

CONTRACT

Between the

**HUDSON FEDERATION OF PSRP'S
AFT LOCAL #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO**

and the

SCHOOL BOARD

of the

**HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026

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ARTICLE 1
AGREEMENT

- 1.1 This is a Collective Bargaining Agreement made and entered into by the Hudson School District, Hudson, New Hampshire (hereinafter referred to as the “District”), and Hudson Federation of PSRP’s, AFT-NH, Local #6245, AFT, AFL-CIO (hereinafter referred to as the “Federation”).

ARTICLE 2
RECOGNITION

- 2.1 Subject to RSA 273-A, and continued certification, the Hudson School Board recognizes the Hudson Federation of PSRP’s, AFT Local #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO, as the exclusive bargaining representative for all full and part-time cafeteria personnel, full and part-time paraeducators working less than 7 hours per day and full and part-time licensed practical nurses working less than 7 hours per day, as certified by the PELRB.

ARTICLE 3
DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 The Board shall mean the Hudson School Board.
- 3.2 The parties shall mean the Board and the Federation.
- 3.3 Superintendent refers to the responsible administrative head of the District as appointed by the Board.
- 3.4 School shall mean any work location or functional division maintained by the Board.
- 3.5 Federation shall mean the Hudson Federation of PSRP’s, AFT Local #6245, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO.
- 3.6 Federation Representative shall mean any duly authorized designee of the Federation.
- 3.7 Full-time shall mean:
Full-time employees shall mean food service employees holding positions in the bargaining unit who work at least six hours per day, and five days per week, and 180 days per year and paraeducators and licensed practical nurses working 6 ½ hours per day and 180 days per year.
- 3.8 Part-time shall mean:
Part-time employees shall mean employees holding positions in the bargaining unit who are not full-time employees who work less than 6 ½ hours per day and/or less than 180 days per year.-

- 3.9 Principal shall refer to the responsible administrative head of a building.
- 3.10 Supervisor shall refer to the responsible supervisor for a group of employees as designated by the Superintendent of Schools or School Board.
- 3.11 Paraeducator, licensed practical nurse, cafeteria personnel, and employee as used in this Agreement means persons employed by the Board in the bargaining unit as described in Section 1 of Article 2.
- 3.12 Bargaining unit shall mean all persons as certified by the Public Employee Labor Relations Board and employed by the Hudson School Board.
- 3.13 Job classifications shall mean the following positions in this bargaining unit: paraeducator, licensed practical nurse, food service employee, food service cook, food service assistant manager, and food service manager.

ARTICLE 4
DUES DEDUCTION

- 4.1 The Board agrees to deduct Federation dues in equal payments when properly notified by the Federation by means of a signed authorization form provided by the Federation for each unit employee so desiring such deduction. Such deduction authorization will be continued each year and thereafter unless notification is received in writing by the Union between June 1st and June 15th of each school year. The Board also agrees to forward any and all such funds to the Treasurer of the Federation on a monthly basis along with a record of such deductions.
- 4.2 The Union shall indemnify and hold the Board, the District, their officers and agents harmless in any and all disputes, claims, demands, liabilities, lawsuits, counsel fees or other costs which may arise out of or be by reason of, the matter of deductions and/or a result of the negotiation of or the administration of the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE 5
WORK POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Section 1: General Policy

- 5.1.1 In justice and fairness to the District and the taxpayers, all employees shall be required to report to work on time, shall not leave the job early unless for an emergency or excused absence, shall be prompt in reporting to their assigned duties, and shall faithfully perform their duties.

- 5.1.2 All employees shall be provided with a copy of his/her job description. The District shall also post job descriptions online, whereby employees may also view their job description at any time via the school district's intranet system. Upon revision of a job description, the employee shall be provided with an updated copy.

Section 2: Discipline

- 5.2.1 In the event of a written warning, suspension without pay or discharge prior to the end of the school year, the District will state in writing to the employee the reasons for the action taken within a reasonable time of the action.
- 5.2.2 Disciplinary action generally will include verbal warning, written warning, suspension without pay, and discharge prior to the end of the school year. However, the parties recognize that the School District reserves the right to initiate discipline at any step of the process based upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct or deficiency in performance. The parties agree that neither discharge of a probationary employee during the school year, nor non-renewal of any employee at the end of a school year constitutes discipline.

Section 3: Personnel Files

- 5.3.1 Official personnel files shall be maintained under the following circumstances:

No material derogatory to an employee's conduct, service, character, or personality shall be placed in the file by an administrator unless the employee has had the opportunity to read the material. The employee shall acknowledge that he/she has read the material by affixing his/her signature on the actual copy to be filed, with the understanding that such signature merely signifies that he/she has read the material to be filed and does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents.
- 5.3.2 The employee shall have the right to answer any material filed and his/her answer shall be attached to the file copy.
- 5.3.3 An employee shall be permitted to inspect and copy material in his/her personnel file, except material relating to his/her original application for employment and material otherwise exempted from disclosure by law.

Section 4: Federation Rights

- 5.4.1 After the close of school on school days, the Federation shall have the right to use designated areas in school buildings for meetings of bargaining unit members provided there is no interference with any scheduled school activities. The use of such designated areas shall be arranged with the principal in advance. All requests for building use shall conform to Board rules and regulations provided, however, that there shall be no cost to the Federation for such meetings so long as no overtime custodial cost to the Board is involved.

