

AGREEMENT BETWEEN

GROVETON TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

AND

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL BOARD

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2023

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PREAMBLE

Agreement, made at the regular annual school meeting, by and between the Northumberland School Board, hereinafter called the "Board" and the Groveton Teachers Association, hereinafter called the "Association."

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, the parties have negotiated and have reached certain understandings which they desire to confirm in this agreement. Therefore, in consideration of the following mutual covenants, it is hereby agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I RECOGNITION

The Groveton Teachers Association of the N.E.A./N.E.A.N.H. is hereby recognized as the exclusive bargaining representative for the following full time (more than fifty percent salary schedule credit at appropriate step) professionally certified degree personnel engaged in providing educational services in accordance with the provisions of R.S.A. 273A for teachers, school counselors and librarians/media specialists (hereinafter referred to as unit members). Negotiations may include the terms and conditions of employment pursuant to R.S.A. 273A.

During the term of this agreement, the Board agrees not to negotiate with any teacher organization other than the designated unit in regard to any matter subject to negotiation. Provided, however, that this shall not prevent the Board from communicating or consulting with any individual unit member or group of unit members for any purpose the Board deems desirable in the discharge of its responsibilities. Nothing in this agreement is to be construed to preclude the personal appearance before the Board by any unit member on the unit member's behalf provided that it is not in contravention of this agreement.

ARTICLE II NO DISCRIMINATION

The Association agrees to represent equally all unit members without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, or membership in the Association, except for nonpayment of dues, as stated (RSA 273A.511C).

The Board agrees not to discriminate against a unit member because of race, color, creed, age, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or membership in the Association.

ARTICLE III JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Board, subject only to the language of this agreement, reserves to itself full jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains its right in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to direct and manage all activities of the school district.

The parties understand that neither the Board nor the Superintendent may lawfully delegate powers, discretions, and authorities which by law are vested in them, and that this agreement shall not be construed so as to limit or impair their respective statutory powers, discretions, and authorities.

ARTICLE IV NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE

Either party wishing to renegotiate this contract as described under Article XIX shall notify the other party on or before September 15th of the last effective year of this contract. The parties shall agree to enter into negotiations in a good faith effort to reach agreement on those matters concerning terms and conditions of employment. Any agreement reached shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Board and the Association. Any agreement reached which requires the expenditure of public funds for its implementation shall not be binding upon the Board, unless and until the necessary appropriations have been approved by the voters of the district. The Board shall make a good faith effort to secure the funds necessary to implement said agreements. If such funds are not forthcoming, the Board and the Association shall resume negotiations concerning terms and conditions of employment in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

If the parties fail to reach agreement on any matters concerning terms and conditions of employment, either party may declare an impasse. The parties shall then follow the procedures of RSA 273A:12.

ARTICLE V PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

- A. The basic salaries of professional unit members covered by this agreement are set forth in Appendix A, which is attached to and incorporated in this agreement. Such salary schedule shall remain in effect during the term of this agreement. For the year 1, add \$0 to base and off step receives \$1,100; Year 2, add \$501 to base and off step receives \$1,500; Year 3, add \$0 to base and off step receives \$1,500.

- B. Placement on the salary schedule shall be in accordance with the years of experience, highest degree consistent with assignment, and the number of semester hours earned beyond said degree. New hires will be compared to current employees' years of experience, education and salary level. No new employee will be hired at a higher level than a current employee who has the same years of experience and education.

The Association agrees to grant steps for relevant work experience at the rate of one step for every two years of experience outside of teaching up to a maximum of six steps providing the individual has a bachelor's degree or greater. Upon completion of three years of employment and attainment of a teaching certificate, the individual will be granted additional steps for relevant work experience, in excess of the years considered above, for up to an additional eight years non-teaching experience at a rate of one step per two years. The maximum number of steps to be granted is a total of ten steps under this provision. This provision shall apply to existing staff similarly situated at the start of the contract year.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, will consult with the President of the Association, or his/her designee, on the step placement of any new hire prior to the person being brought before the School Board and a contract being offered to him/her regarding step placement.

- C. The salary schedule is based upon the regular school calendar as set forth in Appendix A, and the normal assignment of such non-teaching duties as, but not limited to, bus duty, recess, lunch, dances, and class activities. For teaching assignments in excess of the regular school calendar and contract, unit members shall be paid a designated per diem rate.

