

MASTER AGREEMENT

Between

FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

and

FOREST HILLS MEA-NEA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

2026-2027



**Mr. Ben Kirby, Ed.S.,
Superintendent
Forest Hills Public Schools
620 Forest Hill Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546**

Table of Contents

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT	6
PREAMBLE	6
ARTICLE I: RECOGNITION	7
ARTICLE II: TEACHER CONTRACTS	7
A. <i>Issuance of Teaching Contract</i>	7
B. <i>Timelines for Teacher Resignation</i>	7
C. <i>Provisions for Teacher Contract</i>	7
ARTICLE III: PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGES	7
A. <i>Professional Privileges</i>	7
B. <i>Right to Invoke Assistance</i>	8
C. <i>Use of Facilities</i>	8
D. <i>Appropriate Educational Material</i>	8
E. <i>Responsibility for School Related Committee Assignment</i>	8
F. <i>Release of Information / Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)</i>	8
G. <i>Individual Freedom</i>	9
H. <i>Academic Freedom</i>	9
I. <i>Application of Law</i>	9
ARTICLE IV: TEACHER PROTECTION	9
A. <i>Classroom Management</i>	9
B. <i>Responsibility for Students with Disabilities</i>	10
C. <i>Least Restrictive Environment and/or Medically Fragile Students</i>	10
1. <i>Definition of Terms</i>	10
2. <i>Placement of Students</i>	10
D. <i>Complaint Against Teacher</i>	11
E. <i>Assault or Threat Upon Teacher</i>	11
F. <i>Property Loss or Damage</i>	12
G. <i>Lost Time for Disposition of Incident</i>	12
ARTICLE V: SENIORITY	12
A. <i>Accruing Seniority</i>	13
ARTICLE VI: CLASS SIZE	13
A. <i>JK-6 Maximum Class Size</i>	14

<i>B. Grades 7-8 Maximum Class Size</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>C. Grades 9-12 Maximum Class Size</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>D. Grades 7-12 Relief.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>E. Caseloads for Student Services Staff and Special Education Teachers.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>F. Counselors.....</i>	<i>16</i>
ARTICLE VII: CALENDAR, HOURS AND ASSIGNMENT	17
<i>A. Hours and Assignment.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>B. Staff Meetings.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>C. Teacher Relief Time.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>D. Teacher Relief Time</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>E. Substituting for Another Teacher</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>F. JK-6 Planning and Conference Periods</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>G. Traveling Between Buildings.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>H. Part-Time Staff and/or Shared Staff Responsibilities.....</i>	<i>19</i>
1. Compensation, Benefits and Seniority	19
2. Duties and Responsibilities	19
3. Signed Agreement/Waivers	20
<i>I. Job Share Responsibilities.....</i>	<i>21</i>
1. Application.....	21
2. Restriction and Waivers	21
3. Signed Agreement/Waivers	21
<i>J. Outside of the School Day Activities.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>K. Calendar</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>L. Contracted Instructional / Work Days.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>M. Conferences.....</i>	<i>22</i>
1. Parent-Teacher Conferences.....	22
2. Compensatory Time ("Comp Time")	23
<i>N. Teaching Load.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>O. 7-12 Middle and High School Class Assignments</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>P. Acts of God Days, Delays or Closings.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Q. Scheduled Holidays.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>R. Additional Compliance Requirements.....</i>	<i>24</i>
ARTICLE VIII: VACANCIES, PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS	24
ARTICLE IX: LEAVES OF ABSENCE – ILLNESS, PERSONAL, SHORT-TERM & CRITICAL MEDICAL.....	24
<i>A. Personal Illness or Disability Leave</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>B. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>C. Non-Immediate Family Funeral</i>	<i>25</i>

<i>D. Immediate Family Funeral</i>	25
<i>E. Arrangements for Additional Leave</i>	26
<i>F. Serious Illness / Medical Certification</i>	26
<i>G. Misuse of Personal Illness Leave</i>	26
<i>H. Job Related Injury / Worker's Compensation</i>	26
<i>I. Personal Leave</i>	26
<i>J. Sub-Deduct Leave</i>	27
<i>K. Critical Care Leave</i>	27
<i>L. FHEA Sick Leave Bank</i>	28
<i>M. Absence Due to Vacations</i>	30
<i>N. Teacher's Responsibility for Reporting Absences</i>	30
<i>O. Change to An Employee's Active Status</i>	30
ARTICLE X: LEAVE OF ABSENCES – EXTENDED PERIODS, ASSOCIATION PURPOSES, JURY DUTY, COURT APPEARANCES, PUBLIC OFFICE, AND SPECIAL PURPOSES	30
<i>A. Extended Personal Illness, Child Care or Disability Leaves</i>	31
<i>B. Association Leave</i>	31
<i>C. Subpoenaed Court Appearances or Jury Duty</i>	31
<i>D. Public Office</i>	32
<i>E. Special Leave</i>	32
<i>F. Active Military Leave</i>	32
<i>G. Salary Schedule Credit</i>	33
ARTICLE XI: PERSONNEL FILE AND MENTORS	33
<i>A. Personnel File</i>	34
<i>B. Mentor Teacher</i>	34
ARTICLE XII: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES	34
ARTICLE XIII: JOINT COUNCILS / COMMITTEES	36
<i>A. Representation on Committees</i>	36
<i>B. Critical Care Appeal Committee</i>	36
<i>C. FHEA Sick Leave Committee</i>	36
<i>D. Sabbatical or Fellowship Committee</i>	36
ARTICLE XIV: BOARD RIGHTS	36
<i>A. Powers, Rights, Authority, Duties and Responsibilities</i>	36
<i>B. Exceptions</i>	37

ARTICLE XV: NEGOTIATION PROCEDURES	37
A. <i>Good Faith Bargaining / Problem Solving</i>.....	37
B. <i>Negotiation Timelines</i>.....	37
C. <i>Release from Assignment</i>	38
D. <i>Issuance of Contracts / Letters of Intent</i>.....	38
ARTICLE XVI: PROVISIONS FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION	38
A. <i>Interference with Education</i>	38
B. <i>Conflict Resolution</i>	38
ARTICLE XVII: PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION	38
ARTICLE XVIII: MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACT PROVISIONS	39
A. <i>Equality of Agreement</i>.....	39
B. <i>Agreement Supersedes Rules and Practices</i>.....	39
C. <i>Contrary to Law</i>.....	39
D. <i>Site-Based Decision Making</i>	39
E. <i>Copies of Agreement</i>.....	39
F. <i>Student Teacher Placement</i>.....	39
G. <i>Property of the Board</i>	40
H. <i>Emergency Manager</i>	40
ARTICLE XIX: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	40
A. <i>Employee Responsibilities</i>	40
B. <i>Benefits</i>	40
1. Medical Insurance	40
2. Dental Plan	41
3. Vision Insurance	41
4. Life Insurance.....	41
5. Long-Term Disability (LTD)	41
6. Workers' Compensation Insurance.....	41
7. Accumulated Sick Leave Value upon Retirement.....	42
8. Cash in Lieu of Health Benefits	42
9. Tax Sheltered Annuity	42
10. Flexible Spending Accounts	42
11. Insurance Coverage Upon Leave / Termination.....	43
12. Tuition Reimbursement	43
13. TB Exams.....	44
14. Mileage Reimbursement.....	44
ARTICLE XX: SALARY SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS	45
A. <i>For the 2026-2027 year</i>.....	45
B. <i>Certification Requirements for Employees</i>.....	45

<i>C. Initial Placement on the Salary Schedule</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>D. MA + 15</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>E. MA + 30</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>F. MA + 45</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>G. Prior Experience/Salary Schedule Credit.....</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>H. Credit on Salary Schedule Beyond Master’s Degree.....</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>I. Military or Peace Corps Experience</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>J. Movement on Salary Schedule</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>K. Extended Work Year</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>L. Teaching Load in Excess of 1.0 FTE</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>M. 2026-2027 Salary Schedule</i>	<i>48</i>
ARTICLE XXI: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS	49
<i>A. Conditions for Issuance of Supplement Contract</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>B. Salary for Assignment.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>C. Compensation Teaching Load in Excess of 1.0 FTE for Extra Duty</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>D. Process for Validating Supplemental Contract</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>E. Extra-Curricular Assignments</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>F. Assignment Not Subject to Tenure</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>G. Fulfillment of Contract.....</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>H. Board’s Right to Establish Additional Positions.....</i>	<i>54</i>
ARTICLE XXII: GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT	54
<i>A. Parameters / Additional Employment</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>B. Teaching Outside Contracted School Year</i>	<i>55</i>
ARTICLE XXIII: DURATION	56
APPENDIX A.....	57
<i>Appendix A: Classroom Teacher Placement, Layoff/Recall, and Evaluation</i>	<i>57</i>
APPENDIX B	62
<i>Appendix B: Non-Teaching Professionals (Placement, Layoff/Recall, and Evaluation)</i>	<i>62</i>

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

The Forest Hills Public School District Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), religion, age, disability, genetic information, or any other protected status in its employment decisions or provision of services.

PREAMBLE

The Board and the Association recognize their mutual obligations pursuant to Act 379 of the Public Acts of 1965 to bargain collectively with respect to hours, wages, terms and conditions of employment. Both parties have entered into and conducted extended and good faith negotiations in which each party has had the right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with regard to all subjects of bargaining. Agreement has been reached between both parties hereto including formal ratification of the terms hereof by the governing body of the Board and by the employees represented by the Association.

This collective bargaining agreement is entered into the 8th day of June, 2026, by and between the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Kent County, Michigan, a school district of the second class hereinafter referred to as the "BOARD", and the FOREST HILLS MEA/NEA DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as the "ASSOCIATION".

Adopted by the Board: June 8, 2026

ARTICLE I: RECOGNITION

The Board hereby recognizes the Association as the exclusive bargaining representative as defined in Section II of Act 379, Public Acts of 1965, for all certified classroom teachers, media specialists, guidance counselors, speech therapists, teacher consultants, psychologists, social workers, instructional coaches, and content coordinators under contract with the Board, but excluding substitute teachers and those persons with administrative duties totaling to one-half or more administrative time during the regular school year and scheduled school day. The term “teacher” when used hereinafter in the Agreement shall refer to all employees represented by the Association in the bargaining unit as above defined. Additional contract language pertaining to ancillary staff, defined as unit members whose employment is not regulated by the Teachers’ Tenure Act, can be found in Appendix A.

ARTICLE II: TEACHER CONTRACTS

A. Issuance of Teaching Contract

Probationary teachers will be issued a teaching contract by September 15 of each school year. Tenure teachers will not be issued a yearly contract after the year they are placed under a continuing contract. (Refer to Certification Requirements for Employees, Article XX)

B. Timelines for Teacher Resignation

It is expressly understood by the Association that it is a violation of the Tenure Act for a teacher to resign less than sixty (60) days before September 1 without consent of the Board. The Association agrees to take all reasonable steps to discourage such resignations and to support all penalties applicable under law.

C. Provisions for Teacher Contract

All provisions of the individual contract between the teacher and the school district are subject to the specific provisions of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE III: PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGES

A. Professional Privileges

Pursuant to the Public Employment Relations Act, the Board hereby agrees that every employee of the Board shall have the right to freely organize, join and support the Association for the purpose of engaging in collective bargaining or negotiation and other lawful activities for mutual aid and protection or to refrain from such activities. As a duly elected body exercising governmental power under cover of law of the State of Michigan, the Board and Association undertakes and agrees that they will not directly or indirectly discourage, deprive or coerce any teacher in the enjoyment of any rights conferred by Act 379 or other laws of Michigan or the Constitution of Michigan and the United States. The Board will not discriminate against any teacher with respect to hours, wages, or any terms

or conditions of employment by reason of his/her membership or non-membership in the Association, his/her participation or non-participation in any lawful activities of the Association or collective professional negotiations with the Board, or his/her institution of any grievance, complaint or proceeding under this Agreement with respect to any term or condition of employment.

B. Right to Invoke Assistance

The parties specifically recognize that each has the right to invoke the assistance of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission or a mediator from such public agency, or an arbitrator appointed pursuant to other provisions of this Agreement, and they agree to be bound by any lawful order or award thereof.

C. Use of Facilities

1. The Association and its members shall have the right to schedule the use of school building facilities for Association Meetings. No teacher shall be prevented from wearing insignia, pins or other identification of membership in the Association either on or off school premises so long as they would tend not to distract from the proper performance of his/her duties. After notification of intent has been given to the principal, the Association may post Association notices in any faculty lounge.
2. Teachers shall have the right to have reasonable access to available district- owned communications and technology equipment.
3. Parking facilities shall be made available to teachers.
4. In each school, the Board shall provide restroom and lavatory facilities exclusively for teachers' use and at least one furnished room which shall be reserved as a faculty lounge.

D. Appropriate Educational Material

The Board recognizes that appropriate educational materials are the tools of the teaching profession. The parties will confer from time to time for the purpose of improving the selection and use of such educational tools. The Board agrees at all times to keep the schools reasonably and properly equipped and maintained.

E. Responsibility for School Related Committee Assignment

It is specifically understood that curriculum study committees or any similar committees shall not make recommendations which have an impact upon a teacher's hours, wages or other conditions of employment except as said recommendations are mutually agreed upon by the Board and Association.

F. Release of Information / Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

1. When a request for information concerning an association member is made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the following process will be followed:
 - a. The affected teacher(s) and Association shall be notified immediately of any FOIA request.

- b. A copy of the request as well as the name(s) of the requesting parties, inclusive of communications received by the District, shall be made available to the affected teacher(s) and Association.
- c. The Board and Association agree to confer as to the timeline for release of requested information.
- d. All exemptions to the disclosure and production of information excluded in Section 13 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) shall be honored by the District.
- e. On any documents that may be released under a FOIA request, all exempt information and material must be redacted.