- 5.4.2 The Federation will have the right to place Federation related notices and other Federation materials in the mailboxes of bargaining unit members and to utilize the school email system for these purposes, provided such use is in accordance with the school district's computer use policy. Each member of the bargaining unit shall be provided an email address.
- 5.4.3 The Federation shall be permitted to post Federation-related notices and other materials on the school bulletin boards in employee rooms. The Federation may construct bulletin boards in employee rooms where one doesn't exist.
- 5.4.4 The Federation may use school equipment normally used by employees for Federation activities. However, expendable material will be at the expense of the Federation.
- 5.4.5 The District shall, upon reasonable request by the Federation President, provide a list of current bargaining unit employees.
- 5.4.6 The Federation President or his/her designee may be granted time off with pay for the purpose of attending union business meetings or training sessions, or testifying before legislative bodies. The total number of days used for this purpose shall not exceed three (3) days. Notice shall be provided to the Superintendent or his/her designee at least five (5) school days in advance of such absence.
- 5.4.7 The Federation President or his/her designee shall be given an opportunity to address the bargaining unit members (paraeducators, licensed practical nurses, and food service) at their respective back to school meetings.

ARTICLE 6
EVALUATIONS

- 6.1 Evaluations will be discussed by the evaluator with the employee and a copy shall be provided to the employee. An employee has the right to respond to the evaluation in writing and have his/her comments placed along with the evaluation in the personnel file. Evaluations shall be provided to employees on or before May 1st each year.

ARTICLE 7
CONSULTATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Section 1: Purpose of the Grievance Procedure

- 7.1.1 It is the intent of the parties that grievances be settled at the lowest step possible. Both parties agree that these proceedings will be kept as informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.
- 7.1.2 A grievance is a complaint by an employee, group of employees or the Federation that

there has been a violation or a misinterpretation of the terms of this Agreement. Neither discharge of probationary employees during the school year, nor non-renewal of any employees at the end of the school year, nor matters listed in Section 16.1 unless otherwise specifically cited in the contract shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

Section 2: Statement of Grievance

- 7.2.1 Each formal statement of a grievance must contain the question(s) at issue, a statement of facts, or the section(s) of this Agreement which allegedly is (are) being violated, the relief requested, the name of the authorized Federation Representative, and the signature of the aggrieved party(s).
- 7.2.2 As used herein, “days” shall mean school days. Saturdays, Sundays, school vacations, and holidays are excluded in calculating school days, except during the summer break period, when “days” shall mean Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Section 3: Grievance Procedure

- 7.3.1 Step One- Special Education Coordinator/Food Service Director Level (informal)
An employee may informally discuss a grievance with the supervisor within ten (10) school days after the employee knew or should have known of the act or condition upon which the complaint is based. Failure to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution may be cause for the employee to refer the grievance to Step Two. An employee is entitled to be accompanied by a Federation representative upon the request of the employee. ‘Supervisor’ for purposes of the grievance procedure shall be the food service director for food service employees and the principal for other employees.
- 7.3.2 Step Two- Principal/Food Service Director Level (formal written)
An employee or the Federation wishing to process a grievance at Step Two will do so in writing to the supervisor within five (5) school days from the conclusion of discussions at Step One, or in the case of the Federation within fifteen (15) school days after the grievant knew or should have known of this act or condition which is the basis of the complaint. The grievance shall be specific in nature and shall state the remedy requested. The supervisor shall establish a formal conference on the matter and whenever a grievance is filed by an employee without the Federation, the supervisor shall notify the Federation and shall give the Federation the opportunity to be present and to state the views of the Federation. The aggrieved employee and the Federation shall be given at least two (2) school days notice of said conference.

The supervisor shall respond in writing ten (10) school days from the date the formal grievance is filed. The supervisor’s decision shall be presented in writing to both the employee and the Federation. ‘Supervisor’ for purposes of the grievance procedure shall be the food service director for food service employees and the principal for other employees.

7.3.3 Step Three - Superintendent Level

If a settlement is not reached at Step Two, the employee or the Federation may present the grievance to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days after the decision has been rendered at Step Two. The grievance must be submitted in writing stating the specific nature of the grievance and the remedy requested and shall include a copy of the Step Two decision. The Superintendent may schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time to discuss the grievance with the employee and the Federation. Both parties reserve the right to include consultants in any such meeting. The Superintendent shall respond in writing together with supporting reasons to the employee, Federation and principal within ten (10) school days from the date the grievance is filed at Step Three.

7.3.4 Step Four- School Board Level

If a grievance remains unsettled after having been processed through Step Three, the employee or the Federation may, within five (5) school days from the date the decision is rendered at the previous step, submit the grievance to the School Board. In which case, the grievance is to be submitted in writing and shall specify the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. Copies of the previous decisions are to be included with the grievance. Within five (5) school days from the date the grievance is filed at Step Four, the School Board will establish a mutually convenient date and time for a meeting to discuss the matter. This meeting shall occur no later than twenty (20) days from the date the grievance is filed at Step 4, unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Board and the Federation. Both parties reserve the right to include consultants in any such meeting. The Board shall render its decision in writing together with supporting reasons to employee, Federation, Principal and Superintendent's Office within fifteen (15) days from the date of the meeting in which the grievance is discussed.

7.3.5 Additional Provisions

- a. A Federation Representative may be present at any grievance meeting with the exception of Step One unless requested by the employee.
- b. The time limits in this article may be reduced or extended by mutual agreement.
- c. Failure to refer a grievance to the next step within the specified time shall be considered an acceptance by the employee of the decision rendered.
- d. Failure at any level of the grievance procedure to render a decision within the specified time limits shall permit the employee or the Federation to proceed to the next level.

7.3.6 Arbitration

1. Any grievance which remains unsettled after having been fully processed pursuant to the provisions of the Grievance Procedure as stated herein, relating to the interpretation or application of a provision of this Agreement, may

be submitted to arbitration upon written request of either the Federation or the School Board.