- D. A unit member whose work is adjudged unsatisfactory may be retained at the same salary step for the succeeding year. The unit member shall be so notified in writing by April 15 and given the reasons for withholding the same. Before written notice is given, the following administrative action must have occurred: (1) the member must have been notified, in writing, of the specific issues adjudged unsatisfactory, (2) the member must have had at least 10 calendar days to consult with association officials to construct a response, (3) if, after the member's presentation to the evaluator, the evaluator still believes the issues exist, the member will be presented with a specific plan with clearly defined timelines of member actions to be completed, (4) the member will have 10 calendar days to provide feedback on the plan and its contents. The evaluator

will consider the member's input but the evaluator has the final authority to determine the plan and timelines. If the member successfully completes the plan, the member will be reinstated on the appropriate step earned prior to the plan being implemented.

- E. Advancement on the B+15, B+30, or Masters track is dependent upon final approval of the Superintendent of Schools. All courses and accepted degree programs should be related to the district goals and/or unit member's professional area of work. Advancement on the track and the corresponding financial compensation will be done when the superintendent receives the formal documentation of this achievement. This documentation will include such items as transcripts or a compilation of grade reports.
- F. The first teacher pay period will be the first regularly scheduled pay period after the first teacher workday as scheduled on the SAU calendar. Each payment shall include a listing of all deductions for that pay period.
- G. The District will provide a sick day buyback for bargaining members who have accumulated more than 100 days. The employee will be reimbursed for sick days that they have accumulated above the 100 day carry forward at the rate of \$60.00 per day. The payment will be after the end of the school year.

ARTICLE VI – RETIREMENT BENEFIT

- A. A unit member in the Northumberland School District will receive, in addition to the unit member's regular contractual remuneration according to Appendix A of this agreement, an additional \$15,000 during the final one, two or three years of service upon written notification to the Superintendent of the unit member's intent to retire. At the unit member's option, the total amount of the \$15,000 may be taken in the final year of service or it may be divided into two \$7,500 payments in each of the final two years of employment, or into three \$5,000 payments in the final three years of service. The notification shall take place no later than November 1st of the year prior to the school year in which the unit member intends to retire. For unit members who choose to spread the payment over two or three years, the notice must be provided no later than November 1st during the school year in which the first payment will be made. An employee shall have the option of receiving the payment biweekly or in one lump sum. If the unit member chooses to withdraw his/her retirement request, he/she must do so no later than May 1st of the school year that they gave notice. The notification to the Superintendent of Schools of the intended retirement date will be final and binding upon the unit member, as of May 1st. The Board reserves the right to deny any request. A unit member who intends to take advantage of this section must first meet the following qualifications:
1. The unit member must have accrued a minimum of ten (10) years of full time teaching experience in the Northumberland School District by date of retirement, and:
 2. Either of the following criteria must apply by the date of retirement:
 - a. The unit member must have fifteen (15) years total full time teaching experience, or:
 - b. The unit member must reach fiftyfive (55) years of age.

If a unit member chooses to withdraw his/her retirement request, he/she must do so no later than May 1st of the school year that they gave notice, if they planned to receive the lump sum payment. If they chose divided payments, the request must be approved before any payments are made. The Board reserves the right to deny any request. This provision to sunset permanently at the end of the 2015-2016 contract year, except for the following employees who will be grandfathered under Section G of 2011-2013 contract language: Mindy Johnson, Sharon Atkinson, Tamera Murray, Tim Haskins, Lisa Guay, Michelle Fox, and Crystal Shallow.

3. A unit member who does not qualify for the Retirement article (VI A. 1 & 2), who has fifteen (15) years of service in district as a unit member, and upon written notification to the Superintendent of the unit member's intent to retire, shall be eligible for an additional \$7,500, plus \$500 per year for every year after fifteen

(15) years of service, not to exceed \$15,000.

Either of the following criteria must apply by the date of retirement:

- a. The unit member must have fifteen (15) years total full-time teaching experience, or:
- b. The unit member must reach fifty-five (55) years of age.