G. Individual Freedom

Teachers shall be entitled to full rights of citizenship, except as limited by law, religious or political activities of any teacher or the lack thereof shall not be grounds for any discrimination with respect to the professional employment of such teacher.

H. Academic Freedom

The Board and Association endorse the concept of academic freedom and mutually define same as the opportunity and right of teachers and students to freely study, investigate and discuss. Within the Board approved curriculum guidelines pursuant to applicable laws and to this Agreement, teachers shall be free from artificial restraint in their choice of appropriate materials and methodology to achieve the educational goals and objectives of the District. The parties agree to meet promptly at the request of either party to resolve issues related to privacy, non-traditional teaching schedules and/or instructional methods.

I. Application of Law

The provisions of this Agreement and wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment shall be applied in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, or membership in or association with activities of any legitimate employee organization.

ARTICLE IV: TEACHER PROTECTION

A. Classroom Management

Good order and discipline are necessary for effective teaching. Each teacher is responsible for maintaining such an atmosphere in each of his/her classes. The Board recognizes, however, that through its administrative staff, it must support its teachers in taking all reasonable action, specifically including the Revised School Code and Board Policy #5206 to maintain proper classroom order and agrees to do so. (Refer to Article IV, Section E – Assault or Threat Upon a Teacher)

B. Responsibility for Students with Disabilities

In the event a teacher reasonably believes a student has a disability, the teacher may refer the student to the principal, counselor, or person in charge who shall begin the Child Study Process.

C. Least Restrictive Environment and/or Medically Fragile Students

1. Definition of Terms

- a. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) legally mandates that “to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities are educated with children without disabilities and that special classes, separate schooling or other removal of students with disabilities from their regular education environment occurs only when the nature and severity of the disability is such that their education in general education classes, with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.”
- b. Medically fragile students are those who are chronically ill and/or medical or technology dependent and/or who have life threatening conditions that require immediate medical attention.

2. Placement of Students

- a. The parties acknowledge that the policy of Least Restrictive Environment is legally mandated. It is also recognized that the extent to which any student with disabilities should participate in regular education programs and services involves considerations of that student’s unique needs as determined by an Individual Planning Committee.
- b. The District shall ensure that appropriate general education staff is included in the IEP and other related instructional planning involving the placement of special education students in general education classrooms.
- c. Release time shall be provided to staff who are invited to attend an IEP/504 meeting. An IEP meeting may be scheduled during a teacher’s prep time no more than four times in one month; in this event, no additional compensation shall be provided to the teacher. Should a teacher be required to attend more than four IEP meetings per month, that teacher shall earn equivalent comp time for each additional IEP meeting in the month. District planning related to IEP/504 provisions and recommendations shall include input from general education staff. Appropriate information related to the student’s academic, medical, social and emotional needs shall be shared with general education staff invited to participate in the IEP/504 or related meetings.
- d. The child study process is expected to be held during the contractual day. If child study occurs outside of the school day, comp time will be given. If a teacher’s accumulated comp time is not used before the end of the school year in which it was earned, teachers will be compensated for their time at the comp time rate established in

Article VII, E. Substituting for Another Teacher.

- e. Except on a voluntary basis, no teacher shall be required to provide school health services (defined as an act or function constituting the “Practice of Medicine” within the meaning of the Public Health Code MCL 333.17001), except in an emergency situation. Teachers providing instructional services to students with special medical needs shall receive prior training as to what process and/or procedure to follow in the event that an emergency arises related to the student’s medical condition.

D. Complaint Against Teacher

Any complaints directed toward a teacher shall be called promptly to the teacher’s attention; if, in the administration’s judgment, such notice is appropriate.

1. If any teacher so requests, he/she must be advised of any specific complaint or situation.
2. All specific complaints which are included as part of a teacher’s permanent record shall include the name(s) of the people filing the complaint.
 - a. A teacher’s signature and date of the same shall be accepted as verification of due process in respect to the teacher’s knowledge of a complaint which may be included in the teacher’s file.
 - b. It is agreed that the teacher’s signature does not constitute agreement as to the content of the document. Teacher may attach his/her statement to be included in the teacher’s file.
 - c. Should a teacher refuse to sign the document, the administration may request the assistance of the building representative to sign and date the document to verify the teacher’s knowledge of receipt. A teacher’s refusal to sign, acknowledging receipt of the document when requested, may result in discipline for insubordination.
3. All letters of commendation shall be shared with the teacher.

E. Assault or Threat Upon Teacher

The Parties recognize that the Board and Association are mutually responsible for providing a safe school environment. The Teacher bears the initial responsibility for maintaining proper control and discipline in the classroom and understands that all disciplinary actions and methods invoked by the Teacher shall be in accordance with established Board policy and applicable provisions of the Revised School Code. It shall be the responsibility of the Teacher to report to the Principal, the name of any student who, in the opinion of the Teacher, needs particular assistance from skilled personnel. Principals and Teachers will work cooperatively in resolving discipline problems which disrupt school operation.

1. Any case of assault upon a Teacher while representing the District shall be promptly [within twenty-four (24) hours] reported in writing to the District or its designated representative. The District will investigate the assault and shall advise the Teacher of any action taken, including any reports made to law enforcement authorities. Any workplace injury is subject to coverage as specified and directed by the District's workers' compensation carrier and State law.
 - a. If an assault is perpetrated by a student, and the Teacher acted in compliance with the law and board policy, the Teacher may immediately remove the accused student from the educational setting consistent with state law if the removal does not violate federal law, civil rights statutes, or other constitutional protections of the student. If a teacher violates District policy or law with the removal, they may be disciplined.
 - b. If not covered by workers' compensation, absences incurred by a bargaining unit employee that is caused by a workplace assault which results in their not being able to perform their assigned duties with reasonable accommodation shall not be charged against a bargaining unit employee's paid leave allowance if the bargaining unit employee acted consistent with Board Policy and the law.
2. If a bargaining unit employee, while acting consistent with Board policies and the law (as reasonably determined by the Board) in the scope of their duties, is accused of assault and/or battery, or sued, the District shall provide legal assistance to the bargaining unit employee in his/her defense and as provided under its insurance policy.
3. A Teacher may, while acting within the scope of their employment, manage problematic student behavior in conformance with the Board Policy, the Revised School Code (or its successor provision) and State or Federal law.

F. Property Loss or Damage

Employees who have experienced property loss or damage as a result of an assault by a student on the employee while the employee is on duty, acting within the scope of his or her employment, and acting in compliance with District policy, administrative guidelines, or rules, shall report the property loss or damage to the building principal. The District and the employee will discuss the reimbursement of lost or damaged property.

G. Lost Time for Disposition of Incident

Time lost by a teacher in connection with the disposition of any incident arising under Section E of this Article shall not be charged against the teacher.

ARTICLE V: SENIORITY

A. Accruing Seniority

Accruing Seniority is defined to mean the amount of time an individual is continuously employed as a teacher within the school district.

- Except as provided in Article X, Military Leave, Sabbatical Leave, Honorary or Fellowship Leaves, and Article VIII, teacher returning from an administrative position; a teacher shall not earn seniority or advancement on the salary schedule during a period of unpaid leave or layoff.
- A teacher returning to a position following an unpaid leave or layoff, except for those situations referenced in the preceding paragraph, shall resume earning seniority and credit on the salary schedule, as of the effective date of return from unpaid leave or layoff.

Any certified teacher under contract who has been employed up to and including fifty percent (50%) of scheduled hours of instruction in one (1) school year shall be granted one-half (1/2) year credit for the purposes of seniority under this Article. Any teacher employed more than fifty percent (50%) of scheduled hours of instruction in one (1) school year shall be granted one (1) year credit for the purposes of seniority.

Fully qualified and fully certified teachers shall be defined as follows:

1. Teachers who hold a valid provisional, professional education, continuing or qualified teaching certificate in a given subject area; and
2. Teachers who have the certification(s) and qualification(s) required by an applicable state and/or federal legislation, regulations or guidelines for the positions held by the teachers.

The seniority list will be published by the Human Resources Office in April of each school year. It is the responsibility of each teacher to verify agreement with certification endorsements and seniority by initialing. Any inquiries should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources immediately. The Human Resources office will investigate all inquiries. Failure to initial represents agreement with the information listed and is not subject to review after June 30 of the current school year. Further, it is the individual teacher's responsibility to notify the Human Resources office immediately of any changes in certification.

ARTICLE VI: CLASS SIZE

It is acknowledged that the primary duty and responsibility of the teacher is to educate students and the organization of the school and the school day shall be structured to this end. Any mandated use of a teacher's time shall not detract from his/her carrying out his primary duty as a classroom teacher.

A. JK-6 Maximum Class Size

Because the pupil/teacher ratio is an important aspect of an effective educational program, the parties agree that the class size should not exceed the numbers listed.

1. The maximum class size in grades Junior Kindergarten through 6th grade (with the exception of the immersion programs which will be placed with 25 students in each K-2 classroom) shall not exceed:
 - a. In JK, twenty (20)
 - b. in grades K-2, twenty-three (23) or
 - c. in grades 3-5, twenty-seven (27), or
 - d. in grade 6, twenty-eight (28), or as noted below
 - e. in a split K-3 classroom, twenty-two (22), or
 - f. in a split 4-6 classroom, twenty-four (24), whichever is least

Grades 5-6 Classes

• Physical Education	44
• Band	59
• Choir	64
• Music	49
• Orchestra	44
• Computer	28

2. JK-6 Relief

If enrollment in a class exceeds the maximum class size for more than 50% of the semester, the teacher shall at his or her option, be provided one (1) hour of aide time per day for every student in a classroom over the maximum, if available, or shall be compensated \$750 per student per semester in excess of the class size limits above, with the exception of Kindergarten which will be paid for any student in excess of 23 (exclusive of physical education, band, choir, music, and orchestra which will be prorated based on time spent in the special). The teacher shall, within ten (10) working days, notify the principal of the option selected. If no option is indicated, the teacher shall be assumed to have chosen monetary compensation. The grade level and principal will collaborate on the placement of additional students. It is understood that Spanish and Chinese Immersion programs will continue to place 25 students in each K-4 classroom. Spanish and Chinese Immersion programs will be paid for any students beyond the regular grade level maximums.

3. Specials teachers who elect compensation instead of an aide will be compensated a pro rata portion of these amounts, based on the percentage of an instructional week during which a class with enrollment exceeding the limits above is with the specials teacher. The parties recognize that there may be situations in which, despite good faith efforts by the

Board, there are no aides who will accept the position available. In such cases, the teacher shall receive monetary compensation.

4. Although it is agreed that a student with disabilities' participation and right to participate in general education programs and services cannot be affected by this agreement, the district does agree to consider how the student with disability's placement will affect instruction.

B. Grades 7-8 Maximum Class Size

The maximum class size in grade 7 and 8 shall not exceed:

• Physical Education	44
• Band	79
• Choir	69
• Orchestra	49
• Classes other than those specified	29

C. Grades 9-12 Maximum Class Size

The maximum class size in grades 9-12 shall not exceed:

• English, Immersion Language, and Chemistry	29
• Industrial Arts, Vocational Shops and Culinary Arts	26
• Physical Education	49
• Band	No Limit
• Choir	No Limit
• Orchestra	No Limit
• Classes other than those specified	31

D. Grades 7-12 Relief

If enrollment in a class(es) exceeds the maximum class size for more than 50% of the semester, the teacher shall be compensated \$150 per student, per hour, per semester in excess of the class size limits above.

Compensation required under Article VI shall be paid no later than January 31 for the first semester classes, and no later than June 30 for second semester classes.

E. Caseloads for Student Services Staff and Special Education Teachers

To resolve concerns related to staff assignment and/or caseloads for Student Services staff and special education teachers, the following process of assessment and resolution of

concerns may be invoked:

Whenever a Student Services staff member or special education teacher believes his/her assignment exceeds the caseloads as restricted by law, he/she, with or without his/her representative, shall communicate with the Director of Student Services and/or building principal the relief sought and rationale for same and attempt to resolve the matter.

F. Counselors

1. Whenever a counselor believes his/her assignment exceeds the guidelines set forth below, he/she, with or without his/her representative, shall communicate with his/her building principal the relief sought and rationale for the same and attempt to resolve the matter.
2. The Board will strive for a student/counselor ratio of 300 to 1 at the 9-12 level; 350 to 1 at the 7-8 level; 400 to 1 at the 5-6 level; and .5 guidance counselor at each JK-4 elementary school.
 - a. Variables involved in the comparative assessment of staff assignments shall include but not be limited to total staff and student population served, unique need(s) of the building(s) served, number of buildings served and workload generated by special education law.
 - b. Written requests of concern shall be forwarded by the Director of Student Services and/or building principal to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources with a copy provided to the affected staff member(s) and the FHEA president or designee. The process of resolving the concern may result in denial of the staff member's request, an adjustment in assignments, appropriate compensation due to the existence of an overload situation and/or the hiring of additional staff.
3. Placement of Severely Disabled Students in General Education Classroom
General education classrooms attended by students who have been placed in a categorical program (significantly and/or multiply impaired) where an instructional or health care aide has been assigned through an IEP, shall be limited to class size language set forth in Article VI, Section A. In the event that it is necessary to place several severely disabled students from a categorical program at a particular grade level and building, it is agreed that class size may exceed agreed upon limits to the maximum of three (3) provided that an instructional aide is hired to assist the teacher. Said instructional aide shall be in addition to any instructional or health care aide support required by the IEP.
4. Responsibilities of Instructional Aides
 - a. Instructional aides employed by the Board will not be assigned by the Board or its

representatives to positions of an instructional nature which are the professional responsibilities of the certified teachers.

- b. Instructional aides assigned due to class size/composition are to be used only for the purpose of assisting their assigned teacher.
- c. Any disputes as to the interpretation of this section shall be resolved by mutual agreement of the chief negotiators for the parties.