The proceeding shall be initiated by filing with the School Board and the Public Employee Labor Relations Board (“PELRB”) a request for arbitration within ten (10) school days after the final decision of the Board has been given to the Federation. If the parties are unable to mutually agree on the selection of an arbitrator the parties may file for the appointment of an arbitrator through the NH PELRB.

2. A request for arbitration shall state in reasonable detail the specific nature of the dispute and the remedy requested. The dispute as stated in the request for arbitration shall constitute the sole and entire subject matter to be heard by the arbitrator, unless the parties mutually agree to modify the scope of the hearing. Only one request shall be scheduled for the same arbitration hearing except by mutual Agreement of the parties.
3. In any arbitration case, a fundamental principle shall be that the Board retains the exclusive right to manage its affairs, including (but not limited to) the right to determine the means and methods of operation to be carried on, to direct its employees, and to conduct District operations in a safe and most efficient manner, subject to the limits stated in this Agreement. The parties agree that only grievances with specific reference to the Agreement shall be processed to arbitration.
4. In the selection of an arbitrator and in the conduct of an arbitration hearing, the applicable provisions of the PELRB shall apply, including the right of either party to be represented by counsel or other authorized representative.
5. The arbitrator shall issue his/her decision not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the close of the hearing, or, if oral closing arguments have been waived, then no later than as provided under PELRB rules, following the transmittal of the final statements and written arguments to the arbitrator. The decisions shall be in writing and shall set forth the arbitrator's opinion and conclusion on the issue submitted. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding. Both parties agree that the arbitrator's decision represents a precedent for substantially similar situations.
6. Both parties agree that the arbitrator be prohibited from modifying or adding to this Agreement.
7. The cost of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the parties to the dispute.
8. The parties' agreement to arbitrate, as set forth herein, is subject to the provisions of RSA 542.

ARTICLE 8
PROBATIONARY PERIOD

- 8.1 The first ninety (90) school days of regular employment on an uninterrupted basis shall be the probationary period.
- 8.2 The probationary period shall be considered an integral part of the process of employment for employees and shall provide the administrator with the opportunity to observe the new employee's work, train and assist the new employee in adjustment to the position and for removal if an employee fails to meet the required work standards.
- 8.3 The District may terminate a newly hired person from employment within the probationary period. Terminations under this Article shall not be grievable.
- 8.4 A probationary employee who is transferred or promoted to a different position within the original probationary period, shall not have the time worked in the prior position counted toward the accumulation of the required time of the probationary period.

ARTICLE 9
SENIORITY

- 9.1 An employee's seniority date shall be the last date the employee entered the District in a bargaining unit position. The seniority date shall be adjusted for uncompensated absences.
- 9.2 **Layoff**
In the event of a reduction-in-force, the District shall choose employees for layoff within each job classification based upon assessment of the employee's ability, qualifications, experience and performance. If all these factors are equal in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, seniority will be the determining factor.
- 9.3 **Recall**
In the event that employees who were laid off are to be recalled, recall shall be in reverse order of layoff within the job classification from which the employees were laid off. As a condition precedent to being recalled under this provision, any laid off employee shall maintain current and accurate contact information with the SAU office (i.e., home address, phone number and e-mail address). Failure to do so shall constitute a waiver of recall rights. The right to recall shall terminate 15 months following the last date of work.
- 9.4 **Retention of Seniority**
An employee who is a member of the bargaining unit and who is laid off and recalled within 15 months of the date of layoff shall regain the seniority he/she had before he/she was laid off.

9.5 **Probation and Seniority**

Employees who successfully complete their probationary period shall have their seniority status retroactive to their first date of work.

ARTICLE 10
VACANCIES, TRANSFERS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

10.1 Employees shall be provided with an intent to re-employ form on or before June 1st of the preceding school year. (See Appendix A).

10.2 Notice of any bargaining unit vacancies (including newly created positions) shall be posted electronically for at least five (5) business days prior to filling the position. During the months of July and August, all vacancies shall be posted at the main lobby of the SAU office. The posting shall state the specific position to be filled, hours of work, qualifications, starting date, and other relevant information. Employees who are interested in being assigned to another position shall direct their application to Human Resources or to the individual identified in the job posting.

The District will fill vacant positions based upon assessment of the ability, qualifications and experience of current employee applicants and non-employee applicants. Current employee applicants who meet the minimum qualifications and experience for the position will be interviewed as part of the selection process. If all these factors are equal in the judgment of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, the District will fill the vacancy with the current employee applicant who has the most seniority in the bargaining unit.

Paraeducators working in a 5.5-hour position shall be provided a preference to fill 6.5-hour positions in the first instance, unless, as determined by administration based on student needs, there is a paraeducator with specific skills or qualification(s) in a program or assignment, who will be given preference accordingly. An employee who is on an improvement plan will not be given preference while on said plan. The terms of this paragraph shall expire on June 30, 2026.

10.3 Any involuntary reassignment or transfer shall be made only after a meeting between the employee(s) involved and the Superintendent (and/or his/her designee), at which time the employee(s) shall be notified of the reasons for the reassignment or transfer.

10.4 A vacant position in Food Service may not be filled by substitutes for more than (30) work-days per vacancy, unless the substitutes are replacing an employee on medical leave. If the District is unable to meet this deadline, it will notify the Federation President.

ARTICLE 11
WAGES AND HOURS

Section 1:

11.1.1 Work Day

The work day and work schedule for members of the bargaining unit shall be as assigned by the School District. ¹

For food service workers (not managers, assistant managers and cooks), the assignment of additional hours beyond the food service worker's normally scheduled workday shall be made available on a rotating basis among the food service workers who are assigned to the same work location.