At the unit member's option, the total amount may be taken in the final year of service. The employee shall have the option of receiving the payment biweekly or in one lump sum in their final paycheck. The notification shall take place no later than November 1st of the year prior to the school year in which the unit member intends to retire. If the unit member chooses to withdraw his/her retirement request, he/she must do so no later than May 1st of the school year that they gave notice. The notification to the Superintendent of the intended retirement date will be final and binding upon the unit member, as of May 1st.

ARTICLE VII INSURANCE PROVISIONS

- A. The Northumberland School District shall pay the full cost of School Care Yellow without Choice Fund plan for each full-time unit member up to a premium contribution cap as follows:
1. Family - \$17,000; 2-Person - \$12,750; Single - \$6,375
 2. Any cost increase above the district contribution to be borne by the employee.

This premium contribution cap to remain in effect until a successor agreement is reached.

- B. The district agrees to provide those enrolled in the plan with a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) in the following amounts:

Individual = \$1,000

Family = \$2,000 (two or more individuals)

The above amounts will be available annually on July 1st.

The HRA can be used for reimbursement of deductibles, co-insurance or eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses, including pharmaceuticals, incurred by the plan enrollee and/or their eligible dependents. There will be no rollover of funds from one year to the next.

- C. In the event that a unit member, absent because of illness or injury, has exhausted sick leave accrual, the unit member's salary will be discontinued, but the insurance coverage contained herein shall continue throughout the balance of the contract year as defined in this article.
- D. Any member who chooses may buy up to a higher health plan if available.
- E. The District shall provide a Life, Accidental Death, and Disability Policy as follows:

Basic death benefit – Equal to base salary (this will be a convertible policy.)

Until age 70 (reduced 50 percent)

Accidental death and dismemberment (double basic)

Disability 2/3 weekly gross salary

Day of first payment 31st calendar day of disability

Maximum period 52 weeks (after 70th birthday 13 weeks)

No simultaneous payments for sick leave and disability insurance; use of sick leave payments will be suspended as of the commencement of disability pay eligibility.

- G. The District shall establish an IRS IRC Section 125 account, which may be used

up to the Internal Revenue Service maximum.

- H. Any unit member who is eligible for health insurance and who declines to take it, shall receive a reimbursement payment of \$2,025 for a single, \$4,050 for a two-person plan and \$5,400 for a family plan, provided their spouse is not an employee of the District and receives health insurance coverage, in which case they would not be eligible for the payment.
- I. If the health insurance premium exceeds a 15% increase from the previous year's premium, the remaining year of this multi-year agreement will reopen for negotiations.
- J. The District shall offer single, 2-person and family group dental insurance. Employees shall pay 100% of the premium for a single, 2-person or family plan.

ARTICLE VIII SEVERANCE

- A. Upon reduction in force or retirement of a unit member who has worked for eight (8) or more years in the district, the district shall pay \$60.00 for each unused sick day to a maximum of ninety (90) days.

Upon voluntary separation, with a 30-day notice given prior to separation, of a unit member who has worked for eight (8) or more years in the district, the district shall pay \$60.00 for each unused sick day to a maximum of forty-five (45) days.

Eligible teachers will receive these monies within 30 days of their last paycheck,

- B. Bargaining unit members will not be released from their individual teacher contracts without special permission and agreement from the Northumberland School Board. Board action will be taken at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting after receiving a request.

A premature departure cost equal to 2% of the Bachelor Track, Step 1 (payable to the District before a release is granted) will be levied against any bargaining unit member who attempts to breach their individual teacher contract after June 1st. The amount will increase to 3% of the Bachelor Track, Step 1 after July 1st and will increase again to 4% of the unit member's contracted salary after August 1st.

This contract is being offered to the bargaining unit member in good faith and as such a signed copy is due back from the employee no later than April 30th. If the employee needs additional time to decide whether or not to accept the offer of employment for the ensuing school year, they may request and be granted an extension of up to two (2) weeks. If, however, after such extension the contract has not been signed, the offer is automatically rescinded and the position will be posted as vacant.

Both parties recognize unavoidable situations do arise which can cause someone to ask for a release from a contract. Such situations shall be handled by the Board on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE IX COURSE REIMBURSEMENT

A. The sum of up to \$12,000.00 will be made available for credit course reimbursement to unit members under the provisions of this article.