ARTICLE VII: CALENDAR, HOURS AND ASSIGNMENT

A. Hours and Assignment

Teachers shall arrive at school at least twenty-five (25) minutes before the instructional day begins and stay at school twenty-five (25) minutes after school is dismissed.

- 1. This time shall be deemed unscheduled time during which staff may be assigned duties related to student supervision and safety and other responsibilities relating to the teaching profession such as, but not limited to attendance at staff and parent meetings, IEP meetings, consultation with counselors and/or special education staff, etc. Questions regarding use of unscheduled time shall be resolved by mutual agreement. All attempts will be made to ensure assigned duties are shared equally among staff members.
- 2. Each school staff shall have the privilege to alter this schedule via the approved building site-based decision making process upon approval of the Superintendent, as long as the total time remains the same.
- 3. Special arrangements to arrive late or leave early may be made with the building principal.
- 4. On Fridays and the day preceding school vacation, all teachers may leave when school buses have vacated the school premises.
- 5. The Board, by the end of the school year, will distribute to teachers tentative assignments for the coming school year. Such notices will include the employee's assigned school building and subject area(s) or grade(s). If a change in assignment becomes necessary due to unforeseen condition(s) prior to the start of school, the teacher will be notified as soon as possible.

B. Staff Meetings

Staff meetings are deemed to be a non-instructional responsibility related to the teaching assignment. Staff meetings shall not be held more frequently than two times per month and every two weeks for up to sixty (60) minutes, nor more than seventy-five (75) minutes beyond

the beginning or end of the instructional day, unless there are extenuating circumstances or emergencies.

C. Teacher Relief Time

The Association and the Board realize that care, guidance and supervision of children is a joint responsibility, hereby agree to the following procedure.

Recess Scheduling

It is expressly understood:

1. The criteria used to determine utilization of this time shall include the emotional and physiological state of the students, the current learning situation and the individual teacher's schedule of special classes.
2. Recess: No recess shall exceed twenty (20) minutes.
3. Duty Schedule: All teachers will participate in the duty schedule as equitable as practicable, with the exception of itinerants placed in more than one building, who shall be exempt from recess duty.
4. In cases of inclement weather when outdoor play is not in the best interest of the students, the principal may assign up to 30% of the staff to aid within the building.
5. It shall be the mutual responsibility of the Association and the Board to make changes necessary to carry out the intent of this plan during the life of this contract.

D. Teacher Relief Time

All teachers shall be entitled to a thirty-five (35) minute duty free lunch period.

E. Substituting for Another Teacher

No teacher shall be asked to substitute for another teacher during a conference period or other free time unless necessary. The rate for subbing for another teacher will be calculated by using BA, step 1 hourly rate (salary amount/7 hours per day/184 days). In lieu of monetary compensation, time may be accumulated and used as comp time subject to approval of the building administrator and used within that school year. If a teacher's accumulated comp time is not used before the end of the school year in which it was earned, teachers will be compensated for their time at the rate established above per teaching period or hour.

In the event a substitute cannot be secured for an absent teacher and students are disbursed between building teachers, the teacher(s) that take additional students shall receive additional compensation at the daily substitute rate divided by the number of teachers that take on the additional students.

F. JK-6 Planning and Conference Periods

The instructional time scheduled for specials/encore classes for JK-6 elementary students shall be used for planning and conference periods by the JK-6 classroom teachers. Specials/encore certified teachers shall have planning and conference periods equal to the classroom teachers. JK-6 classroom teachers will escort students to specials/encore classes. In the event that specials/encore certified teachers are absent, a substitute will be provided. If no qualified substitute can be provided, the classroom teacher will be compensated at a rate equal to the rate for substituting for another teacher, per hour or part thereof.

G. Traveling Between Buildings

Teachers required to travel between buildings shall not be scheduled to do so during lunch or conference periods except on a voluntary basis. Teachers required to travel between buildings in their teaching assignment, who are receiving planning time and a duty free lunch, as outlined in Article VII, and whose instructional minutes, with travel, surpass the maximum number of instructional minutes for his/her FTE, shall be granted a travel stipend. Compensation for traveling one time during the day between teaching assignments, shall be an annual rate of 5% (.05) of the BA base. A teacher traveling two times during the day between teaching assignments shall receive an annual rate of 10% (.10) of the BA base as a travel stipend. Teachers traveling less than a mile one-way shall not receive the travel stipend but shall receive mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate. If, in order to provide a teacher with the opportunity to maintain a full 1.0 FTE teaching load, it is necessary to teach in more than one building; and, if travel time interferes with lunch or preparation time, the amount of lost prep or lunch time due to travel will be deducted from the 25 minutes before or after school that teachers are required to work.

H. Part-Time Staff and/or Shared Staff Responsibilities

1. Compensation, Benefits and Seniority

- a. Salary and benefits shall be prorated based upon the teacher's F.T.E. (full time equivalent)
- b. Any teacher contracted for less than a full-time position will receive credit for one (1) step on the salary schedule for each school year worked.
- c. Seniority shall be granted in the manner set forth in Article V, Section A of the Master Agreement.
- d. Staff seeking/accepting less than full-time employment have no contractual guarantee of future full-time employment and may be assigned a non-traditional teaching schedule.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The parties understand and affirm that it is an individual teacher's professional responsibility to devote additional time to non-instructional duties normally associated with teaching. As such, staff contracted for less than full-time positions shall share appropriately in the non-instructional duties related to their teaching assignment. It is further understood that:

- a. Attendance at Professional Development meetings is mandatory provided that additional per diem based compensation shall be provided should such meetings be scheduled outside or beyond the affected teacher's normally scheduled work day/work week. Mandated requirement for attendance at professional development meetings is prorated based on the teacher's FTE.
- b. Attendance at school district-wide Professional Development meetings is mandatory for all teachers regardless of FTE. Additional per diem compensation or comp time shall be provided should such meetings be scheduled outside or beyond the affected teacher's scheduled work day/work week.
- c. Attendance at evening Open House and/or Curriculum Night(s), as well as scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences is required.
 - 1) Staff whose teaching assignment encompasses more than one building, shall not be required to attend more than one (1) Open House and/or Curriculum Night, nor shall they be required to schedule evening Parent-Teacher Conferences in a manner exceeding the number of evenings and/or total minutes required of full-time staff. It shall be the mutual responsibility of the affected teacher and administrators to develop a schedule in such circumstances.
 - 2) A written plan providing for fulfillment of expected responsibilities which stipulates fewer evenings and/or total minutes is permissible provided that it shall be submitted by the teacher to their administrator(s) for their approval. The plan shall include the scheduling of comp time proportionate to the agreed upon time scheduled for evening conferences. Any disputes which may arise related to a proposal shall be decided by the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, whose decision shall be final and not subject to the grievance process.
- d. Staff meetings are deemed to be a non-instructional responsibility related to the teaching assignment. It is agreed that it shall be the individual teacher's responsibility to develop and submit for approval of their administrator a plan appropriate to his/her teaching assignment to obtain and apply information disseminated during staff meetings.

3. Signed Agreement/Waivers

A copy of documents/forms setting forth the individual part-time positions, inclusive of appropriate signatures, shall be provided to the Association President or designee, if requested.

I. Job Share Responsibilities

1. Application

Two (2) Association members desiring to job-share a full-time teaching position may make a written application no later than April 1 for the next school year to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources with a copy provided to their building administrator. The application shall include a written proposal delineating work schedules, methods of communication (e.g., students, parents, administrators, appropriate staff, etc.), duties and division of responsibilities, and other issues and/or considerations as requested by the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. The decision to grant or deny a job share request shall be final and not subject to the grievance process.

2. Restriction and Waivers

Full-time teachers seeking part-time status shall sign a waiver/notice of loss of any contractual guarantee to return to full-time employment.

3. Signed Agreement/Waivers

A copy of document/forms setting forth the individual job share positions, inclusive of appropriate signatures, shall be provided to the Association President or designee, if requested.

J. Outside of the School Day Activities

Elementary Open House/Curriculum night shall be combined into one night. Secondary buildings will offer a Curriculum night. The Open House/Curriculum night is a combined after-school or evening for parents and students. A maximum time of two and one half (2.5) hours may be allocated for this event. Selection of the date for this event shall be made collaboratively between the building administration and staff.

Any building plans that require staff participation prior to the first scheduled work day or in any manner infringe upon the contractual teacher classroom preparation time, excluding teacher collaboration and scheduled IEP meetings shall be compensated at the teaching outside of the school day rate (\$23/hour) or comp time (Article VII, Section L. below).

K. Calendar

4 PD/Collaboration Days that count as Student Instruction will be included in the calendar provided it is allowable by the State of Michigan. It is understood that allowing teachers to process and collaborate around professional learning is best practice and the District will strive to provide two (2) hours of collaboration time to teachers during professional learning days. These days may include learning around safety, learning required by grants, or other mandatory trainings that meet the requirements of instructional time.

L. Contracted Instructional / Work Days

The school calendar will be developed in collaboration between the Administration and Association. A minimum of two (2) per semester/four (4) total half days shall be scheduled for the purpose of teacher record marking/student assessments.

As a pilot for the term of this contract, elementary teachers will be responsible for a report card each semester and will not be responsible for progress reports at the 9 week marking periods. Record marking may be completed at home.

Teachers new to the district may be required to participate in orientation meetings beyond the negotiated work year as a condition of their employment.

The parties shall meet in a timely manner to reach mutual agreement as to the scheduling of the work day and work year.

M. Conferences

1. Parent-Teacher Conferences

The parties agree that the following parameters shall apply:

Parent-teacher conference time (JK-12) will be scheduled for 13 hours each year. If a teacher feels more time is needed for his/her individual conferences, the teacher at his or her option can extend the conference schedule, without additional compensation for the extra time deemed necessary. To meet parent needs and at the parent's request, a teacher may offer parent-teacher conferences through a virtual platform, from the teacher's assigned building.

- a. Using the established building site-based decision-making process, individual buildings have flexibility of scheduling parent-teacher conferences within the parameters set forth herein.
- b. The maximum number of parent-teacher conferences to be scheduled per semester is three (3) sessions. Teachers shall participate in scheduling conference days and times through the building site-based decision-making process.
- c. Evening conferences shall include all time after the normal work day.
- d. Teachers who have an unavoidable conflict during scheduled evening conferences have an option of scheduling an alternate conference time. Written notification to parents of an agreed upon date and time must be approved by the principal and provided to parents.
- e. It is the responsibility of part-time and/or job shared staff to be in attendance at conferences, as specified in this Article, Section H. and I.

2. Compensatory Time ("Comp Time")

Any and all "comp time" applications or requests, current or past, whether known or unknown, shall be subject to the mutual approval of the Superintendent or designee and the FHEA president or designee. The parties shall develop and maintain a written record of the same. (Refer to Article XXII)

N. Teaching Load

The weekly teaching load in the high schools shall not exceed twenty-five (25) assigned instructional periods and five (5) unassigned preparation periods, which the teacher will schedule for parent conferences when requested. The weekly teaching load in the 7-8 middle schools shall not exceed five-sixth (5/6) of the weekly instructional time with one-sixth (1/6) of said time being unassigned preparation time which the teacher will schedule for parent conferences when requested.

The weekly teaching load for all JK-6 teachers, including both classroom and specials teachers, will include a minimum of 270 minutes of unassigned preparation time, which the teacher will schedule for parent conferences when requested. At least four days per week, preparation periods will be a minimum of thirty (30) consecutive minutes. In addition to the 240 minutes of specials time, elementary teachers will not be required to stay with their students during Media Center time. Every effort will be made to allow each teacher to have a preparation period each day.

Any secondary teacher may volunteer for an overload class to relieve student overcrowding in the classroom.

O. 7-12 Middle and High School Class Assignments

No teacher in the 7-12 school will have more than three (3) subject preparations at any one time, unless on a voluntary basis. In circumstances in which it is unavoidable or impractical to limit a teacher to three (3) preparations, due to factors such as certification or qualification, or teacher's desire to maintain current FTE, the building principal and the affected teacher, shall develop a mutually agreeable plan to minimize the negative effects of the larger number of preparations. The plan might include, by way of example, but not limited to, the teacher having sole use of his/her classroom throughout his/her workday, the assignment of an aide to assist with non-teaching tasks, or other mutually agreeable accommodations.

P. Acts of God Days, Delays or Closings

1. On days when school is canceled for students because of extreme weather conditions, no teacher shall be required to work.
2. When school is dismissed during the day due to extreme conditions, all teachers will be allowed to leave when the school buses have vacated the school premises.

3. Should a partial cancellation of school occur in one or more buildings or levels due to unforeseen circumstances such as a loss of power, staff in the affected building(s) shall report or be asked to remain in their building. Should the building not be conducive to work, an alternate location will be provided for teachers to collaborate on work that meets the Michigan Department of Education guidelines for professional development.
4. When school is delayed, employees should report to work at their regularly scheduled time if conditions are such that they may safely do so.
5. In the event that State mandated hours of instruction are not achieved, affected staff shall be required to work the minimum number of hours/days required with said hours/days being added at the end of the scheduled school year and/or at such time as may be mutually agreed to by the Board and Association.

Q. Scheduled Holidays

The following holidays shall be observed and no classes scheduled or teachers assigned:

New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Fourth of July (for teachers employed during this time)
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

R. Additional Compliance Requirements

Employees will be required to complete State and Federal mandated training including, but not limited to, blood-borne pathogens, FERPA, and sexual harassment. Training videos will be available to staff no later than their first contracted day back each school year.

ARTICLE VIII: VACANCIES, PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS

Any teacher who is transferred to a supervisory or executive position and later returns to teacher status shall be entitled to retain such rights as he/she may have had under this Agreement with full credit for all service in the district should a position be available for which he/she is fully qualified and fully certified to teach.