11.1.2 Work Year

The work year shall be 185 days for non-preschool paraeducators, pre-school ABA paraeducators, and part-time licensed practical nurses and 182 days for food service managers and 182 days for other food service personnel. Paraeducators shall be provided with two (2) full professional development days in which paraeducator workshops and seminars are provided.

The District shall define the work year for preschool paraeducators in accordance with the needs of the program. It is understood that for food service personnel employed at Alvirne High School their standard work year will be less than the 182 days to reflect days not worked due to exams and other days when meals are not served at the high school unless they volunteer to substitute at other schools. The number of days worked by the Alvirne food service staff shall not affect their status under this contract as it relates to benefits or other conditions of employment and they shall be treated as if they had a regular work schedule of at least 182 days.

¹ *Effective July 1, 2024, it is the intention of the District, based on student needs, to create a certain number of 6.5 hour paraeducator positions at Alvirne High School covered by this Agreement. The 6.5 hours per day, plus an unpaid thirty (30) minute lunch, results in a 7-hour workday.*

Effective July 1, 2025, it is the intention of the District, based on student needs, to create a certain number of 6.5 hour paraeducator positions at Hudson Memorial School covered by this Agreement. The 6.5 hours per day, plus an unpaid thirty (30) minute lunch, results in a 7- hour workday.

- 11.1.3 Breaks and lunch shall be provided in accordance with law; however, employees currently receiving paid lunch will continue to do so. All Food Service personnel regularly scheduled to work 6 hours or more per day shall receive a paid thirty (30) minute lunch. For all other employees regularly scheduled to work more than 5 hours a day shall be granted a thirty (30) minute unpaid lunch.

Employees who cover for an employee who receives the paid half hour lunch shall receive a paid half hour lunch on those days when they are providing such coverage.

- 11.1.4 The effective date of the annual wage increase and/or increment, if applicable, for all employees shall be the start of the school year. An employee who works at least half the work year set forth in 11.1.2 shall be credited with one year of service.

- 11.1.5 Mileage reimbursement shall be made for employees who are required to use their private vehicles for district business. The mileage rate reimbursement shall be the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service.

11.1.6 **METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Employees paid on an equalized or “balanced pay” basis as of June 30, 2022, at their option, shall be paid in one of the following manners:

- (a) Anticipated annual wages, divided by 26, which equals 25 bi-weekly checks, and one reconciliation payment. It is understood that present practice is to combine the final five bi-weekly paychecks into one “balloon” payment that is issued before the end of the fiscal year (June 30).
- (b) Anticipated annual wages, divided by 21, which equals 20 bi-weekly checks plus one reconciliation payment, or
- (c) Full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

Reconciliation payments under options (a) and (b), above, may result in a paycheck of less than the equal pay amount, to a possible zero balance, being due to the employee. Employees must specify their choice in writing prior to the first payroll period on a form provided by the School District. If employees fail to specify their choice, they shall be paid as is described in paragraph (a), above. A reconciliation payment shall be calculated as a final payment for any employee being paid on an equal pay basis who, for whatever reason, leaves employment before the end of the contract year.

Once an employee elects the option of full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, as provided in paragraph (c) above, they shall be prohibited from selecting a balanced pay option under paragraphs (a) or (b) in any future year. Prior to making this election and employee shall be advised in writing an indicate by signature they understand they could not return to balanced pay.

All employees hired on or after July 1, 2022 shall receive full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

All hours worked beyond the employees regularly scheduled work week, shall be compensated at employees regular rate of pay, except hours worked in excess of 40 hours shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half of the employee's regular rate of pay.

11.1.7 Wages for paraeducators and licensed practical nurses are set forth in Appendix B. Wages for Food Service employees are set forth in Appendix C.

11.1.8 The parties agree that food service employees who are authorized in writing to work in a higher paying position for a period of five (5) consecutive days or more shall be compensated in accordance with the higher rate of pay for the position they are assuming retroactive to the first day of work in said position.

11.1.9 **Holidays**

Effective July 1, 2024 employees shall receive three (3) additional days of pay, based upon the employee's regular rate daily rate, for Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, and New Year's Day.

11.1.10 **Paraeducator I and II Certification**

Paraeducators who achieve Paraeducator II certification during the work year shall be moved to the Paraeducator II track no later than thirty (30) days of submitting proof of certification to Human Resources.

11.1.11 **Stipend**

Employees whose regular assignment for the school year is as a Special Program Paraeducator in one of the programs listed below will receive an additional fifty cents (\$.50) per hour.

The following programs qualify:

- ABA
- Intensive Needs/Life Skills
- Paths

In the event there is a unique circumstance other than the above programs, the Superintendent shall review the request and determine if the assignment is eligible for the additional pay. The decision of the Superintendent is not grievable.

11.1.12 **Longevity Pay**

Paraeducators and LPNs who have completed the following years of service in the District shall be paid a lump sum payment for longevity at the completion of each school year in which it was earned:

15-19	years of service completed	\$600
20-24	years of service completed	\$850
25-30	years of service completed	\$1,100
31+	years of service completed	\$1,600

Section 2: Cleaning of District Property

11.2.1 Cafeteria personnel shall not be required to take home and wash school property.

Section 3: Uniform Reimbursements

11.3.1 If the District requires uniforms and/or aprons, the District shall be responsible for providing said items.

Section 4: Professional Development

11.4.1 One paraeducator and one food service employee may serve as members on the School District’s professional development committee. These members shall be appointed by the Hudson PSRP President.

