniority to determine the employees rank on the seniority list within the maintenance classification.

Should an employee switch classification their seniority level in the former classification shall be frozen. Saturdays and Sundays will not be counted unless they are a part of the employee's regular schedule and not counted as overtime.

#### 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 or in a different classification.

#### 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 should they be re-hired to the same classification. 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: classification handbooks, 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.

## 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 in the job classification.
3. An employee who, as a result of the elimination of a position finds no position remaining on the list for bidding, has the right to displace the least senior employee in the job classification covered by this agreement providing the employee is qualified and has more seniority in that classification than the displaced employee.
4. An employee who is on layoff shall have the right to apply for any vacancies outside the bargaining unit member's classification.

### C. RECALL PROCEDURE

1. Employees shall be recalled in inverse order of layoff according to classification.
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**

Custodial and maintenance job assignments within the bargaining unit, except the head maintenance person, shall be made on the basis of qualifications relevant to this assignment. Vacant and newly created positions within the bargaining unit the Employer has determined to fill will be posted, with all job duties and expectations listed, in conspicuous places for the applicable periods stated in paragraphs B, C, and D below. A position within the bargaining unit will be considered vacant if the employee holding that position resigns, retires or otherwise terminates their employment, or is terminated for just cause in accordance with this Agreement, or is granted an assignment on which he/she bids.

#### **B. VACANCIES**

1. Notice of any custodial/maintenance vacancy shall be posted in each building's maintenance personnel room at least seven (7) calendar days before said vacancy is permanently filled and e-mailed to the union president.
2. Any vacancy that occurs on the custodial/maintenance personnel staff, except head maintenance person, shall be filled on the basis of qualifications relevant to the assignment.

#### **C. TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT**

Temporary assignment of substitutes within the bargaining unit shall not exceed four (4) weeks unless mutually agreed to be extended. Persons serving as substitutes to fill temporary assignments and later hired by the Employer for the exact position (building assignment/shift assignment) shall have those days worked in the previous 12 months credited for purposes of fulfilling the probationary period requirements 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 in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

### 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. The legal counsel's client during this representation shall be the Employer.
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. JOB DESCRIPTIONS

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

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

### 3.3 DISCIPLINE

#### A. JUST CAUSE

Employees shall be disciplined (including warnings, reprimands, suspensions, and 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.

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 and/or failure to complete the shift expectations
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, reports, and/or timecards
8. Stealing property

#### B. 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.

No suspension shall be effective for a period of more than ten (10) working days without the approval of the Board of Education.

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.

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.

The following progressive discipline system shall be the normal practice of the Employer, except as the seriousness of the offense in the opinion of the Board shall otherwise require:

1. Discussion of the problem with the employee

2. Verbal written by supervisor
3. Written reprimand by supervisor and placed in the employee's personnel file. The employee will receive a copy of the written reprimand.
4. Suspension at half pay (employee does not report to work}
5. Suspension without pay
6. Discharge/ dismissal

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.

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.

## C. 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

The Board will attempt to provide custodial/maintenance personnel with an uninterrupted unpaid lunch break of at least thirty (30) minutes. They shall also receive one (1) fifteen- (15) minute relief period during the first half of their shift and one (1) fifteen (15) minute relief period during the second half of their shift.

An employee must be scheduled for a minimum of five (5) hours of work within a given work day before they can be required to take an unpaid lunch period.

Additionally, it is understood that all lunch periods shall be duty free. If they are not duty free, then they shall be paid lunch periods.

Employees will be assigned a lunch hour and break schedule. Employees will not deviate from the lunch schedule unless authorized by building principal.



## **SECTION 4 - LEAVES**

### **4.1 PAID LEAVES**

#### **A. SICK/FUNERAL LEAVE**

Employees shall use all accrued paid leave (sick, personal, vacation) time before requesting an unpaid leave.

At the beginning of each work year employees shall be credited with twelve (12) days of sick leave. If an employee is hired after July 1, their days will be prorated based on the percentage of time remaining in that work year.

The unused portion of such allowance shall be accumulative to one hundred- eighty (180) days. An employee who is paid less than one hundred eighty (180) days in a year shall be credited a prorated share of the thirteen (13) days. Leave days may be used for the following:

1. **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. The employee may take a maximum office days per illness after which time an attending physician's note will be required.
2. **Illness of an Immediate Family Member -** The employee may take a maximum of five (5) days per illness of an immediate family member. "Immediate family" shall mean spouse, children, dependents, parents, grandparents, siblings, in-laws, and any other person who has acted in loco parentis for the employee or for whom the employee has acted in the role of a parent. In the event of serious or critical illness of a spouse, son or daughter, or other dependents that require the employee's presence beyond the five (5) days, an attending physician's note will be required.
3. **Death in the Family-** The employee may use days up to five (5) days in case of death in the immediate family. "Immediate family" shall mean spouse, children, dependents, parents, grandparents, siblings, in-laws, and any other person who has acted in loco parentis for the employee or for whom the employee has acted in the role of a parent.
4. **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.