ARTICLE IX: LEAVES OF ABSENCE – ILLNESS, PERSONAL, SHORT-TERM & CRITICAL MEDICAL

A. Personal Illness or Disability Leave

All teachers shall be granted ten (10) days of personal illness or disability leave per year. These days will be credited at the beginning of each year and may be used at any time, however, it is

understood that such days are earned in proportion to the actual day worked. Personal illness or disability leave shall also include medical situations where the employee's presence is necessary and/or the situation cannot be handled at any time other than during a school day or any reason permitted by the Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) (board policy #4113).

B. Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The teacher may use accumulated personal illness or disability leave to substitute for unpaid leave provided under Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, which allows up to twelve (12) work weeks (sixty (60) work days or parts thereof) of unpaid leave, providing benefits during a contract year for employees that meet eligibility requirements and are currently insured by the district.

FMLA allows employees to take twenty-six (26) weeks of leave to care for a spouse, child, or parent with an illness or injury incurred in the line of active duty with the Armed Forces. Federal law mandates that eligible employees are offered FMLA leave after three (3) consecutive days to care for their own or immediate family members' serious health condition.

The District will grant unit employees five (5) days of paid parental leave immediately following the birth or adoption of a child. Parental leave must be taken concurrently with any eligible FMLA leave or other leave available under this Agreement. Should two employees request this leave for the birth or adoption of the same child, only one of these employees will be eligible.

Contracts will be suspended and salary payments stopped as soon as the teacher goes into unpaid leave and will be restarted at the time the teacher returns from leave based on the actual number of days and at the per diem rate for which the teacher works. If a teacher is able to anticipate the duration of a leave and expects that the leave will exhaust his/her accumulated sick and personal days, it may be possible to calculate income earned up to the starting date of the leave, plus accumulated sick and personal days, and to reduce his/her earned income, by spreading that reduction over a specified number of paychecks.

C. Non-Immediate Family Funeral

A maximum of one (1) day of personal illness or disability leave may be used for each funeral other than as specified in Sections D and E. if prior arrangements are made with the principal.

D. Immediate Family Funeral

Employees will be granted four (4) days by the District for immediate family, which is defined as the teacher's spouse or domestic partner, child/step child, or parent/parent-in-law/step parent, sibling/step sibling, or grandparent/grandparent-in-law for bereavement without deduction from sick leave. One (1) additional day-of personal illness may be used, upon notification, for the death in the immediate family.

E. Arrangements for Additional Leave

Arrangements for additional personal illness or disability leave because of death may be made with the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

F. Serious Illness / Medical Certification

Requests for paid leave or unpaid leave for a serious health condition for an employee or to care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition will require medical certification.

G. Misuse of Personal Illness Leave

Teachers who misuse leave time shall not be paid for such time. It is further understood that teachers who have misused leave time will be penalized this amount of time from their accumulated leave and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

H. Job Related Injury / Worker's Compensation

Staff who incur a job related injury or accident must report the same; on the approved form and within twenty-four (24) hours to their supervisor or designee. In cases when benefits are paid under the Worker's Disability Compensation Act, staff may request deductions on a pro-rata basis from his/her sick leave accumulation to ensure no loss of earnings.

Compensation shall not exceed the difference between his/her normal wage prior to Worker's Compensation benefits and the actual benefits paid under the provisions of said Worker's Compensation Act. Pro-rata sick leave deductions shall continue until expiration of either the Worker's Compensation benefits or accumulated sick leave.

I. Personal Leave

Each teacher shall be granted three (3) personal leave days per year. All personal days shall be entered into the absence management system and approved by the building principal at least five (5) work days in advance, except in case of emergency or unforeseen circumstance.

1. The Board and Association mutually recognize that the educational process shall take precedence over contractual language in this area. Specifically, classrooms must be adequately staffed. Therefore, as a general guideline, it is agreed that a maximum of 10% of a building staff may be granted personal leave on any given day.
2. Unused personal leave shall accrue to a maximum of four (4) days.
 - a. No teacher shall accrue or use more than four (4) personal leave days per school year.
 - b. Personal leave accrued in excess of four (4) days shall accrue as personal illness leave.
 - c. Personal leave shall not be used on professional learning or collaboration days. Should a

teacher take these days off, they will be unpaid days.

- d. One time per contracted year, one personal day may be used immediately before or after a break period, identified as Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, Mid-Winter Break, Spring Break, and Memorial Day, or on a collaboration day. Teachers must notify their building administrator by October 1st of their desire to extend their break whereafter a lottery will be held to ensure that no more than 5% of staff in a given building are absent, rounding up to the number of eligible staff to take leave.
- e. Should a teacher be prevented from returning to work on the next day of instruction following a break period, for circumstances outside the teacher's control, s/he shall be allowed to use a personal day. Verification of the circumstance must be provided by the teacher to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources no later than three days after return to work. If the teacher has exhausted their personal day allocation, the personal day will be deducted from the following year's allocation.

J. Sub-Deduct Leave

Requests for up to three (3) additional days of leave for situations not covered above may be directed in writing at least ten (10) work days in advance to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources who shall grant requests provided that:

- 1. All personal leave has been used.
- 2. Satisfactory prior arrangements, inclusive of appropriate lesson plans, have been made with the principal.
- 3. Leave days granted shall result in a salary deduction at the prevailing rate of pay for a substitute teacher.
- 4. Unforeseen circumstances may result in a waiver of the five (5) day notice provided that all other conditions apply.
- 5. Sub-Deduct Leave is to be used only in extenuating circumstances as mutually agreed upon by administration and the association.

K. Critical Care Leave

Teachers may make written request to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for certain critical medical situations and additional leave may be granted for up to one-hundred nineteen (119) workdays or until such time as they become eligible for long-term disability benefits, whichever is the lesser provided that:

- 1. All personal leave and personal illness leaves have been exhausted.
- 2. The teacher is not eligible for any other form of benefit such as short-term disability

payment.

3. Said request includes a written statement from a physician documenting the need for medical leave and the nature of the problem.
4. All requests shall be considered and acted upon within three (3) work days by a standing committee of two (2) administrators appointed by the Superintendent and two (2) teachers appointed by the FHEA president with approval being granted by simple majority. The decisions of the committee shall be final and specifically excluded from the grievance process.
5. All such requests shall be treated as confidential with a permanent record being kept by the Assistant Superintendent and the FHEA president.
6. Any teacher granted said leave by the above process shall:
 - a. Make a timely application for long-term disability benefits in situations where said application for benefits apply.
 - b. Prepare adequate lesson plans for a substitute teacher.
 - c. Have the prevailing rate of pay for a substitute teacher deducted from his/her salary in the following manner:
 - 1) Days one (1) through nine (9) – prevailing rate of pay for a substitute teacher.
 - 2) Days ten (10) through one-hundred nineteen (119) – prevailing rate of pay for a long-term substitute teacher.
7. Return to work in a timely manner following recommendation by the physician.

L. FHEA Sick Leave Bank

The FHEA will use the duration of this contract to draft sick leave bank language to be addressed at future negotiations. This will be addressed through a letter of agreement.

All employees covered by this Agreement voluntarily may contribute sick leave days to a Sick Leave Bank for employees that have exhausted days in his/her accumulated sick leave bank. The Sick Leave Bank is intended to complement other provisions of this Agreement for the purposes of personal illness, disability and critical care leave, and is not considered a substitute for purchasing Short-Term Disability insurance. Employees requesting days from the bank are encouraged to purchase Short-Term Disability insurance during the next open enrollment period. All hours/days contributed shall be equal as far as rate of compensation.

Establishment and Maintenance of Sick Leave Bank

1. Employees who choose to donate days will be provided with a consent form verifying his/her voluntary donation of one sick day per school year. The form is to be completed, signed and returned to the Human Resources Office.
2. In the event the Sick Leave Bank falls below 100 sick days, the Sick Leave Committee reserves the right to ask the membership for the voluntary donation of additional days in any given year.
3. Days remaining in the Sick Leave Bank will carry over at the end of each school year to the upcoming school year.

Criteria for Requesting Donation of Sick Leave Days

1. Employee's illness or purpose of extended leave of absence is in adherence with approved leaves of absence as outlined under the Family and Medical Leave Act. (Refer to Article IX, Sections B and F)
2. Employee's illness or purpose of extended leave of absence does not qualify under Article IX, Section K – Critical Care Leave.
3. Employee has exhausted all days in his/her accumulated sick leave bank, including days credited for the current school year.
4. Employee agrees to consider the purchase of Short-Term Disability during the next Open Enrollment period.

Process for Requesting Donation of Sick Leave Days

1. Employee requests in writing to the Human Resources Office his/her request for the donation of sick leave days, specifying the purpose of the request, anticipated dates of extended leave of absence, and verification that the criteria listed above are agreed upon.
2. Employee presents a physician's statement to the Human Resources Office, as well as completes and submits the Family and Medical Leave Act documentation to the Human Resources Office.
3. Employee verifies in writing that he/she understands that the maximum number of days that may be provided through the Sick Leave Bank is ten (10) days in one fiscal year.
4. Employee verifies in writing that he/she understand the decision of the Sick Leave Committee is final and binding and is not subject to the grievance process.

Approval and Implementation Process

1. The Sick Leave Committee is convened to review requests to determine if criteria and required documentation have been met. The decision of the Sick Leave Committee is final and binding and not subject to the grievance process.
2. The Human Resources Office will notify the employee of approval or denial of the request.
3. No employee will receive more than ten (10) days in a fiscal year, without reauthorization of the Sick Leave Committee.
4. It is understood that a day of pay donated shall be equivalent to a day of pay received, no matter what an employee's placement is on the salary schedule.

The FHEA will use the duration of this contract to draft sick leave bank language to be addressed at future negotiations.

M. Absence Due to Vacations

Teachers absent from duty because of vacations must give five (5) work days prior notice the absence must be approved by the principal, appropriate lesson plans must be provided by the teacher, and the teacher shall have a day's pay deducted from their salary for each day of such absence, provided, however, that a vacation day should not be scheduled or taken the last work day before or the first day after any holiday or school vacation time.

N. Teacher's Responsibility for Reporting Absences

To qualify for personal illness or disability leave, teachers shall report their absence in accordance with procedures prescribed by the administration. Absence for any other reason necessitating substitution by another staff member may result in the deduction from the teacher's pay of the amount paid to the substitute.

O. Change to An Employee's Active Status

If an employee's active status changes prior to the end of their contract year, all leave banks will be prorated. Any time that was unearned will be required to be paid back to the district.

ARTICLE X: LEAVE OF ABSENCES – EXTENDED PERIODS, ASSOCIATION PURPOSES, JURY DUTY, COURT APPEARANCES, PUBLIC OFFICE, AND SPECIAL PURPOSES

For all leaves of absence, it is the teacher's responsibility to notify the District in writing by March 15 of their intent to return the following school year. If the teacher does not contact the district by March 15, they shall be considered to have resigned from employment with the District.

A. Extended Personal Illness, Child Care or Disability Leaves

Any teacher whose personal illness, child care or disability leave extends beyond the period compensated and/or receives insurance benefits, if eligible, under FMLA as outlined under Article IX, or who elects to extend such leave for child care, may request and shall be granted a leave of absence without pay for up to one (1) calendar year, subject to renewal at the will of the Board. A calendar year is defined as 365 days. If a teacher does not return from such leave by the beginning of the semester following the first anniversary date of the teacher's last day of paid leave, or first anniversary of the beginning date of the Board approved renewal, the teacher shall be presumed to have resigned and shall have no guarantee of employment with the school district and shall lose all accrued seniority rights. Leave granted pursuant to this Article shall be subject to the following conditions.

1. A teacher returning from leave of more than twelve (12) calendar weeks, but less than one year, shall return from such leave at the start of a quarter and must provide notice of intent to return to work, in writing, no later than March 15 for the fall quarter and December 1 for the spring quarter.
2. During any unpaid leave exceeding twelve (12) calendar weeks and not covered by Family Medical Leave Act, the teacher will be responsible for paying the accounting office each month an amount sufficient to pay the insurance premiums if the teacher chooses to continue coverage.
3. Should the teacher elect to not return to work at the end of the leave for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence or onset of the health condition that gave rise to the leave or for circumstances beyond the control of the staff member, the staff member shall reimburse the district for the health insurance premiums paid by the district during the leave period.

B. Association Leave

Teachers who are officers of the Association or are appointed to its staff shall, upon proper application, be given a leave of absence without pay for the purpose of performing the necessary duties of such office or position with the Association.

A teacher shall be released from regular duties without loss of salary, personal leave, or sick leave to participate in meetings of the Michigan Education Association. When representing the Association, written arrangements with the administration must be made in advance. After ten (10) such days, the Association will provide reimbursement for a substitute's pay. The FHEA will reimburse the district for the retirement costs associated with the association leave. No payment of other expenses is to be made by the Board.

C. Subpoenaed Court Appearances or Jury Duty

A teacher summoned to jury duty or subpoenaed for a non-personal matter shall be paid his/her full salary for each working day of absence, provided that the employee pays the Board

the jury fee less mileage expense.

D. Public Office

The Board shall grant a leave of absence without pay and without credit on the salary schedule to any teacher to campaign for, or serve one (1) term of public office.

E. Special Leave

A teacher, after five (5) years of service in the Forest Hills School District, may request a special leave for a period of one (1) school year without pay. The teacher must submit an application to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and he/she will consult with the building principal and Association.

F. Active Military Leave

A leave of absence shall be automatically granted to an employee who is called up or drafted for active military duty. This provision for leave shall not apply to teachers who are scheduled for boot camp as a result of voluntary enlistment. The employee shall provide the employer as much notice as possible. The duration of the leave shall be for the duration of the involuntary call-up or induction.

1. The employee shall continue the employee's contractual rights as specified below as if the employee was actively working during any leave of absence granted pursuant to the above provisions and continuing through the end of the month following the month in which the period of active duty ends; including but not limited to the following provisions. If the employee's leave is 30 days or fewer, the District will maintain insurance coverage for the employee as required by law with the employee paying the same amount for their insurance as other teachers choosing the same coverage.