11.4.2 Professional development opportunities for bargaining unit staff shall be scheduled as part of the annual school district calendar. In the event the time for training does not coincide with the regularly scheduled workday, employees shall be notified at least two weeks in advance.

Section 5: Extra Duties of Paraeducators

11.5.1. Paraeducators shall be allowed to perform extra “non-instructional” paid duties, such as chaperoning, lunch duty and bus duty, on a strictly voluntary basis.

11.5.2 Extra duties are defined as a separate responsibility and are not included within regular paraeducator job functions.

11.5.3 Extra duties shall be assigned on a first come, first serve basis and shall be made available to all paraeducators.

11.5.4 The regularly scheduled work day for paraeducators shall not be interrupted or altered in order to allow for the performance of extra duties. Therefore, extra duties may only be performed outside the regularly scheduled paraeducator work day (i.e., before or after school, or during unpaid lunch time).

11.5.5 As reference above, work performed as “extra duties” is a separate function from that provided by paraeducators. Accordingly, the combination of extra duty and paraeducator work shall not constitute full-time employment.

- 11.5.6 Rates of pay for specific extra duties are set per district policy, collective bargaining agreement or district school, as applicable. Paraeducators shall not be paid less than others performing the same duties.
- 11.5.7 Generally, paraeducators shall not be assigned tutoring as an “extra duty.” In the event it becomes necessary to make such an assignment available to paraeducators, the first option shall be to those paraeducators who are certified as a teacher. Alternatively, if no paraeducator who is certified as a teacher is either available or volunteers, the assignment may be offered to those employees who are certified as a Paraeducator II.

ARTICLE 12

SICK/PERSONAL LEAVES

Section 1: Sick Leave

- 12.1.1 All employees covered by this agreement working at least 5.5 hours per day shall receive 12 sick days per year, cumulative to a maximum of 60 days commencing with date of hire.

Sick leave is to be used for sickness, disability and emergency. Emergency is defined as such cases as home exigencies, quarantine by the Health Department, serious illness of a member of the employee’s immediate family or permanent household requiring the personal care of that member by the employee or other reasonable category approved by the Superintendent or the Principal of the building.

All other employees covered by this agreement shall receive 10 sick days per year, cumulative to a maximum of 44 days commencing with date of hire.

- 12.1.2 All employees shall utilize the district’s absence reporting system (i.e., Frontline) when reporting an absence. Upon return to work, the employee shall complete the necessary paper work for the absence.
- 12.1.3 The District shall have the option of requiring an employee to furnish a certificate from an attending physician or other “health care provider,” as defined under the Family and Medical Leave Act, to verify the validity of an employee’s absence or fitness to return to work.

12.1.4 **Sick Leave Buy Out**

Upon voluntary termination, retirement or involuntary termination due to a reduction in force or elimination of position, all employees who have completed fifteen (15) years of service with the Hudson School District may receive a severance benefit equal to one-third (1/3) of the employee’s per diem rate times the number of unused sick days, up to the maximum accrual.

In the event of a voluntary termination or retirement, the employee shall notify the District of same no later than September 15th of the employee's final school year with the District in order to qualify for this benefit. Payment in a lump sum shall be made as part of the first pay period of the next fiscal year.

For purposes of this section only, the fifteen (15) years of service to the District need not be continuous, and time spent working in any position for the District may be included as part of this calculation.

Employees terminated for willful misconduct shall be disqualified from receiving this benefit.

Section 2: Medical Exams

- 12.2.1 The reasonable and customary cost of any medical examination required by the Board as a condition of continued employment, or return to employment from leave shall be paid for by the Board. The Board shall reimburse employees for any medical tests required by the Board because of exposure to any contagious disease or infestation at school.

Section 3: Personal Leave

- 12.3.1 All employees may utilize up to two days of personal leave per school year for personal business, which cannot be accomplished on off-duty hours. Requests to utilize a personal day must be made via the district's absence reporting system (i.e., Frontline) at least two workdays prior to the requested time off.

Personal leave shall not be used to extend a holiday or school vacation except in extenuating circumstances, which shall be determined in the sole discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee.

ARTICLE 13 **LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Section 1: Bereavement

- 13.1.1 Employees shall be entitled to three (3) days funeral leave without loss of pay upon the death of anyone in the immediate family.

Immediate family shall mean the employee's spouse, child, stepchild, mother, father, sister, brother, grandparents, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, or grandparents-in-law or any family member living in the employee's household.

Additional funeral leave may be granted at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

Section 2: Jury Duty Pay

- 13.2.1 An employee called for jury duty shall be granted a leave of absence. Provided the employee signs over to the District the fees received for jury duty (minus any payment for mileage), the District shall pay the employee his/her regular wage in full for that day. Payment of meals and/or mileage shall not be considered as part of the fee for purpose of this Agreement.

Section 3: Military Service

- 13.3.1 (a) Active Duty: Any employee who is drafted or otherwise called to active military duty with the Armed Forces of the United States will be granted military leave. During military leave the employee will receive his/her rate of pay less the amount of compensation, including allowances, received from the military for up to two (2) weeks per year. Upon return from military leave, the rate of pay and other benefits will be the same as if the employee had worked continuously with the District in the assignment held when the period of military leave commenced.

(b) Qualifying Exigency Leave: In the event that a member of the employee's immediate household is called to covered active duty, such as a short notice deployment (i.e., deployment within seven or less days of notice), the employee will be granted time off to address necessary family matters in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

- 13.3.2 Reserve Duty: When an employee who, as a member of one of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, is required to meet his/her annual two week obligation, the employee will be granted military leave. During military leave the employee will receive his/her rate of pay less the amount of compensation, including allowances, received from the military for up to two (2) weeks per year.