The district shall reimburse each unit member up to 100% of the per credit charge at the UNH in-state rate toward tuition for the first course, each approved course successfully completed at an accredited college or university and the unit member must earn a grade of "B" or higher. No unit member should expect reimbursement for more than one course until the end of May. However, after that time any unexpended money may be used for multiple class reimbursement. If there is enough money left, all people who have a second course will be reimbursed based on the above formula, then those with a third course, etc. If there is not enough money to full pay for all the courses at that level, then the remaining amount will be evenly divided by the teachers involved. An approved course should be in the unit member's major field (or part of a degree program within the unit member's major field), required for certification, or aligned with district goals. The maximum credits outside the major teaching area, required for certification, or aligned with district goals allowable in any one school year shall be limited to six (6) credits of the twelve.

To be eligible for tuition reimbursement, all course requests must be approved by the Superintendent and the building principal in advance of the unit member's registration. When a grant or aid is received from a source other than the district, that sum shall be subtracted from the district's reimbursement.

The unit member must be teaching in the district during the reimbursement period to be eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement will be made within thirty (30) working days upon submission of proof of successful completion of the course; except that no unit member shall be reimbursed for a second course until all those eligible for a first reimbursement have received payment.

In order to provide for equitable distribution of funds, \$6,000 for course for reimbursement will be set aside in the fall and \$6,000 will be set aside in the spring and when the Superintendent and building principal approves the courses to be taken. Unit members shall apply by September 1st for courses to be taken in the fall term and by January 10th for courses to be taken in the spring term. The district will provide payment for approved courses when provided evidence of payment and a passing grade within thirty (30) days of the completion of the course either in the form of a transcript or a letter on the school's stationary. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in no reimbursement of funds. In no case can this be later than May 31st so that accounts can be closed out for the fiscal year. If the employee withdraws from the class, he/she must give notice to the District within 15 days. The employee will be responsible for any money not recovered from the offering institution because of withdrawal.

B. ADMINISTRATION REQUEST FOR PD AND/OR COURSES – The district shall pay registrations and cost for tuition reimbursement which a unit member is requested in writing by the administration to take when requests are made for reasons other than inadequate performance. The absence of such requests does not relieve professional unit members of their obligations to remain knowledgeable about content and methods relative to their assignment.

ARTICLE X LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. Sick Leave A unit member shall be entitled to use accumulated sick leave, with pay at the rate of one eighty-fourth (1/84th) of the unit member's annual salary, for illness or physical disability.

Each full time unit member will accumulate sick leave in accordance with the following:

All full time unit members shall receive thirteen (13) days at the start of the school year. A maximum of one hundred (100) days accumulation may be carried forward to the next school year.

A maximum of five (5) days of the unit member's accumulated sick days per year (not accruable) may be used for the care of their own sick children, spouse, or parents. Any additional days needed beyond 5 to be requested in writing to the Superintendent, who may grant authorization of additional days on an individual basis.

Pregnancy and childbirth shall be treated as any other form of illness or disability. Sick leave may be applied to any physical disability related to the pregnancy and verified in writing by the attending physician. An individual who is pregnant shall provide thirty (30) days' notice before anticipated leave and may remain at work as long as she desires, up to the indicated date when leave is to commence, provided that the Superintendent may request written approval from her attending physician that the individual is in generally good health and physically able to carry out the required teaching responsibilities. Should individual circumstances dictate, leave may commence prior to the date indicated by the individual.

Each unit member will receive with the first paycheck in October the number of accumulated sick leave days as of July 1 of the previous school year.

In the event that a unit member must use sick leave in excess of three (3) consecutive days or if there is suspected abuse of sick leave use or if used on a professional development day, the unit member must submit to the Superintendent's office documentation from a doctor's office, clinic, or other medical facility stating the reason for the absence.

- B. Personal Leave Three (3) days of the thirteen (13) sick days detailed in Section A will be available annually for personal, legal, or business matters which must be conducted during school hours. Personal leave may not be used to extend a regularly scheduled school holiday or vacation period. Application to the Principal for personal leave should be made at least two (2) days before taking such leave, except in the case of emergency. It will not be necessary for the unit member to state the reason for using personal leave; however, if the leave is used the day before or after a regularly scheduled vacation, the Principal may request an explanation for the emergency nature of the leave. Personal leave is non-accumulative, but any unused personal days at the end of the year will be carried

forward as sick days.