- a. The employee shall have the option of receiving the pay differential between the amount he/she would have received had his/her active employment not been interrupted by active duty, and his/her military pay minus any hardship or combat amounts, OR
- b. The employer will maintain the employee's insurance coverage as if he/she was actively working for the duration of his/her active duty.

The employee will remain responsible for payment of premiums required of bargaining unit members who are not on a leave of absence status.

- c. Seniority, salary schedule, experience, leave day accrual and all other contractual rights shall continue to accrue as if the employee was actively working for the school district. USERRA allows an employee to serve a total of 5 years of active duty without losing rights to re-employment upon return and upon return, the employee shall be entitled to the pay rate that he/she reached if his/her

employment had not been interrupted.

If an employee elects to receive the pay differential between the amount he/she would have received had his/her active employment not been interrupted by active duty, he/she will be offered COBRA health insurance coverage.

2. The employee shall have the right to return to active employment immediately upon return from active duty or at any time thereafter, up to the start of the school year immediately following the end of his/her period of active duty. The employee shall return to a position comparable to the position he/she vacated prior to leaving for active duty that he/she is fully qualified and certified for.
3. If an employee suffers a disability during leave of absence granted pursuant to the provisions above, he/she shall be granted a paid sick leave of absence. If he/she exhausts his/her accumulated sick leave and granting of days through the Sick Leave Bank or Critical Care Leave (Article IX), he/she shall automatically be granted an unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the disability. He/she shall be returned to employment in a comparable position as if he/she was returning directly from active duty.
4. If an employee attends the annual training for reservists or active duty training on a work day, the employee shall be considered and treated as being on a paid leave of absence. The employee shall notify his/her immediate supervisor of these training dates no later than the work day prior to the training date with a written order whenever possible.
5. The rights above shall be considered to be in addition to any other rights as provided by law.

G. Salary Schedule Credit

Except as provided in Article XII, Military Leave, Sabbatical Leave, Honorary or Fellowship Leaves, and Article VIII; a teacher returning from an administrative position, a teacher shall not earn seniority or advancement on the salary schedule during a period of unpaid leave or layoff.

A teacher returning to a position following an unpaid leave or layoff, except for those situations referenced in the preceding paragraph, shall resume earning seniority and credit on the salary schedule from the years credited and position on the salary schedule as of the effective date of the leave or layoff.

ARTICLE XI: PERSONNEL FILE AND MENTORS

A. Personnel File

Each teacher shall have the right upon written request to review the materials prepared for his/her personnel file by the Forest Hills School District. A representative of the Association may be requested to accompany the teacher in such review. Materials may be removed from a teacher's personnel file after discussions and review with the administrator and with the permission of the administrator. Except as required by law, all other access shall be prohibited.

B. Mentor Teacher

As required by law, the principal shall assign a mentor teacher to a probationary teacher. Mentor teacher's participation shall be voluntary. The principal shall give specific goals and concrete suggestions as to where the probationary teacher needs help and guidance. This assignment must meet with the approval of the two (2) teachers involved. The mentor teacher will serve in an advisory capacity only.

ARTICLE XII: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. Any teacher or group of teachers believing that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of any provision of this Agreement or of any rule, order or regulation of the Board regarding wages, hours, terms or conditions of employment may take the following steps to implement the settlement of the alleged violation. All reference in this Article to "principal" shall also mean appropriate supervisor.
- B. Both parties mutually understand and agree to allow discussions and resolutions concerning contractual issues between an individual association member and his/her administrator provided that said resolution is consistent with the terms of the Master Agreement and the Association has been given the opportunity to be present at such adjustments.

Step One

- 1. If, after meeting and discussing the alleged violation with the building principal, a satisfactory settlement cannot be concluded, the teacher or teachers may, within seven (7) work days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, file a written grievance with the principal.
- 2. Within ten (10) work days of receipt of the written grievance, the principal shall meet with the Association representative in an effort to resolve the grievance. Affected teacher(s) may or may not be present at such a meeting. The principal's written answer shall be given within ten (10) work days after such meeting.
- 3. When the particular grievance arises in more than one (1) school building and the Association and the aggrieved teacher(s) believe the grievance has merit, the written grievance shall be filed with the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, at Step Two.

Step Two

1. If the meeting with the principal does not result in an agreement, and the Association and the aggrieved teacher(s) believe the grievance has merit, the grievance shall be transmitted within ten (10) work days after receipt of the principal's answer to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, by the Association president or his/her alternate.
2. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources shall hold either a formal or informal discussion with any or all parties involved. Within fifteen (15) work days of receipt of the written grievance, he/she shall return the grievance to the Association president with his/her decision to approve or deny said grievance. If the matter is not resolved at Step 2, then the aggrieved teacher(s) may appeal to the Superintendent within ten (10) work days, and the Superintendent shall notify the parties of his decision within ten (10) work days.

Step Three

1. If the decision of the Superintendent is not satisfactory to the Association and the aggrieved teacher(s), the grievance may be submitted to arbitration by written notice given by the Association within fifteen (15) work days after receipt of the decision. An impartial arbitrator shall be selected, within ten (10) work days, by the parties to decide the matter. If the parties cannot agree as to the arbitrator, he/she shall be selected by the parties in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. The Association agrees to share equally in any filing fees. The power of the arbitrator shall be limited to the interpretation of application of the express terms of this Agreement and he/she shall have no power to alter, add to or subtract from the terms of this Agreement as written. Both parties agree to be bound by the award of the arbitrator and Agree that judgment thereon may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction.
 2. No grievance shall be processed unless initiated or carried to the next step within the time provided herein or as extended by mutual agreement.
 3. The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be paid by the party that does not prevail in the decision of the arbitrator. All arbitration proceedings are subject to and governed by the Uniform Arbitration Act, MCL 691.1681 et seq.
- C. It is understood that a written grievance as required herein shall contain the following:
1. It shall be signed by the grievant(s).
 2. It shall be specific.
 3. It shall contain a synopsis of the facts giving rise to the alleged violation.
 4. It shall cite the section of this Agreement alleged to have been violated or any rule, order or regulation of the Board alleged to have been violated.
 5. It shall contain the date of the alleged violation.
 6. It shall specify the relief requested.

- D. For purposes of the grievance procedure only, when reference is made to work days, they shall be counted beginning with the work day immediately following the alleged occurrence or violation and shall also mean from the time teachers report in the morning until 5:30 p.m.

ARTICLE XIII: JOINT COUNCILS / COMMITTEES

A. Representation on Committees

It is specifically understood that curriculum study committees or any similar committees shall not make recommendations which impact upon a teacher's hours, wages or other conditions of employment except as said recommendations are mutually agreed upon by the Board and Association.

B. Critical Care Appeal Committee

All requests for critical care leave shall be considered and acted upon within three (3) work days by the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. An appeal committee comprised of two (2) administrators appointed by the Superintendent and two (2) teachers appointed by the FHEA president shall hear any appeals, with approval being granted by simple majority. The decisions of the committee shall be final and specifically excluded from the grievance process. (Refer to Article IX and X)

C. FHEA Sick Leave Committee

The FHEA Sick Leave Committee consists of equal representation of the Association and the Board will review the written request for contribution of sick leave days. The decisions of the committee shall be final and specifically excluded from the grievance process.

D. Sabbatical or Fellowship Committee

The Sabbatical or Fellowship Committee consists of equal representation of the Association, the Board, and the Superintendent or his/her designee, will review the proposal for an Honorary or Fellowship leave and present their recommendation to the Board of Education. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final and specifically excluded from the grievance process.

ARTICLE XIV: BOARD RIGHTS

A. Powers, Rights, Authority, Duties and Responsibilities

In order to carry out its responsibility for the development and operation of educational programs providing the best possible educational opportunity for the Forest Hills School District consistent with community resources, the Board retains and reserves unto itself all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in the Board by law, including by way of illustration:

1. The supervision, direction and control of the management and administration of the school system, its properties and facilities.
2. The right to establish grades and courses of instruction including special programs, and to provide for athletic, recreational and social events for students as deemed necessary or advisable by the Board.
3. The selection of textbooks, teaching materials and various teaching aids.

B. Exceptions

The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, duties and responsibilities by the Board and the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in the furtherance thereof shall be the exclusive prerogative of the Board except as otherwise limited by the express provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XV: NEGOTIATION PROCEDURES

A. Good Faith Bargaining / Problem Solving

During the negotiations leading up to a new Agreement, each party has the right to make proposals and bargain on all bargainable matters. This contract contains the entire Agreement of the parties. Each party agrees that the other will not be required to engage in further bargaining on any matter, whether covered herein or not, except for matters which are subject to the grievance procedure as provided in Article XII and as may be specified below or elsewhere in this Agreement.

The parties agree to meet in good faith for the purpose of negotiating Letters of Agreement/Understanding related to issues not currently addressed in the Master Agreement and/or to resolve concerns that may arise pertaining to interpretation and/or application of same. It is further agreed and understood that:

1. This process shall not supersede either party's right to seek relief by the established means provided elsewhere.
2. Unless otherwise negotiated, Letters of Agreement/Understanding shall be published and incorporated into the current Master Agreement and in successor Agreements.
3. If any problem-solving action is deemed necessary by either party to require a vote by the Board and/or Association, such vote shall be conducted as soon as possible according to the FHEA bylaws.

B. Negotiation Timelines

The parties will begin negotiations for a new Agreement covering wages, hours, terms and

conditions of employment of teachers no later than May 1 preceding the expiration of this Agreement.

C. Release from Assignment

A teacher engaged during the school day in negotiating on behalf of the Association with any representative of the Board or participating in any grievance shall be released from regular duties without loss of salary or sick leave when such meeting is held during the school day at the request of the Board, administration, arbitrator or public authority.

D. Issuance of Contracts / Letters of Intent

The Board recognizes that issuance of contracts or letters of intent may have a detrimental effect on negotiations with the Association. To facilitate the renegotiation of this Agreement and the professional compensation schedule. The Board agrees that it will not, without the consent of the Association, issue teaching contracts or notices of intent to teachers then in the school system while such negotiations are in process. The Board, however, may issue contracts to new teachers not then under contract. The Association will in no way interfere with the Board's replacement of teachers who wish to leave the school system and will inform the Board of any vacancies it knows will be created by intended resignations. All provisions of the individual contract between the teacher and the school district are subject to the specific provisions of this Master Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI: PROVISIONS FOR CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

A. Interference with Education

The Association and its members agree that they will not cause, permit or take part in any interruption or disturbance of or interference with the continuous normal education of such children by concerted activity or otherwise.

B. Conflict Resolution

The Board, Association, and each teacher agree that any difference of opinion or dispute which there may be between or among themselves will be resolved by the methods provided herein, including arbitration where authorized, and not allowed to affect in any way the normal education afforded the children of the District.

ARTICLE XVII: PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

- A. The salaries of teachers covered by this Agreement are set forth in Article XX, which are attached to and incorporated in this Agreement.
- B. The salary schedule is based on a weekly teaching load as defined in this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVIII: MISCELLANEOUS CONTRACT PROVISIONS

A. Equality of Agreement

The Association and Board pledge themselves to seek to extend the advantages of public education to every student without regard to race, age, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, or sexual orientation), color, disability or national origin and to seek or achieve full equality of educational opportunity to all pupils as provided in State and Federal statutes as well as the State and Federal constitutions.

B. Agreement Supersedes Rules and Practices

This Agreement shall supersede any rules, regulations or practices of the Board which are contrary to or inconsistent with its terms. It shall likewise supersede any contrary or inconsistent terms contained in any contract with individual teachers heretofore in effect. All future contracts with teachers shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. The provisions of this Agreement shall be part of the established policies of the Board.

C. Contrary to Law

If any provision of this Agreement or any application of the Agreement to any teacher shall be contrary to law, then such provision or application shall be deemed invalid and non-subsisting except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or application hereof shall continue in full force and effect.

D. Site-Based Decision Making

When a site-based decision is called for under the terms of this Agreement, the building principal will consult with the ILT. To reach consensus for a decision, two elements must be met: (1) at least 75% of the ILT must support the decision and (2) the building principal must agree to the decision. The proposed site-based decision must be presented to the Superintendent or designee for final approval. The Master Agreement may not be modified in whole or in part inclusive of any consideration of past practice, except by mutual, written agreement by the Board and Association. Upon written notice, the Board and Association reserve the right to unilaterally terminate their involvement in this process.

E. Copies of Agreement

Copies of this Agreement shall be posted on the district's website either by the first work day of the new contract or within fifteen (15) work days of the completion of the ratification process.

F. Student Teacher Placement

Student teacher placement shall be coordinated through the building and communicated to Human Resources. Supervising teachers may accept up to one (1) student teacher per year on a voluntary basis. Each supervising teacher shall receive from the Board the equivalent stipend amount, if any, received from the university.

G. Property of the Board

Any materials prepared by an employee in the course of his/her assignment shall become the property of the Board for use in this school system. No syndication or sale of this material may be made without the express release of the creator and the Board. The development of materials by committee in which there is no creator shall become the property of the Board.

H. Emergency Manager

An Emergency Manager appointed under Local Financial Stability and Choice Act is authorized to reject, modify, or terminate this Agreement as provided in the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, 2012 Public Act 436.

ARTICLE XIX: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Employee Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the employee to make a signed application for all benefits, including validation for advancement on the salary schedule, to which he/she is entitled. The Board will not be responsible for retroactive premiums, compensation, or annuity payments because of the failure by the employee to complete forms in a timely manner. An open enrollment period for health insurance shall be provided during the month of November.

Changes in family status shall be reported by the employee, in writing, to the Human Resources Office within thirty (30) calendar days of such change. The employee shall be responsible for any overpayment of premiums made by the Board on his/her behalf for failure to comply.