- 13.3.3 Notice of leave request: Any employee needing time away from work for service or training in the military must make the Human Resources Department aware of the need for leave as soon as written or verbal orders from the military are received. Such notice will be in writing and shall provide all pertinent information such as first day on leave and the anticipated return to work date. If an employee is seeking military leave for reserve training during the school year, s/he shall provide verification that such training could not otherwise occur during the summer recess period when school is not in session.

- 13.3.4 Reinstatement to work: As soon as an employee on active duty has a return to work date, s/he must notify the Human Resources Department in writing. The District will reinstate the employee promptly in accordance with applicable law. Employees seeking reinstatement may be asked to provide documentation of the timeliness of the reinstatement request and/or the total time spent in active service (i.e., for periods of

service of 181 days or more, application for reemployment must occur within 90 days of release from duty).

- 13.3.5 Disabled service members: If a returning employee was disabled or a disability was aggravated during uniformed service, the District will make reasonable accommodations and efforts to help the employee perform the duties of his/her reemployment position.

Section 4: Unpaid Leave

- 13.4 At the sole discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee, employees may be granted unpaid leave. Employees shall submit written requests for such leave and shall include the specific reasons for such leave in their written requests. The decision by the superintendent or his/her designee shall not be subject to the grievance process.

Section 5: Medical Leave of Absence

- 13.5 An unpaid family and medical leave may be requested by an employee to care for: the employee's child upon birth; care for the employee's child upon adoption or foster care; an employee's parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition; or when an employee is unable to work because of a serious health condition.

Family and medical leave provides eligible employees with up to twelve weeks in any twelve month period of unpaid, job-protected leave for the above mentioned reasons. For family and medical leave under this section, the District and employee shall follow the guidelines of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, except that for purposes of this section, "eligible" is defined as an employee working at least 900 or more hours per year, and has been employed by the District for the twelve months prior to the request for leave. If an employee is eligible for both family and medical leave under this section and FMLA leave, those leaves shall run concurrently. Furthermore, during the period of such leave of absence, the employee shall concurrently utilize all other leaves (paid or unpaid) which are available to the employee.

For purposes of this provision and calculating the use of twelve (12) weeks of medical leave of absence in a "year", year is defined as a July 1 – June 30. There shall be no loss of benefits, seniority or any other provision of the collective bargaining agreement as the result of use of this leave.

ARTICLE 14

INSURANCE AND BENEFITS

Section 1: Medical Insurance

- 14.1.1 For full-time cafeteria employees, as defined in Section 3.7, the School District shall pay the following percentages of the annual premium for single-person, two-person, or family coverage under the Cigna School Care Choice Fund Open Access Plus – Yellow Plan,

Cigna SchoolCare Open Access Plus – Yellow Plan, or comparable plan chosen by the School District:

	<u>2024-26</u>
District	91%
Member	9%

Effective July 1, 2024, for full-time paraeducators and licensed practical nurses as defined in Section 3.7, the School District shall pay the following percentages of the annual premium for the single-person coverage under the Cigna SchoolCare Choice Fund Open Access Plus – Yellow Plan, Cigna SchoolCare Open Access Plus – Yellow Plan, or comparable plan chosen by the School District:

	<u>2024-26</u>
District	80%
Member	20%

Part-time employees may participate in single, two-person or family coverage under the plan referenced above at their own expense, provided the carrier permits it.

- 14.1.2 If a full-time unit member is married to another District employee, they shall take the coverage or combination of coverages whose premium(s) is least costly and pay the percentage of the premium under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to the employees. In the event the married District employees are members of separate bargaining units, the employees shall select the agreement under which the premium percentage shall be determined.
- 14.1.3 The Board or the Federation may reopen negotiations on insurance and wages if deemed desirable to do so in order to avoid penalties under the Affordable Care Act.

Section 2: Dental Insurance

- 14.2.1 For full-time cafeteria employees, the School District shall pay 100% of the cost of single-person, two-person or family coverage under the same dental insurance plan that is offered to members of the Hudson Federation of Teachers’ bargaining unit. For full-time paraeducators and licensed practical nurses as defined in Section 3.7, the District shall pay 50% of the cost of single-person coverage that is offered to members of the Hudson Federation of Teachers’ bargaining unit. Part-time employees may participate in single, two-person or family coverage under the dental insurance plan at their own expense provided the carrier permits it.

Section 3: Life Insurance

- 14.3.1 All bargaining unit employees working full time shall be provided with \$30,000 worth of term life insurance.

Section 4: Section 125 Plan

- 14.4.1 Employees who have completed one year of service, and who are otherwise regularly scheduled to work at least twenty-five (25) hours per week and 182 days per year, the Hudson School District shall offer a plan to deduct pre-tax funds for approved medical expenses in accordance with Section 125 of the IRS code. Provided the employee fulfills the minimum number of work days in the prior work year, or otherwise was on an approved medical leave of absence, the District shall contribute \$500 to the Plan. This payment shall be payable as of July 1, provided the employee has signed an “intent to return” letter.

Full-time paraeducators and licensed practical nurses who enroll in the District health insurance plan shall not be eligible to receive the contribution to the Section 125 plan.

Any money remaining unused at the end of the claim submittal period under the plan shall revert back to the District.

The Section 125 plan may be administered by the District or by an outside firm.

Section 5: AFLAC

- 14.5.1 Bargaining unit employees eligible under the terms of the policy may elect to pay through payroll deduction the cost of AFLAC insurance offerings (single, two-person or family). Policy coverage shall be at full cost to the employee and no cost to the District.