- C. Death in the Immediate Family – Three (3) days shall be granted to any unit member in the event of death of a member of a unit member's immediate family (parent, wife, husband, son, daughter, brother, sister, and resident of the employees' household, and three (3) days for parent-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, grandparents, grandparent-in-law, grandchildren, aunt, and uncle. Any additional days needed beyond three (3) days are to be requested in writing to the Superintendent, who may grant authorization of additional days on an individual basis.
- D. Temporary Leave Temporary leave with pay for the purpose of visiting other schools or other educational activities directly related to the improvement of education within the school district may be granted by the Superintendent.
- E. Absences For all absences other than those specifically authorized in advance by the Superintendent or for which provision is made in A, B, C, or D above, a deduction will be made for each day of absence at the rate of 1/184 of the unit member's salary. The unit member will be notified of any such deductions, when the deduction will be withheld, and the reason for the deduction.

ARTICLE XI LEAVES WITHOUT PAY

The Board will consider requests for leaves of absence, without pay or benefits, submitted by unit members in writing, who have completed at least one (1) year of service in the Northumberland School District, stating the reason therefore at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date the leave is to become effective. Such requests shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools via the Principal for review and determination by the Board. The decision of the Board shall be communicated to the unit member in writing. All leaves which are granted shall be in writing specifying beginning and termination dates of said leave. The right to grant or deny such requests is at the sole discretion of the Board.

A. Additional Background:

A leave of absence of up to one (1) year may be granted to any unit member, upon application, for the purpose of participating in exchange teaching programs in other states, territories, or countries; foreign or military teaching programs; or cultural, travel, or work programs related to the unit member's professional responsibilities; provided that the unit member states in writing the unit member's intention to return to the school system.

B. Study:

A leave of absence of up to one (1) year may be granted to any unit member, upon application, for the purpose of engaging in study at an accredited college or university.

C. Military:

Time necessary for unit members called into temporary active duty of any unit of the U.S. Reserves or the State National Guard, provided such obligations cannot be fulfilled on days when school is not in session. Military leave shall be granted to any professional unit member who is drafted or is scheduled to be drafted and wishes to enlist in any branch of the armed forces of the U.S. up to a maximum of one (1) enlistment; and, furthermore, the unit member shall receive all rights and benefits which generally accrue to any professional unit member provided said unit member continues to have valid certification. The unit member shall have up to ninety (90) days after release from active duty to notify the Board of the unit member's intention to return to the system the following school year.

- D. Health:
In those instances where certified by a physician a unit member is unable to perform assignments due to health reasons, a health leave may, after one (1) year of service, be granted up to a maximum of one (1) year plus the unfinished year.
- E. Public Service:
Leaves without pay may be granted to serve in elected public office. Leaves shall be granted for the length of the term of office.
- F. Family Illness:
A leave of absence without pay or increment of up to one (1) year may be granted for the purpose of caring for a sick member of the unit member's family.
- G. Childrearing Leave:
Childrearing leave of one (1) year may be granted for the purpose of caring for minor members within the unit member's household. A second year extension may be requested if made prior to February 15th of the childrearing year. Use of this leave shall include care for a unit member's natural children, adopted children, foster children, and guardianship. The unit member shall request such leave of the Superintendent at least sixty (60) days prior to the estimated day of the leave's commencement. If the leave is granted, the unit member shall give the Superintendent thirty (30) days written notice of the date on which the leave will begin.
- H. General Provisions:
Upon return from any leave, a unit member shall be assigned to the same position if available or, if not, to at least an equivalent position. A unit member on a leave of absence without pay shall not be denied the opportunity to substitute in the school district by reason of the fact that the unit member is on leave of absence. Upon return from such leave of absence all rights and benefits shall accrue to the unit member as if the unit member were actively employed during the time of the leave of absence, except that credit for the purpose of advancement on the salary schedule is limited to A.

Unit members on leave under the above provisions of this article shall be issued a letter of confirmation stating the type and duration of such leave. Failure to return from leave at its expiration will be considered as a resignation unless such leave has been extended by the Board.