#### **B. 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.

### C. 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.

### D. 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-five dollars (\$25.00) for each accumulated unused sick leave day up to a maximum of one hundred eighty {180} days. A death benefit of \$500.00 or \$25.00 for each accumulated unused sick day, whichever is greater, shall be paid to the designated beneficiary of an employee as indicated on district provided life insurance policy within thirty {30} days of death.

### E. ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE

Twelve Month Employees

On an annual basis, to be paid in July of the following fiscal year, an additional amount of salary shall be granted for any employee whose absence for paid leave or personal leave does not exceed the following:

0 days - \$200 1 day - \$150 2 days - \$100 3 days - \$50

### F. 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.

### G. ASSOCIATION LEAVE

At the beginning of every school year, the Association shall be credited with twenty-four (24) 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 and retirement contributions.

## 4.2 UNPAID LEAVES

### A. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Employee shall use all accrued paid leave (sick, personal, vacation) time before requesting an unpaid leave.

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. The Board reserves the right to approve or deny a leave on a case-by-case basis.

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. 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 for one of the following reasons:

1. Due to the birth of the employee's child in order to care for the child;
2. Due to the placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care;
3. To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition; or
4. Due to a serious health condition that renders the employee incapable of performing the functions of his or her job.
5. 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 medical leave 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 a 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.
  4. A family member includes a child, parent, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling as defined by the MPMLA. 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 25 weeks in a calendar year, worked an average at least 25 hours per week during the immediately preceding calendar year.

#### 4.3 VACATIONS

Vacation days will be granted on the employee's anniversary date (July 1) each year.

1. New employees will receive a proration of the 5 vacation days based on their start date. Thereafter as follows:

After two (2) years	10 days
After five (5) years	15 days
After twelve (12) years	20 days
After thirty (30) years	25 days

2. The number of vacation days will be reduced on a pro-rata basis reflecting unpaid leave taken during the preceding twelve (12) month period.
3. Vacation time shall not be accumulative from one year to the next. Employees will be paid for unused days at their daily rate for each accumulated day unused. Payment for unused days shall not exceed one-half (1/2) the yearly accumulated amount.
4. Vacations taken by twelve-month employees shall be scheduled with the mutual agreement and approval of the employee and the Superintendent or his designee. Applications for vacation must be filed with the Director of Operations at least two (2) weeks before the vacation is to begin except in cases where the employee is asking for less than three (3) days' vacation.
5. Upon transfer to a position requiring fewer working hours or weeks of employment, employees shall receive any unused vacation allowance at the rate of pay received by them at the time the allowance is earned.
6. In the event of the death of an employee covered under this Agreement, all accruals from unused vacation time due the employee will be paid to his estate.
7. If an employee retires, resigns, or is terminated for any reason, other than layoff, he/she will receive pay for any unused vacation including that accumulated in the current year, provided the employee gives the Board two (2) weeks' notice of his/her intent to leave. In case of layoff, no advance notice is required.

Pay for unused vacation shall be determined by taking the yearly amount of vacation days, dividing that number by the number of pay periods in that year, multiplying that number by the number of pay periods worked and then subtracting the number of used vacation days from that number.

Example: Employee X is entitled to 15 days of paid vacation, X works through 11 pay periods or of a 26 pay period year, and X used 3 vacation days. X is entitled to:  $(15 \text{ vacation days} / 26 \text{ pay periods}) \{11 \text{ pay periods}\} = 6.35 \text{ vacation days earned} - 3 \text{ vacation days used} = 3.35 \text{ vacation days unused}$ .

8. Holidays occurring during vacation taken by employees shall not be charged against vacation allowance.

#### 4.4 HOLIDAYS

Employees shall receive full day pay for the following days and shall not be required to work on these days:

New Year's Day **or** New Year's Eve Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Day after Thanksgiving

Day before Christmas

Christmas Day

One day in July to be scheduled by the employee and approved by the Employer.

#### 4.5 UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

A. For each school year, the uniform allowance will be \$350 and will be paid via payroll 50% the first pay of July and 50% the second pay of December.