Section 6: Tuition Reimbursement

- 14.6.1 The cost for tuition reimbursement up to four (4) credits at the UNH rate shall be paid to an employee receiving a grade of "B" or higher in a course as part of a degree program. All courses for which reimbursement is sought shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent. Payment shall be made upon submission to the Superintendent of evidence of payment to the college or university and evidence of satisfactory completion of the course. In no event, however, will an employee be entitled to payment unless he/she is employed by the District for the school year in which evidence of satisfactory completion of the course is submitted; or if submitted after the close of a school year, is actually employed by the District at that time.

The total courses approved will not exceed in cost to the District an amount equal to \$20,000 per school year. The course reimbursement rate is established at the UNH per credit rate for undergraduate courses; bargaining unit members are limited in reimbursement to no more than four (4) credits per year. In the event of any unused money, it may be redistributed equally.

Employees may apply for the maximum allowable course reimbursement, but will not be reimbursed for a second course until every employee has had the opportunity to apply for a first course. Reimbursement for a first course shall be issued on the basis of date

of application. The last date to apply for reimbursement of a first course shall be January 15. In the event of any unused money, it shall be redistributed equally.

As conditions of course reimbursement, the employee must be employed in a bargaining unit position for at least one (1) year and agree in writing that if the employee voluntarily leaves employment with the School District, the employee will repay the School District in accordance with the following schedule:

Separation within one (1) school year of reimbursement	50% repayment
Separation within two (2) school years of reimbursement	25% repayment

An employee may seek a waiver from repayment in the event of an unforeseen medical event with the employee, spouse/partner, and/or family member or unforeseen adverse circumstances impacting the employee. A waiver of repayment under this provision shall be at the discretion of the school board, which shall not be unreasonably withheld for circumstances outlined above.

ARTICLE 15
GENERAL AGREEMENT

- 15.1.1 Meetings may be scheduled during working hours with the employee receiving their regular compensation.
- 15.1.2 Negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 273-A.

Section 2: Copies of the Agreement

- 15.2.1 The Board agrees to post a copy of this Agreement on the District's website. The Board agrees to provide each new employee with a copy of this agreement in booklet form.

ARTICLE 16
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- 16.1 The Board, subject only to the language of this Agreement, reserves to itself full jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains the unrestricted right (a) to direct and manage all activities of the School District; (b) to direct the work of employees; (c) to hire, promote, transfer, assign, fill vacancies, and retain employees in positions within the School District, to non-renew, and to suspend, demote, discharge, withhold wage increases, or take any other disciplinary action against the employees; (d) to act unilaterally, including by adoption of rule or regulation, on any and all matters not excluded by RSA 273-A, provided said act, rule or regulation, does not conflict with or violate any of the terms of the Agreement; (e) to maintain the efficiency of government operations; (f) to relieve employees from duties because of lack of work or for other reasons; (g) to determine the methods, means and personnel by which

operations are to be conducted; (h) to contract with companies or agencies for work that otherwise would be performed by members of this bargaining unit; and (i) to take actions as may be necessary to carry out the mission of the agency in emergencies._

ARTICLE 17
SEPARABILITY

- 17.1 If any provision of this Agreement is held to be contrary to law, all other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 18
DURATION OF AGREEMENT

- 18.1 This Agreement shall continue in force and effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 or until a successor agreement is approved by the voters. Until a successor agreement is approved, the Board agrees to maintain the current wages, benefits and terms and conditions of employment as contained in the agreement recognizing that there will be no step advancement or earning additional years of service for purposes of longevity. The Board would not exercise any option provided by state law that would terminate the status of the local union and the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.
- 18.2 The Board and the Federation agree that negotiations will commence not later than September 15th immediately preceding expiration of this agreement in order to give both parties an ample opportunity to negotiate a successor agreement.
- 18.3 The District agrees to provide the PELRB with a copy of this Agreement within fourteen (14) days of its execution in order to ensure the parties' compliance with PUB 207.02(b).

AGREED to by and between the parties at Hudson, New Hampshire, as evidenced by the signatures of their duly authorized representatives, set forth below this 15 day of

April, 2004

FOR THE HUDSON FEDERATION
OF PSRP'S – AFT-NH, AFT, AFL-
CIO, LOCAL #6245

Signed:



President

FOR THE HUDSON SCHOOL BOARD

Signed:



School Board Chair



Daniel Moulis
Superintendent of Schools

APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF INTENT TO RE-EMPLOY

DATE: (on or before June 1st)

Dear (employee):

This letter is to be considered as your intent to return to your position as (XXXXX) for the 20__ - 20__ school year.

Please note that failure to return this signed notice to the Office of the Superintendent on or before June 1st will place your position as vacant. Your position will not be held and your insurance benefits, if applicable, will terminate effective July 1st.

The district pays insurance premiums for eligible employees for July and August in June, therefore if you are signing that you will be returning to work and decide to resign prior to the beginning of the 20XX-20XX contract year, you will be held responsible to reimburse the School District for all insurance benefits paid. This requirement can be waived at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and the School Board.

Sincerely,

Daniel Moulis
Superintendent of Schools

I will be returning to my position as (XXXXX) for the 20__ - 20__ school year.

Signature of Employee

I have decided not to return to my position as (XXXX) for the 20__ - 20__ school year. I have attached my letter of resignation.