ARTICLE XII ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

- A. The Board agrees that the individual unit member shall have full freedom of association, self organization, and the designation of representatives of the unit member's own choosing to negotiate the terms and conditions of the unit member's employment and that the unit member shall be free from interference, restraint, or coercion by the Board or its agents in the designation of such representatives or in self organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining.
- B. The Association and its representatives shall have the right to use school buildings at all reasonable hours for meetings when such use does not conflict with prescheduled activities, provided that the Association observe the established rules governing the use of the building by groups.
- C. No unit member shall be required to appear before the Board or the Superintendent unless the unit member has been given prior notice of the reason for such meeting or interview. If the issue is disciplinary in nature, the unit member shall receive prior written notice. The unit member shall be entitled to have a representative of the Association to advise and represent the unit member during such interview if the unit member so desires.
- D. The school district shall make available a copy of current School Board policies to the Association and supply any changes as they occur.

ARTICLE XIII REDUCTION IN FORCE

If it becomes necessary to decrease the number of continuing contract teachers who are full-time due to, but not limited to, changes in the student population, curriculum changes, and/or the budget limitations within the school district, the governing body of the school system may lay off the necessary number of employees, by area of certification. As soon as the Board determines that a reduction in force is necessary, the Superintendent shall notify the President of the Teacher's Association of the Board's determination.

For the purpose of this article, classifications are defined as follows:

Elementary K-5

Grades 6-12

- English or Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign Language
- Family & Consumer Science
- Industrial Arts/Technical Education
- Business/Computers
- Art
- Physical Education
- Music
- Special Education
- Guidance
- Media Specialist (Librarian)

In identifying which teacher(s) to release, the administration and the Board will consider the following in this order: certification, experience in certified area, degree status, professional development, and the last five years of evaluations. If all the factors are equal, then seniority may be considered in making a final determination. Seniority is defined as the total number of years of continuous employment in the district.

If layoffs occur in the elementary grades or in Special Education positions, the Superintendent may shift the assignments of the remaining elementary teachers to provide the best possible programs. No teacher may be prevented from securing other employment during the period he or she is laid off under this subsection.

There will be no recall rights for terminated employees. However, the administration may consider the application of terminated employees for such positions which may become available in subsequent years, provided the terminated employee(s) submit a reasonable and timely application at the time the position becomes vacant. A previously employed teacher who returns to a teaching position within a three-year period shall resume employment with prior benefits reinstated only if eligible, at no less than the step occupied when the teacher position previously held was terminated.

When the District has a Reduction in Force of an employee, the District shall note in the

employee's personnel file, 1) that the employee left the District because of a RIF and, 2) that the reason for leaving reflects no discredit on the service of the employee.

ARTICLES XIV DUES DEDUCTION

- A. The Board agrees to deduct from the salaries of its unit members' dues for the Groveton Teachers Association, the New Hampshire Education Association, and/or the National Education Association.
- B. The Northumberland School District shall not require a payroll deduction authorization other than the "Payroll Office Copy" that is supplied by the NEANH/GTA as part of the membership application. The "Payroll Office Copy" will state the amount(s) to be withheld. Those who choose continuing deductions shall be required to submit the appropriate form and the district shall place the form on file. Annually, by October 1st, GTA will supply the payroll office with a spreadsheet stating/listing employees and deduction amounts.
- C. The district will discontinue such deductions for any school year only if notified by the unit member in writing to do so not later than October 1st each school year. The unit members waive all rights and claims for said monies so deducted and transmitted in accordance with this authorization and relieve the district and all of its officials from any liability thereof.
- D. Any association which changes the rate of its membership dues will give the district notice by October 1st of the year of such change.
- E. Deductions will be made in fifteen (15) installments beginning with the first check in October or if requested in writing by the member, the total deduction may be made from the final payment in June.
- F. Each Association member shall receive with the first paycheck in October an explanation of the code of deductions.

ARTICLE XV SAVINGS CLAUSE

If any article or part of this agreement is held to be invalid by operation of law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any article or part should be restrained by such tribunal, the remainder of the agreement shall not be affected thereby and the parties shall enter into immediate negotiations for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such article or part.