B. In order to qualify for the uniform allowance, the employee must work at least sixteen (16) hours per week and have completed their probationary period.

C. Employees must wear a Benzie Central logo shirt during working hours. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Director of Operations.

## **SECTION 5 - WAGES AND BENEFITS**

### **5.1 WAGES AND REIMBURSEMENT**

#### **A. 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 schedule mandatory training. 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.

#### **B. 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.

#### **C. SALARY ADVANCEMENT**

The parties agree that all employees shall have their pay rate adjusted to the next step on July 1 of each year until Step ten+ (10+) is reached. This does not apply to longevity which is outlined in Section 5.1, Paragraph L.

#### **D. OVERTIME**

1. All overtime worked by custodial/maintenance personnel shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half per hour over forty (40) hours worked per week. If a custodian is called in there shall be a minimum guarantee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each call.
2. Any overtime worked on a Sunday outside of an employee's normal scheduled hours, or on a listed holiday shall be paid at two (2) times the employee's base pay. Should an employee work on a listed holiday they shall be compensated Holiday wages and regular time wages, unless overtime is applicable.
3. Overtime shall first be offered to the most senior custodian or maintenance person in the building where the overtime is available, then to the custodian or maintenance personnel by district-wide seniority (most senior to least senior) based on classification and qualifications relevant to the assignment. If a volunteer is not available, then the additional hours shall be offered to part-time personnel. If no one accepts the offer of additional hours, then the supervisor will mandate the most junior employee to work said hours (unless that employee is on approved leave-then the second most junior employee shall be mandated, etc.).
4. All overtime shall only be worked and paid for when authorized by the Superintendent or his designee. An employee who submits a timesheet that includes unauthorized overtime may be subject to discipline. All overtime must be recorded on a timesheet.

#### E. LONGEVITY

After ten (10) continuous years of service employees shall be entitled to longevity pay as listed. Employees shall earn longevity payment starting with the school year their hire date anniversary falls in the eleventh year. The payment will happen in the pay period after their anniversary date.

Longevity shall be paid on the following basis:

Years of Service:	Payment Amount:
11-15 years	\$700.00
16-20 years	\$1,000.00
21-25 years	\$1,300.00
26+ years	\$1,600.00

These additional stipends are not cumulative.



## 5.2 WAGES

YEARS	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Probation	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00
0	\$16.50	\$16.62	\$16.74
1	\$17.00	\$17.12	\$17.24
2	\$17.50	\$17.62	\$17.74
3	\$18.00	\$18.12	\$18.24
4	\$18.50	\$18.62	\$18.74
5	\$19.00	\$19.12	\$19.24
6	\$19.50	\$19.62	\$19.74
7	\$20.00	\$20.12	\$20.24
8	\$20.50	\$20.62	\$20.74
9	\$21.00	\$21.12	\$21.24
10+	\$21.50	\$21.62	\$21.74

Lead Custodian/Maintenance

Afternoon shift premium: \$.30 per hour

## 5.3 BENEFITS

1. The lead custodian and maintenance positions may be benefited as determined by the Board of Education.
2. Employees that are scheduled to work 8.0 hours per day/260 days per year, will be eligible to receive a cash-in-lieu benefit of \$4,200/\$350 per month. The district will comply with all the requirements of the Federal Affordable Health Care Act and when in effect Section 5.3(2.) (\$4,200 payment) will apply as the employer's contribution toward this requirement. All District employees are required to have proof of insurance.
3. In the case of spouses that are both employed by the district, one will take medical benefits and the other will take cash-in-lieu. The spouse that elects cash-in-lieu shall receive 65% annually.
4. The Board of Education will pay the 100% single subscriber Health Care rate not to exceed \$6,200.00 toward insurance premiums annually for full-time employees.
5. The Board of Education will provide \$5,000 life insurance and AD&D (accidental death & dismemberment).
6. The Board of Education will provide a \$1,300.00 allocation to custodial members participating in the health care program. This allocation will be deposited in the first business week following January 1<sup>st</sup> to

the HSA account established by the member. If a member leaves employment from the district due to retirement or resignation before the end of the deductible year, the member shall reimburse the district 1/12th of the deductible amount contributed by the district for each month they left early. Reimbursement shall be made through payroll deduction. In the event payroll deduction is not enough to fully reimburse the district, the district may pursue all options necessary to receive full reimbursement from the employee and will hold the Association harmless in these matters.

\*\*\*\*\*The Board and the Association by mutual consent may change carriers during the duration of this agreement and such changes shall not be interpreted as amending or reopening of the Master Agreement.