B. Benefits

1. Medical Insurance

The Board will provide four (4) MESSA medical insurance plans. The District will pay the current medical hard cap for health insurance. On January 1 of each year, the District will adjust the amounts by the medical care component of the CPI (Consumer Price Index). Amounts for part-time employees will be prorated based on their FTE. Any additional cost will be paid by the teacher through payroll deduction. Dependents shall be spouse and dependent children (by birth, legal adoption, or court ordered guardianship) who qualify as dependents with the Internal Revenue Service. During the open enrollment period, employees will have the option of selecting one of the four (4) MESSA plans.

For teachers selecting the MESSA ABC plan, the District will deposit half the IRS deductible amount in January and the remaining half of the deductible amount in July, provided the teacher has not resigned their employment for the following school year. The amount of the deposit will be included in the total cost of the HSA plan and will be deducted via payroll. If an employee separates employment from the district during the calendar year in which the deposit was made, the employee will be required to pay back the prorated

amount of the HSA deposit based on the last date of employment.

Insurance Coverage for Less Than Full-Time Teachers

The Board will prorate the fringe benefits for all teachers contracted for less than a full-time position as specified in this Article. Employees who pay for their medical benefit due to FTE status not covering their portion of the premium must keep up with payments, or will have their medical benefits terminated after three months in arrears.

2. Dental Plan

The Board will provide MESSA Pak “A” Delta Dental Plan, with the orthodontic rider, for teachers enrolling in the MESSA health/medical coverage.

For teachers waiving MESSA medical coverage, the Board will pay 100% of the MESSA Pak “B” Delta Dental plan.

3. Vision Insurance

The Board will provide vision care insurance through MESSA VSP-3 Gold.

4. Life Insurance

The Board will pay the cost of providing \$50,000 term life insurance with double indemnity for accidental death for each teacher in accordance with the terms of the master insurance policy.

For teachers waiving MESSA medical coverage, the Board will pay 100% of the MESSA life and LTD insurance plan.

5. Long-Term Disability (LTD)

The Board will provide long-term disability insurance at 66 2/3% of qualified teaching salary or a better or comparable plan agreed upon by the parties. The coverage is to begin after a ninety (90) calendar day waiting period and with the negotiated health coverage as a non-deductible benefit, not to exceed twenty-four (24) consecutive months up to the amount listed above

6. Workers’ Compensation Insurance

- a. The Board will provide Workers’ Compensation insurance.
- b. Employees must report job-related injuries to the Human Resources Office within twenty-four (24) hours through completion and submission of the appropriate form.
- c. In cases where an employee is paid benefits under the Workers’ Compensation Act, the employee may request deductions on a pro-rata basis from their sick leave accumulation to ensure no difference between the employee’s regular straight time wages and the actual benefits paid under the provisions of the said Workers’

Compensation benefits, or until such time that the employee's sick leave is exhausted. The employee is responsible for their MIP contribution on reportable Worker's Compensation payments.

7. Accumulated Sick Leave Value upon Retirement

Provided the teacher notifies the District of their intent to retire by March 15 of their final year of employment, the Board will contribute the following amount for each day of unused sick leave into a 403B account with a Board approved vendor no later than June 30 of the year the employee terminates employment with the district:

\$35 per day for having accumulated 25-99 sick leave days
\$45 per day for having accumulated 100-150 sick leave days
\$65 per day for having accumulated 151-200 sick leave days
\$80 per day for having accumulated 201-300 sick leave days

300 sick leave days is the maximum number of days eligible for a sick leave payout upon retirement

The teacher must complete their full contract year to receive the payout. The teacher must be eligible and file for retirement through the MPSERS retirement system prior to June 30 to receive the payment.

8. Cash in Lieu of Health Benefits

In lieu of subscribing to the Board provided health insurance, a full-time teacher may elect a cash option equal to the dollar amount listed below. Those employed less than full-time may elect a prorated cash option. Cash-in-lieu will be disbursed over 24 pay periods and will not be paid on the third pay of the month. If 30 employees district-wide change from medical coverage to cash-in-lieu for January 1, 2027, the cash-in-lieu-amount increases to \$6,000. If 30 employees district-wide do not change for January 1, 2027, it remains at \$3,500.

9. Tax Sheltered Annuity

- a. Employees on step 12 or higher shall receive a \$1,000 off-schedule payment or contribution to a district approved 403b by June 30th for remuneration of services performed provided the employee works the full contract year. The amount is prorated for less than full-time equated teachers.
- b. All employees covered by this Agreement may sign and deliver to the Board at no cost to the employee a form authorizing payroll deduction for a tax sheltered annuity through a Board approved vendor.

10. Flexible Spending Accounts

Employees may elect to establish a flexible spending account through their benefit election form during open enrollment. Flexible spending accounts allow participants to

use pre-tax dollars for qualified medical expenses, dependent care expenses and employer sponsored medical-related insurance premiums. The flexible medical account is not available to employees selecting the ABC Health plan. The company that oversees/handles Forest Hills flexible spending accounts is called Basic. It is the employee's responsibility to submit claims directly to Basic for processing their reimbursements. An employee may elect any amount up to the maximum allowable limit.

It is important to note that according to IRS regulations, employee contributions to a flexible spending account that are not used by the end of the plan year are forfeited. When an employee elects to sign up for a flexible spending account, the amount selected is deducted out of their pay during the eighteen (18) pay deduction period. The eighteen (18) pay spread normally runs from the first pay in October through the first pay in June of each school year.

11. Insurance Coverage Upon Leave / Termination

In the event a teacher's employment is terminated or he/she goes on unpaid leave or resigns during the school year, the Board will pay a pro-rata share of the annual twelve (12) month insurance premium cost, based on the percentage of contracted work days actually worked by the teacher during the school year, pursuant to and applicable to provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act, and this Agreement.

In the event that a teacher files for retirement at the conclusion of the school year, their insurance coverage and that of any named dependents shall be terminated effective July 1, of the current year.

12. Tuition Reimbursement

Teachers, during the first five (5) consecutive years of employment in Forest Hills, who have not earned a Master's degree, shall be reimbursed for eligible tuition costs as follows:

Four (4) courses at a maximum cost of \$1,000 per course

This benefit is available until a teacher has completed five (5) consecutive years of employment in Forest Hills, or has completed a Master's degree, whichever occurs first.

Thereafter, until the teacher reaches Step 11 on the salary schedule, the maximum reimbursement per year shall be \$500.00.

Teachers on step 12 and higher are not eligible for tuition reimbursement.

a. Qualifications

- A teacher is not eligible for tuition reimbursement from another source(s).
- A teacher on leave of absence without pay for study purposes is not eligible for

tuition reimbursement.

- A teacher on leave of absence with pay shall not qualify.
- Course work may not interfere with the employee's regular assignment.
- Any employee eligible to receive tuition reimbursement must return to Board employment prior to payment.

b. Course Approval

- A request for reimbursement must be made in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at least ten (10) days prior to the beginning of the course. Such a request must include the course number, name and description, date and the name of the university or college offering the course.
- Such course(s) must be for college undergraduate credit, graduate credit or workshop equivalent in college undergraduate or graduate credit.
- The course(s) must be related to the employee's regular assignment, the administrator's judgment of relevancy is final and binding and is not subject to the grievance procedure.
- Approval or disapproval shall be submitted to the employee in writing from the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

c. Tuition Reimbursement Application Procedures

- Pre-approval of the course(s) must be obtained.
- The employee must satisfactorily complete the course(s) with a passing grade of "C" or better.
- The employee must submit the tuition receipt or proof of payment to the Human Resources office for payment and authorization.
- The Business Office shall make payment according to its procedures and IRS law.

13. TB Exams

TB exams shall be paid by the Board at the required intervals specified by law up to the amount charged by the Kent County Health Department.

14. Mileage Reimbursement

Teachers who are assigned to travel between schools during a teaching day or who are asked to use their cars for official school business will be paid the IRS mileage rate as announced if they do not receive a travel stipend.

ARTICLE XX: SALARY SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS

If an individual receives an effective or highly effective rating, there will be a vertical step advancement on the salary schedule. If an individual receives a minimally effective evaluation rating for two consecutive years, there will be no vertical step advancement on the salary schedule. If an individual receives an ineffective evaluation rating for one year, there will be no vertical step advancement on the salary schedule.

Eligibility for a vertical step advancement on the salary schedule may be appealed to a review panel. The review panel will consist of seven individuals: three chosen by the District, three chosen by the Association, and one mutually agreed upon by both the District and Association. The decision by the review panel shall be made by June 30th of each year.

A. For the 2026-2027 year

1. Step will be granted
2. 5% increase on the salary schedule

B. Certification Requirements for Employees

Each new employee or employee transferred to a position requiring changed certification, who reports to work at the beginning of the school year, shall file certification materials including transcripts, letter from college or university verifying requirements have been met or a certificate, with the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources no later than August 1 of each school year. In the event the employee does not comply with the above, his/her personal contract will be revoked unless such time is extended by mutual agreement between the employee and the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources provided the delay in submission of the material is beyond the control of the employee.

C. Initial Placement on the Salary Schedule

Any advanced hours must be earned after an initial teaching certificate is awarded in order to be credited on the salary schedule, except for those itinerant staff members whose Master's degrees leading to certification require more than thirty (30) hours, in which event the bargaining unit member's educational record will be evaluated at the time of initial employment and credit shall be given, in accordance with university requirements, for those hours required by the university in excess of thirty (30) hours.

For teachers whose certification requires a Master's degree, for example counselors, the teacher will be placed on the Masters' column. This does not apply to teachers who attained teacher certification through a Master's program or teachers who had Master's degrees prior to gaining teacher certification.

D. MA + 15

To qualify for placement on the MA+15 salary schedule, a teacher must have earned fifteen (15) semester hours after the issuance of the Master's degree. Fifteen (15) semester hours of the total graduate credit must be in the teaching major, teaching minor,

teaching assignment or courses approved, in writing, by the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

E. MA + 30

A teacher must have earned thirty (30) semester hours after the issuance of a Master's degree. Thirty (30) semester hours of the total graduate credit must be in the teaching major, teaching minor, teaching assignment or courses approved, in writing, by the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

F. MA + 45

A teacher must have earned forty-five (45) semester hours after the issuance of a Master's degree. Forty-five (45) semester hours of the total graduate credit must be in the teaching major, teaching minor, teaching assignment or courses approved, in writing, by the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

G. Prior Experience/Salary Schedule Credit

Experience from outside systems may be credited at employing official's discretion with no limit.

H. Credit on Salary Schedule Beyond Master's Degree

Credit shall also be given on the salary schedule for credits earned after the issuance of a Master's degree under the following conditions:

1. Undergraduate courses may be credited upon prior written approval from the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.
2. State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) credit shall be given for salary schedule advancement if:
 - a. The workshop/class has been certified as meeting SCECHs criteria by the Department of Education and is in the teacher's major, minor, curriculum of teaching assignment or approved in advance by the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.
 - b. A SCECHs certificate of completion is sent to the Human Resources Office indicating the date, workshop, topic or class, the number of SCECHs credits and an authorized signature.
 - c. The teacher's participation in the workshop/class for SCECHs credit will be during non-contract work hours.
 - d. A staff member cannot receive both college credit (graduate or under-graduate) and SCECHs credit.
 - e. Thirty (30) SCECHs will be equivalent to one (1) semester hour for advancement on

the salary schedule.

I. Military or Peace Corps Experience

Credit for military or Peace Corps experience shall be given on the salary schedule as allowed under USERRA.

J. Movement on Salary Schedule

All moves shall be initiated by a written request from the teacher to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and be followed by an official transcript. Compensation for horizontal movement on the salary schedule shall be adjusted on the first pay date of each semester provided the teacher has submitted required documentation of additional credits at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester. Unofficial transcripts or official notification of course completion from the University will be accepted for advancement on the salary schedule provided official transcripts are submitted to the Human Resources office by October 1st for fall semester and February 1st for winter semester. Should official transcripts not be submitted as required, the teacher shall return to their prior placement on the salary schedule and additional compensation paid will be deducted from the teacher's remaining pays. Pay will not be retroactive for failure by the teacher to submit a written request for advancement on the salary schedule within the same school year.

K. Extended Work Year

A teacher requested by the Board to work in his/her regular assignment beyond the contracted number of days shall be offered an extended contract and compensated at the scheduled per diem rate, as specified in Article XXV. Compensation for weeks worked after July 1 shall be at the new rate.

L. Teaching Load in Excess of 1.0 FTE

Compensation for teachers with a teaching load exceeding 1.0 FTE shall be 20% of the BA base salary, prorated for the portion of the school year during which their teaching load exceeded 1.0 FTE, subject to the following:

- Such overloads shall be offered first to qualified teachers in the same building, who meet Highly Qualified requirements having first right of refusal.
- Assignment of a teacher to an overload assignment shall be agreed upon by the building principal, the chairperson of the affected department (or another teacher from the department if the chair desires the overload position), and an Association building representative from that building. Assignments determined by that group shall not be subject to the grievance process.