ARTICLE XVI TEACHER EVALUATION

Unit members shall be evaluated according to the approved School Board policy on staff evaluations. The forms and procedures in use at the beginning of the school year will remain in effect throughout the year. Before forms or procedures for evaluation are changed and approved by the Board, the Groveton Teachers' Association will be asked for its input before any evaluation procedures are changed. However, the Board will have final decision on any changes.

ARTICLE XVII SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Substitutes The Board agrees to endeavor to maintain an adequate list of substitutes for unit members. Once a unit member has reported unavailability, it shall be the responsibility of the administration to arrange for a substitute. The use of regular unit members as substitutes shall be avoided whenever possible. In the event regular unit members covered by this agreement are used as substitutes on an emergency and voluntary basis, such unit members shall be compensated on a prorated basis for teaching time provided.

ARTICLE XVIII GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Definition:

- A. "Grievance" shall mean a complaint by one or more unit members that there has been to the unit member or members a personal loss or injury as a result of a violation or misapplication of one or more specific provisions of this agreement. A grievance may be initiated by the Association as an entity if it relates to a violation or misapplication of a provision dealing with Association rights, specifically Article I Recognition, Article XI Association Rights, Article XIII Dues Deduction, Article XIV Savings Clause, Article XVII Grievance Procedure, and Article XIX Duration. The following matters are excluded from grievance:
1. Any matter for which a specific method of review is prescribed and expressly set forth by law or any rule or regulation of the State Commissioner of Education; or
 2. A complaint of a probationary unit member which arises by reason of the unit member not being reemployed; or
 3. A complaint by any certified personnel occasioned by appointment to or lack of retention in, any position for which a continuing contract either is not possible or is not required; or
 4. Any matter which, according to law, is either beyond the scope of Board authority or limited to unilateral action by the Board alone.
 5. The evaluation report of a unit member is not subject to the grievance procedure. It is understood that any unit member shall, during and notwithstanding the pendency of any grievance, continue to observe all assignments and applicable rules and regulations of the Board and the administration. A grievance to be considered under this procedure must be initiated in writing by the unit member within twenty (20) calendar days of its occurrence.

Procedure:

- Step 1: Any unit member who has a grievance shall discuss it first with the Principal (department head or other immediate superior, as applicable) in an attempt to resolve the matter informally at that level. The immediate superior shall communicate a decision to the grievant within five (5) school days.
- Step 2: The grievant may appeal the decision to the Principal within five (5) school days after receipt of the decision of the immediate superior. The appeal to the Principal must be made in writing specifying: (a) the nature of the grievance, (b) the nature and extent of the injury or loss claimed, (c) the results of previous discussions of the grievance, (d) the dissatisfaction with decisions previously rendered, (e) the remedy sought.
- The Principal shall attempt to resolve the grievance with the grievant as quickly as possible, but within a period not to exceed five (5) school days from the receipt of the appeal. The Principal shall communicate a decision in writing to the grievant and the immediate superior involved at the previous step of the grievance procedure. If the grievance is settled at Step 2, a copy of the Principal's decision shall be sent to the President of the Association.