M. 2026-2027 Salary Schedule

2026-2027					
Step	BA	MA	MA+15	MA+30	MA+45
	1	2	3	4	5
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	\$ 53,752	\$ 58,618	\$ 61,049	\$ 63,485	\$ 65,915
3	\$ 56,182	\$ 62,025	\$ 63,485	\$ 65,915	\$ 68,350
4	\$ 58,618	\$ 63,972	\$ 66,402	\$ 68,838	\$ 71,272
5	\$ 62,025	\$ 66,889	\$ 69,323	\$ 71,758	\$ 74,188
6	\$ 64,946	\$ 70,294	\$ 72,728	\$ 75,162	\$ 77,598
7	\$ 67,862	\$ 73,703	\$ 76,137	\$ 78,569	\$ 81,003
8	\$ 70,294	\$ 77,110	\$ 79,545	\$ 81,976	\$ 84,408
9	\$ 72,728	\$ 81,003	\$ 83,434	\$ 85,870	\$ 88,301
10	\$ 75,162	\$ 83,922	\$ 86,355	\$ 88,789	\$ 91,223
11	\$ 78,084	\$ 87,329	\$ 89,762	\$ 92,195	\$ 94,627
12	\$ 78,668	\$ 90,738	\$ 93,655	\$ 96,086	\$ 98,523
13	\$ 79,251	\$ 91,346	\$ 94,385	\$ 96,817	\$ 99,252
14	\$ 79,835	\$ 91,953	\$ 95,114	\$ 97,548	\$ 99,982
15	\$ 80,420	\$ 92,562	\$ 95,843	\$ 98,278	\$ 100,712
16	\$ 81,003	\$ 93,168	\$ 96,573	\$ 99,009	\$ 101,442
17	\$ 81,733	\$ 93,776	\$ 97,304	\$ 99,740	\$ 102,171
18	\$ 82,462	\$ 94,385	\$ 98,034	\$ 100,469	\$ 102,902
19	\$ 83,193	\$ 94,992	\$ 98,766	\$ 101,199	\$ 103,632
20	\$ 83,922	\$ 95,601	\$ 99,495	\$ 101,928	\$ 104,361
21	\$ 84,651	\$ 96,210	\$ 100,225	\$ 102,659	\$ 105,090
22	\$ 85,382	\$ 96,818	\$ 100,954	\$ 103,388	\$ 105,820
23	\$ 86,113	\$ 97,428	\$ 101,684	\$ 104,118	\$ 106,552
24	\$ 86,842	\$ 98,035	\$ 102,414	\$ 104,847	\$ 107,282
25	\$ 87,451	\$ 98,643	\$ 103,023	\$ 105,456	\$ 107,890
26	\$ 88,060	\$ 99,252	\$ 103,631	\$ 106,065	\$ 108,499
27	\$ 88,668	\$ 99,860	\$ 104,261	\$ 106,674	\$ 109,104
28	\$ 89,276	\$ 100,469	\$ 104,847	\$ 107,282	\$ 109,712

ARTICLE XXI: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS

The Board and Association will, during the duration of this contract work collaboratively to review Schedule B and provide input for the following contract negotiations in an effort to address inequities in compensation.

A. Conditions for Issuance of Supplement Contract

The following is a schedule base of BA, Step 1 for the indicated special activity which takes place outside the teaching day. Credit may be given at the District's discretion for experience in the same assignment in another school system or for a subordinate assignment in the same activity within the Forest Hills system.

Supplemental positions may, or may not, be filled annually depending on the needs of the District and contract will be issued at the sole discretion of the Board.

B. Salary for Assignment

	(Years of Experience)				
ASSIGNMENT	1	2	3	4	5
Varsity Football	13.5%	14.375%	15.25%	17%	18%
Varsity Asst. Football	8%	8.5%	9%	10%	11%
JV Football	9.5%	10%	10.5%	11%	11.5%
JV Asst. Football	8%	8.5%	9%	10%	11%
Freshman Football	9.5%	10%	10.5%	11%	11.5%
Middle School Skills	\$300 Lump Sum				
Building Football					
Varsity Basketball	13.5%	14.375%	15.25%	17%	18%
JV Basketball	9.5%	10%	10.5%	11%	11.5%
Freshman Basketball	9.5%	10%	10.5%	11%	11.5%
Middle School Basketball	4.25%	4.75%	5.25%	5.75%	6.75%
Middle School Recreational BB	\$450 Lump Sum				
Middle School Skills Bldg. BB	\$300 Lump Sum				
Varsity Wrestling	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15.5%
JV/Freshman Wrestling	7.75%	8.25%	8.75%	9.25%	10.25%
Middle School Wrestling	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Varsity Hockey	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15%
Varsity Swimming	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15%
Assistant Swimming	7.75%	8.25%	8.75%	9.25%	9.75%
Varsity Diving Coach	7.75%	8.25%	8.75%	9.25%	9.75%
Middle School Swimming	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Middle School Asst. Swimming	3.5%	3.75%	4%	4.25%	4.5%
Middle School Diving	2%	2.25%	2.5%	2.75%	3%
Varsity Volleyball	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15%
JV/Freshman Volleyball	7.75%	8.25%	8.75%	9.25%	9.75%

Middle School Volleyball	4.25%	4.75%	5.25%	5.75%	6.75%
Middle School Recreational VB	\$450 Lump Sum				
Middle School Skills Bldg. VB	\$300 Lump Sum				

One Head JV and one Head Freshman Football position, as well as a maximum of six (6) additional assistant football coaching positions' compensation will be recommended by the Head Varsity Coach, within the appropriate supplemental schedule and based upon assignment, off-season supervision and conditional activities. The total compensation for Asst. Football coach positions must be approved by the Athletic Director and the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. At the middle school level a maximum of 1 "A" team per sport per building. Number of "B" teams per sport per bldg., will be determined by administration based on student participation, but not to exceed 6 "B" teams per sport (Maximum of 1 "A" team and 6 "B" teams apply to boys' and girls' basketball and volleyball only).

ASSIGNMENT	(Years of Experience)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Varsity Gymnastics	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15%
Assistant Gymnastics	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Gymnastic Skills	\$650 Lump Sum				
Varsity Competitive Cheer	13%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	15%
Sideline Cheer	5.5%	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%
Assistant Cheer	\$650 Lump Sum				
Varsity Baseball	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13.5%
JV Baseball	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	9.25%
Freshman Baseball	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	9.25%
Middle Sch. Skills Bldg. Baseball	\$300 Lump Sum				
Varsity Softball	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13.5%
JV Softball	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	9.25%
Freshman Softball	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	9.25%
Middle School Recreational Baseball	\$450 Lump Sum				
Varsity Soccer	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13.5%
Assistant Soccer	7.75%	8.50%	9%	9.5%	10.25%
Varsity Track	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13.5%
Assistant Track	7.75%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	10.25%
Middle School Track	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.50%
Varsity Cross Country	8%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	11%
Assistant Cross Country	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%	7%
Middle School Cross Country	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Varsity Golf	8%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	11%
Assistant Golf	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%

Varsity Tennis	8%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	11%
Assistant Tennis	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%
Middle School Tennis	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Middle School Skills Bldg. Tennis	\$300 Lump Sum				
Varsity Boys’/Girls’ Bowling	8%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	11%
Varsity Skiing	8%	8.5%	9%	9.5%	11%
Assistant Skiing	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%	
Varsity Water Polo	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13%
Assistant Water Polo	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%
Varsity Crew	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13%
Assistant Crew	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%
Varsity Lacrosse	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13%
Assistant Lacrosse	6%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%
	(Years of Experience)				
ASSIGNMENT	1	2	3	4	5
Dance Team	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%
Middle School Events Coordinator	14%	14.5%	15%	15.5%	16%
Special Olympics	2.5%	3%	3.5%	4%	4.5%

Minimum of 4 performances outside contracted day for all positions for High School Positions. Asst. Band Directors are responsible to attend all practices and performances.

	(Years of Experience)				
ASSIGNMENT	1	2	3	4	5
H.S. Music Dir. (Band, Orch., Vocal)	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%	8.5%

	% of Base
H.S. Jazz Director (Band/Vocal)	3%
H.S. Instrumental Solo and Ensemble	3%
H.S. Vocal Solo and Ensemble	1%
H.S. Summer Band Camp (On-Site)	4%
H.S. Summer Band Camp (Off-Site)	6%
H.S. Sports Band	2%
H.S. Asst. Marching Band (over 100 students)	1.5%
Visual Guard (School Year and Band Camp)	2% for each

Minimum of 3 performances outside contracted day for all positions for Middle School Positions.

	% of Base
7-8 Music Director (Band, Orchestra, Vocal)	4%
7-8 Solo and Ensemble (Band, Orchestra, Vocal)	2%
8 th Grade Jazz Director (Band, Vocal)	2%

7-8 Directors are considered co-directors and percentages will be split.

Minimum of 3 performances outside contracted day for all sixth grade positions.

	% of Base
6 th Grade Music Director (Band, Orchestra, Vocal)	2.75%

Minimum of 3 performances outside contracted day for all K-5 positions.

	% of Base
JK-5 Music Productions	2.75%
JK-4 Music Productions	2.75%

Staff assigned to more than one building at the same level are eligible for a pro-ration of percentage specified at each building. Percentage per building cannot surpass the contracted percentage per position per building. To be eligible for supplemental compensation, performances/concerts must be held outside the contracted work day.

C. Compensation Teaching Load in Excess of 1.0 FTE for Extra Duty

Teachers contracted for extra duty that is seasonal in character shall have their pay spread throughout their assignment or receive a lump sum payment at the end of their assignment.

1. In a lump sum at the end of the assignment.
2. Spread over the duration of the assignment.

D. Process for Validating Supplemental Contract

Supplemental contracts are invalid if not signed and returned within fourteen (14) days after being received. This time may be extended at the discretion of the Human Resources Office.

E. Extra-Curricular Assignments

The following positions are to be compensated at the following percentage of the base.

ASSIGNMENT	(Years of Experience)				
	1	2	3	4	5
High School Musical Director	11%	11.5%	12%	12.5%	13%
High School Play Director	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	8.75%
	% of Base				
High School Variety Show Director	3%				

	% of Base
7-8 Play Director	4.5%
7-8 Variety Show Director	3%
9-12 Variety Show Support Staff (maximum 2 positions)	2%
9-12 Play/Musical Support Staff (maximum 10 positions)	2.75%

	% of Base
7-8 Play/Variety Show Support Staff	2%
Maximum of two (2) per school to be divided between the productions.	

	% of Base
Auditorium Supervisor (Dependent upon Job Description)	9%

	(Years of Experience)				
ASSIGNMENT	1	2	3	4	5
Debate Coach	5.5%	6.5%	7%	7.5%	8%
Forensics Coach	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%
Science Olympiad Coach (2)	4.5%	5%	5.5%	6%	6.5%

	% of Base
Odyssey of the Mind - 1 coordinator per attendance area (Central, Northern, Eastern)	3%
Mock Trial Election	4%
International Model U.N.	4%
DECA	2.5%
Volunteer Coordinator (2)	4%
Equity, Culture, and Belonging Coordinator	5%
JK-6 Teacher In Charge	3%
Middle School Mathcounts	\$700 Lump Sum
5-12 Club Teams (2 per building)	\$350 Lump Sum
JK-6 Student Council	1.5%
7-8 Student Council	3.5%
9-12 Student Council	4.5%
9-12 National Honor Society (99 or less members)	3%
9-12 National Honor Society (100 or more members)	4%
Special Education 9-12 Testing Coordinator – 1 per High School	3%

	% of Base
Freshman Class Sponsor	2.5%
Sophomore Class Sponsor	2.5%
Junior Class Sponsor (2)	3.75%
Senior Class Sponsor (2)	4.5%
9-12 Yearbook Advisor with Class	3.5%
7-8 Yearbook Advisor with Class	1.5%
JK-6 Yearbook Advisor	1.25%
9-12 School Newspaper Advisor with Class	2.5%
7-8 School Newspaper Advisor with Class	1.5%
JK-6 School Newspaper Advisor	1%
Club Sponsors – Stipend for teachers who oversee Principal-approved clubs. Clubs must happen outside of the scheduled student day or during a teacher's duty-free lunch. Teacher acknowledges they are giving up their duty-free lunch for club oversight. The club must have a minimum of 5 students.	\$450 stipend
JK-12 Instructional Leadership Team Members	4%
• JK-4 building – 6 positions	
• JK-5 building – 7 positions	
• 5-6 building – 6 positions	
• Middle School – 6 positions	
• High School – 7 positions	
Instructional Technology Resource Teachers	1.5% if 2 per building or 2.5% if 1 per building

F. Assignment Not Subject to Tenure

Work performed under a supplement contract is not subject to tenure and assignment of individual teachers to such duties is discretionary with the Board.

G. Fulfillment of Contract

The fulfillment of these contracts can be in addition to the work day as defined in Article IX Leave of Absence, Section A.

H. Board's Right to Establish Additional Positions

The District has the right to establish additional positions and issue payment of supplemental contracts for any duties during the term of this Agreement and shall inform the Association president and chief negotiator.

ARTICLE XXII: GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

A. Parameters / Additional Employment

The Board and Association do mutually understand and agree without precedent or prejudice to any future negotiations and specifically as may be related to any consideration of extension or significant restructuring of the current work year, calendar or schedule that the following conditions of employment shall apply to the above cited portions of the current Master Agreement.

1. Staff who by past practice and/or nature of their teaching assignment have been requested by the Board to work in his/her regular assignment beyond the contracted number of days shall be offered an extended contract and compensated at their scheduled per diem hourly rate. Compensation for time worked after July 1 shall be at the new rate.

Flex Time

In lieu of monetary compensation, staff employed in the above circumstance and dependent upon the nature of their teaching assignment during the normal work year may make written request to the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for compensation in the form of comp time up to the equivalent amount of time worked beyond the scheduled work year. Approval of individual requests shall be at the sole discretion of the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and not subject to the grievance process.

The decision to grant or deny a request shall be based upon the impact upon the educational process unique to the teaching assignments. Approved requests shall be irrevocable.

2. Staff employed in the summer school programs offering J K - 8 remedial instruction

in reading and math or any 9-12 course of instruction resulting in transcript credit shall be compensated at \$30.00 per hour for the duration of this agreement. An instructional day for these programs does not provide for compensated planning time.

3. It shall be the individual teacher's responsibility to perform non-instructional duties outside the scheduled work day. These duties may be performed at the time and place of the individual teacher's choosing provided that he/she shall be available for scheduled staff or parent meetings.
4. Employment shall be voluntary and not subject to tenure.

B. Teaching Outside Contracted School Year

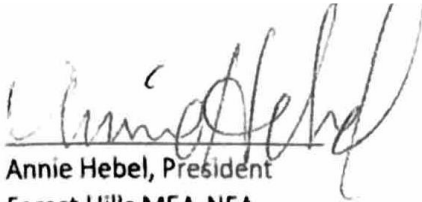
The Board and Association do mutually agree that duties outside the regular contract school year and not included in other sections of this Agreement, such as adult education, summer curriculum study committees, shall be \$23.00 per hour.