- Step 3: The unit member may appeal the grievance to the Superintendent in writing within five (5) school days, specifying the information required in (a) through (e), Step 2.
- The Superintendent shall review the facts in the case and the decisions rendered at previous steps in the grievance procedure and shall, within ten (10) school days of receipt of the appeal to this level, meet with the grievant and communicate a decision in writing to the grievant and to the administrators involved at the previous steps of the grievance procedure.
- Step 4: If the grievance is not resolved to the grievant's satisfaction at Step 4, the unit member may request a review by the Board. Such request must be made within five (5) school days after receipt of the Superintendent's decision at Step 4, and shall be submitted in writing through the Superintendent, who shall attach all related papers and forward the request to the Board. The Board, or a committee thereof, shall review the grievance and, at its option, may, or at the request of the grievant shall, hold a hearing with the grievant. Within twenty (20) school days of the receipt of the appeal, or within twenty (20) school days after the date of the hearing, if held, whichever comes later, the Board shall render a decision in writing and forward copies of the decision to the grievant and to the administrators involved at the previous steps of the grievance procedure.
- Step 5: If the grievance is not resolved to the grievant's satisfaction at Step 5, he may submit the issue to arbitration. Arbitration shall be binding. The scope of the arbitrator's decision is to the contract only. The following procedure shall be used to secure the services of an arbitrator.
- a. The parties will attempt to agree upon a mutually satisfactory third party to serve as arbitrator.
If no agreement is reached within five (5) calendar days, the American Arbitration Association will be notified and requested to submit a roster of persons qualified to function as an arbitrator.
 - b. If the parties are unable to determine a mutually satisfactory arbitrator from the submitted list, they shall request the American Arbitration Association to submit a second roster of names.
 - c. If the parties are unable to determine, within ten (10) school days of the initial request for arbitration, a mutually satisfactory arbitrator from the second submitted list, the American Arbitration Association may be requested by either party to designate an arbitrator.
 - d. The arbitrator shall limit himself/herself to the issues submitted to the arbitrator and shall consider nothing else. The arbitrator shall be bound by and must comply with all the terms of this agreement. The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, delete from, or modify in any way any of the provisions of this agreement. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
 - e. The Board, the aggrieved, and the Association shall receive copies of the arbitrator's report. This shall be accomplished within thirty (30) calendar days of the completion of the arbitrator's hearing.
 - f. The costs for the services of the arbitrator, including per diem

ARTICLE XX – JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The parties agree to form a Joint Labor Management Committee to explore a performance-based pay system.

The Joint Labor-Management Committee (JLMC) shall consist of eight (8) members: the Superintendent of Schools, Business Manager, two (2) members appointed by the School Board, and four (4) appointed by the Association President. Any recommendations of the JLMC will be subject to negotiation and ratification by the respective constituent bodies.

ARTICLE XXI DURATION

This agreement shall cover the period of **July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023.**

[Handwritten signature]

Groveton Teachers Association

Date Signed

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Northumberland School Board

Date Signed

APPENDIX A

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

SALARY SCHEDULE
2020-2021

<u>Steps</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>BA+15</u>	<u>BA+30</u>	<u>MA OR BA+45</u>
1	33,799	34,624	35,449	36,274
2	34,799	35,624	36,449	37,274
3	35,799	36,624	37,449	38,274
4	36,799	37,624	38,449	39,274
5	37,799	38,624	39,449	40,274
6	38,799	39,624	40,449	41,274
7	39,799	40,624	41,449	42,274
8	40,799	41,624	42,449	43,274
9	41,799	42,624	43,449	44,274
10	42,799	43,624	44,449	45,274

Increments: Down \$1,000 Across \$825

Base Increase of \$0
Step Increase of \$1,000
OS Increase of \$1,100

APPENDIX A

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

SALARY SCHEDULE

2022-2023

<u>Steps</u>	<u>BA</u>	<u>BA+15</u>	<u>BA+30</u>	<u>MA OR BA+45</u>
1	34,300	35,300	36,300	37,300
2	35,300	36,300	37,300	38,300
3	36,300	37,300	38,300	39,300
4	37,300	38,300	39,300	40,300
5	38,300	39,300	40,300	41,300
6	39,300	40,300	41,300	42,300
7	40,300	41,300	42,300	43,300
8	41,300	42,300	43,300	44,300
9	42,300	43,300	44,300	45,300
10	43,300	44,300	45,300	46,300

Increments: Down \$1,000 Across \$1,000

Base Increase of \$0

Step Increase of \$1,000

OS Increase of \$1,500

APPENDIX B

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRIEVANCE RECORD

(For Use At Steps 2, 3, 4, & 5)

Grievance No. _____

Name of Grievant: _____ Date Filed: _____

Home Address: _____ Telephone No. _____

Building: _____ Assignment: _____

Name of Principal: _____ School Telephone No. _____

Date of alleged violation or misapplication: _____

Article of the Agreement allegedly violated: _____

Statement of the grievance: _____

Nature and extent of the injury or loss involved: _____

Results of previous discussions of the grievance and dissatisfaction with decisions
previously rendered: _____

Remedy sought: _____

Signature Assoc. Rep. present

Signature Grievant

Disposition by: _____

Principal _____

Superintendent _____

Date answered: _____

Principal/Superintendent of Schools

Grievance settled on the basis of Principal's/Superintendent's answer:

(Grievant)