Student Lunch Supervision to be paid at the rate for teaching outside of the school year (\$23.00 per hour) and prorated as necessary.

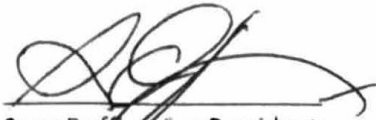
ARTICLE XXIII: DURATION

This Agreement shall be effective from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. This Agreement shall not be extended orally and it is expressly understood that it shall expire on the date.

FOR THE ASSOCIATION:



Annie Hebel, President
Forest Hills MEA-NEA
District Association

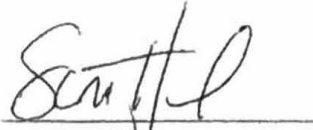


Sean Duffie, Vice President
Forest Hills MEA-NEA
District Association

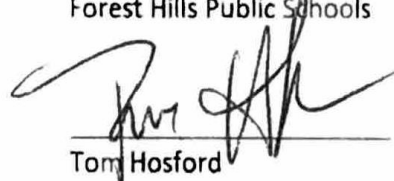
FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:



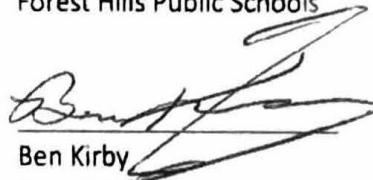
Julie Davis
Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations
Forest Hills Public Schools



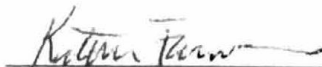
Scott Haid
Asst. Supt. For Instruction
Forest Hills Public Schools



Tom Hosford
Asst. Supt. For Human Resources
Forest Hills Public Schools



Ben Kirby
Superintendent
Forest Hills Public Schools



Kristen Fauson, President
Forest Hills Public Schools
Board of Education

Adopted by the Board: June 8, 2026

APPENDIX A

Appendix A: Classroom Teacher Placement, Layoff/Recall, and Evaluation

If Board policy changes, the changes will go into effect at the end of the current agreement and if there are changes in the law, the changes will go into effect immediately.

Personnel Provisions and Procedures Pertaining to Classroom Teachers

For the purposes of this collective bargaining agreement, subjects contained in this Appendix “A” shall apply only to Teachers as defined in Section 1249 of the Michigan Revised School Code as of July 1, 2024. That definition and the associated provisions within this Appendix shall not apply to professional ancillary staff nor shall it apply to any certificated persons within the bargaining unit who are not currently assigned to deliver instruction directly to pupils as teacher of record. Should Michigan Revised School Sections 1248 or 1249 be amended, the parties agree to meet and bargain over the impact of the amendments, if evaluation, placement, and layoff/recall decisions remain a mandatory subject of bargaining.

Teacher Placement

This language is intended to summarize Board policy 4402, which refers specifically to teachers as defined above. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration unless expressly provided by law. (See Board Policy 4402 for additional details)

Decisions regarding the appropriate placement of effective teachers shall be determined by the Superintendent or designee at their discretion. Placement includes, but is not limited to, assignment, transfer, or the filling of a position with current staff or newly hired teachers. Placement does not include reduction in force or recall decisions.

Teacher placement decisions shall be based on the following clear and transparent factors:

- a. Staffing the curriculum with the most effective and qualified teachers to instruct the applicable courses, grades, and school schedule.
- b. Appropriate certification, approval, or authorization for all aspects of the assignment based on documentation on file with the District. The certification, approval, or authorization, as applicable, will be determined by the Revised School Code, MDE’s Teacher Certification Code, MDE’s Rules for Special Education Programs and Services, and other applicable statutes and regulations. A teacher must maintain valid certification, approval, or authorization, as applicable, and is responsible for filing a copy of the certificate, approval, or authorization with the Superintendent’s office in compliance with Revised School Code Section 1532. If a teacher petitions for nullification of the teaching certificate or any endorsement, the teacher must promptly provide written

notice of that petition to the Superintendent's office.

- c. Teacher placement decisions must be made based on teacher effectiveness criteria established in Revised School Code Section 1249.
- d. Teacher placement decisions will be guided by all of the following criteria, provided teachers are fully qualified for all aspects of their assignments as determined by the Board, and will be provided to the teacher in writing:
 - i. Compliance with applicable state or federal regulatory standards, including standards established as a condition to receipt of foundation, grant, or categorical funding;
 - ii. Credentials needed for District, school, or program accreditation;
 - iii. District-provided professional development, training, and academic preparation for an instructional assignment that is anticipated to contribute to the teacher's effectiveness in that assignment and is integrated into instruction;
 - iv. Relevant special training, other than professional development or continuing education as required by state or federal law, and integration of that training into instruction in a meaningful way;
 - v. Disciplinary record, if any
 - vi. Length of service in a grade level(s) or subject area(s);
 - vii. Recency of relevant and comparable teaching assignments;
 - viii. Previous effectiveness ratings;
 - ix. Attendance and punctuality;
 - x. Rapport with colleagues, parents, and students;
 - xi. Service and leadership within the school
 - xii. Ability to withstand the strain of teaching;
 - xiii. Compliance with state and federal law; and
 - xiv. Other relevant factors as determined by the Superintendent or designee.
- e. Length of service may be considered as a tiebreaker if a teacher placement decision involves 2 or more teachers and all other factors distinguishing those teachers from each other are equal.

Each year, not later than March 15th, a teacher may complete the Staff Intent Form or submit in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources a preference and/or request for consideration regarding a teaching position that the bargaining unit member is certified and qualified to fill. The administration will consider the request. All placement decisions must be made in compliance with this appendix.

Vacant Positions

The Superintendent or designee determines when a vacancy exists. Generally, a

vacancy is an unassigned, open position or a newly created position which the District intends to permanently fill. Consistent with Board Policy 4205, vacancies may be posted by the administration and be filled by a certified and qualified internal or external candidate consistent with policy. The Superintendent or designee has full discretion to assign Professional Staff or contractors to cover employee absences consistent with business necessity and operational needs.

Teacher Reduction in Force and Recall

This language is intended only as a summary of Board policy 4405, the portions referring specifically to teachers as defined above. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration unless expressly provided by law. (See Board Policy 4405 for additional details)

When making program and staffing decisions resulting in the elimination of a teaching position or the recall of a teacher to a vacant teaching position, the Board will retain the most effective classroom teachers who are certified and qualified to instruct courses within the applicable curriculum, academic levels, and departments. The Board has the exclusive right to determine the size of the teaching staff based on curricular, fiscal, and other operating conditions. To the extent that the determinations involve Revised School Code Section 1248 requirements, the clear and transparent procedures of this Policy shall guide the implementation of that statute.

General Provisions:

The Superintendent is responsible, acting within the approved budget, for establishing the number and nature of teaching assignments to implement the approved curriculum. If the Superintendent determines that insufficient funds are budgeted for the existing teaching staff or that a reduction in teaching staff is necessary due to program, curricular, or other operational considerations, the Superintendent will recommend to the Board the teaching positions to be reduced.

Reduction in force and recall decisions must be made based on teacher effectiveness criteria established in Revised School Code Section 1249 and Policy 4403. Decisions about the reduction and recall of teachers will be guided by the same criteria as shown above in Teacher Placement, paragraph d and e.

Teachers must provide the District with current information and documentation supporting the teacher's certification and qualifications. Reduction and recall decisions will be based on the teacher's certification and qualifications in the District's records at the time of the decision. A laid off teacher must maintain current contact information (address, phone, and email address) with the District. Failure to maintain current contact information may negatively impact the teacher's recall.

Teacher reductions and recalls are by formal Board action. Before the Board authorizes a teacher reduction, the Superintendent or designee will notify, in writing, the affected teacher of an opportunity to respond, either in person or in writing, to the proposed

reduction. The Superintendent or designee will provide written notice of Board reduction in force or recall decisions to each affected teacher.

A teacher's length of service with the District or tenure under the Teachers' Tenure Act will not be the sole factor in reduction in force and recall decisions.

Teacher reduction in force and recall decisions will be implemented by the process defined in Board Policy 4405.

Teacher Performance Evaluation

This language is intended only as a summary of Board policy 4403, the portions referring specifically to teachers as defined above. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration unless expressly provided by law. (See Board Policy 4403 for additional details)

The Board's authority shall not be limited by policy or this summary in any decisions to non-renew a teacher's contract at the end of the contract's term.

Teachers will be evaluated pursuant to a performance evaluation system consistent with Revised School Code Section 1249 and the Teachers' Tenure Act. This performance evaluation system will include, as appropriate, the following:

1. A year-end evaluation process that meets statutory standards;
2. An evaluation tool that incorporates components required by law, including:
 - a. locally agreed-on student growth and assessment data or student learning objectives, as defined by Revised School Code Section 1249;
 - b. the teacher's performance; and
 - c. objective criteria.
3. An individualized development plan (IDP) with performance goals developed by the evaluator in consultation with the teacher and recommended training designed to improve the teacher's effectiveness for:
 - a. all probationary teachers;
 - b. teachers rated minimally effective or ineffective during the 2023-24 school year;
 - c. teachers rated needing support or developing after the 2023-24 school year;
or
 - d. at the evaluator's discretion when performance deficiencies are noted.

4. Classroom observations of at least 15 minutes each which include, at a minimum, a review of the teacher's lesson plan, the state curriculum standard used in the lesson, and pupil engagement, with appropriate written feedback and a post-observation meeting between the teacher and the school administrator conducting the observation to discuss those items;
5. A mid-year progress report, if required by law, which aligns with the teacher's individualized development plan, includes specific performance goals developed by the evaluator, and any recommended training identified by the evaluator;
6. A year-end performance evaluation effectiveness rating, of effective, developing, or needing support;
7. Tenured teachers rated as highly effective or effective on the 3 most recent consecutive year-end evaluations may be evaluated biennially, but if the teacher is not rated as effective on one of the biennial year-end evaluations, the teacher must receive year-end evaluations. If a teacher on the biennial track is placed on an IDP or transfers to a new position, the Superintendent or designee may choose to move the teacher to annual evaluations;
8. A mentor for teachers rated developing or needing support or for teachers in the first year of probation;
9. Opportunity for a tenured teacher rated needing support on a year-end evaluation to request a review consistent with Revised School Code Section 1249;
10. A tool approved by MDE, a modified MDE tool, or a local evaluation tool if adopted in compliance with Revised School Code Section 1249 and corresponding regulations;
11. Website posting of required information for the evaluation tool;
12. Training on the evaluation tool for teachers and evaluators as required by law; and
13. Other components that the Superintendent or designee deems relevant, important, or in the District's best interests.
14. Evaluates the employee's job performance in a year-end evaluation no later than the last day of school.
15. No observation will be scheduled the day before or after a break, without the agreement of the teacher, or the day after a teacher returns from a leave of 5 days or more.
16. The teacher will be notified no later than four weeks after the start of the school year of the administrator who will be conducting their year-end evaluation.

If a tenured teacher is rated ineffective or needing support on 3 consecutive year-end evaluations, the teacher shall be discharged consistent with due process. The District is

not precluded from discharging a teacher at other times as provided by the Teachers' Tenure Act.

If a teacher receives an unevaluated rating, the teacher's rating from the school year immediately before the designation must be used for consecutive purposes.

By September 1, 2024, the Parties will negotiate and reach consensus about how to measure student growth and assessment data or student learning objective metrics to be considered for 20% of the evaluation. If a consensus is not reached by September 1, 2024, the District will follow its established Board policies until the parties reach an agreement.

Grievance Procedure

An alleged violation of this Appendix is not subject to grievance or arbitration. Probationary teachers cannot challenge any decision concerning evaluation, placement, and layoff/recall. An Arbitrator, however, has jurisdiction to consider a grievance filed under the Article V grievance procedure by a tenured teacher after receiving two (2) consecutive ratings of "Needing Support" on their most recent performance evaluations.

APPENDIX B

Appendix B: Non-Teaching Professionals (Placement, Layoff/Recall, and Evaluation)

Personnel Provisions Pertaining to Non-Teaching Professionals

For the purposes of this collective bargaining agreement, subjects contained in this Appendix "B" shall apply only to Non-Teaching Professionals within the bargaining unit who are not currently assigned to deliver instruction directly to pupils as teacher of record.

Placement

This language is intended only as a summary of Board policy 4402, the portions referring specifically to Non-Teaching Professionals. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration unless expressly provided by law. (See Board Policy 4402 for additional details) The Superintendent or designee is authorized to assign and transfer Non-Teaching Professionals at the Superintendent's or designee's discretion.

Reduction in Force and Recall

This language is intended only as a summary of Board policy 4405, the portions referring specifically to non-teaching professionals. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration unless expressly provided by law. (See Board Policy 4405 for additional details)

The Superintendent will recommend a reduction in force or recall among Non-Teaching Professionals using the same standards and procedures as set forth in this Policy for teachers.

Performance Evaluation

This language is intended only as a summary of Board policy 4403, the portions referring specifically to non-teaching professionals. This summary does not alter or limit the Board policy in any way, nor does it subject the policy, including this summary, to grievance or arbitration. (See Board Policy 4403 for additional details)

The performance evaluation system for a Non-Teaching Professional will include observations. An IDP will be developed during the employee's probationary period. Except during the probationary period, which must include annual evaluations, the Superintendent or designee will evaluate the employee's performance at intervals determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee has discretion to select and use an evaluation tool that serves the District's best interests.

The Superintendent or designee also has discretion to implement an IDP if performance deficiencies are noted, regardless of the employee's effectiveness rating.

Grievance Procedure

An alleged violation of this Appendix is not subject to grievance or arbitration.