Signature of Employee

APPENDIX B
WAGES FOR PARAEDUCATORS

HOURLY RATES FOR STAFF STARTING ON 7/1/2022 OR LATER

Para 1	2024-2025	2025-2026
Steps 1-3	\$17.00	\$18.25
Steps 4-6	\$17.75	\$19.00
Steps 7-9	\$18.50	\$19.75
Steps 10-13	\$19.25	\$20.50
Steps 14+	\$20.00	\$21.25

Para 2	2024-2025	2025-2026
Steps 1-3	\$17.50	\$18.75
Steps 4-6	\$18.25	\$19.50
Steps 7-9	\$19.00	\$20.25
Steps 10-13	\$19.75	\$21.00
Steps 14+	\$20.50	\$21.75

LPN	2024-2025	2025-2026
Steps 1-3	\$20.00	\$21.25
Steps 4-6	\$20.75	\$22.00
Steps 7-9	\$21.50	\$22.75
Steps 10-13	\$22.25	\$23.50
Steps 14+	\$23.00	\$24.25

For the 2024-25 school year, staff shall receive an increase of \$3.00 per hour over their 2023-24 school year hourly rate. For the 2025-26 school year, staff shall receive an increase of \$1.25 per hour over their 2024-25 school year hourly rate.

GRANDFATHERED STAFF HOURLY WAGE SCHEDULE

(For those hired into this contract prior to 7/1/2022)

Para 1	2024-2025	2025-2026
Step 1	-	-
Step 2	-	-
Step 3	\$18.30	-
Step 4	\$18.80	\$19.55
Step 5	\$19.23	\$20.05
Step 6	\$20.17	\$20.48
Step 7	\$20.81	\$21.42
Step 8	\$21.44	\$22.06
Step 9	\$22.06	\$22.69
Step 10	\$22.73	\$23.31
Step 11	\$23.38	\$23.98
Step 12	\$23.99	\$24.63
Step 13	\$24.70	\$25.24
Step 14	\$25.60	\$25.95

For staff on this hourly rate scale who are still on step will receive one step increase for each year of this agreement, resulting in a \$3.00 per hour increase in year 1 and a \$1.25 per hour increase in year 2.

For the 2024-25 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$3.00 per hour over their 2023-24 school year hourly rate. For the 2025-26 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$1.25 per hour over their 2024-25 school year hourly rate.

Para 2	2024-2025	2025-2026
Step 1	-	-
Step 2	-	-
Step 3	\$18.86	-
Step 4	\$19.34	\$20.11
Step 5	\$19.76	\$20.59
Step 6	\$20.70	\$21.01
Step 7	\$21.36	\$21.95
Step 8	\$21.97	\$22.61
Step 9	\$22.61	\$23.22
Step 10	\$23.26	\$23.86
Step 11	\$23.92	\$24.51
Step 12	\$24.53	\$25.17
Step 13	\$25.24	\$25.78
Step 14	\$26.14	\$26.49

For staff on this hourly rate scale who are still on step will receive one step increase for each year of this agreement, resulting in a \$3.00 per hour increase in year 1 and a \$1.25 per hour increase in year 2.

For the 2024-25 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$3.00 per hour over their 2023-24 school year hourly rate. For the 2025-26 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$1.25 per hour over their 2024-25 school year hourly rate.

LPN	2024-2025	2025-2026
Step 1	-	-
Step 2	-	-
Step 3	\$20.50	-
Step 4	\$21.00	\$21.75
Step 5	\$21.43	\$22.25
Step 6	\$22.37	\$22.68
Step 7	\$23.01	\$23.62
Step 8	\$23.64	\$24.26
Step 9	\$24.27	\$24.89
Step 10	\$24.91	\$25.52
Step 11	\$25.58	\$26.16
Step 12	\$26.19	\$26.83
Step 13	\$26.89	\$27.44
Step 14	\$27.79	\$28.14

For staff on this hourly rate scale who are still on step will receive one step increase for each year of this agreement, resulting in a \$3.00 per hour increase in year 1 and a \$1.25 per hour increase in year 2.

For the 2024-25 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$3.00 per hour over their 2023-24 school year hourly rate. For the 2025-26 school year, staff who are off-step shall receive an increase of \$1.25 per hour over their 2024-25 school year hourly rate.

APPENDIX C

WAGES FOR FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES

- (1) During the first school year that a food service employee is employed by the Hudson School District, the employee’s hourly wage rate shall be as follows:

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
<i>Food Service Workers 1</i>	\$15.00	\$15.50
<i>Food Service Workers 2</i>	\$15.50	\$16.00
<i>Assistant Managers and Cooks</i>	\$16.50	\$17.00
<i>Elementary Managers</i>	\$17.50	\$18.00
<i>MS/HS Manager</i>	\$18.00	\$19.00

- (2) During the second and subsequent school years that a food service employee is employed by the Hudson School District, the employee shall receive the following increases in the hourly wage rate over the hourly wage rate received during the prior school year:

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
<i>Food Service Workers 1</i>	\$3.00	\$1.25
<i>Food Service Workers 2</i>	\$3.00	\$1.25
<i>Assistant Managers and Cooks</i>	\$3.00	\$1.25
<i>Elementary Managers</i>	\$3.00	\$1.25
<i>MS/HS Managers</i>	\$3.00	\$1.25

- (3) Food service personnel who are promoted from one job classification to a higher job classification shall receive either the starting wage rate for the classification to which they are promoted or 2% more than they received in the job classification from which they were promoted, whichever is higher.

- (4) Food service employees who have completed the following years of consecutive service for the District shall receive the following additional wage increase to take effect the year following the completion of the anniversary year. Food service employees who have completed an anniversary prior to July 1st shall receive the applicable percentage increase, based upon their total years of service, in the following contract year.

<u>Completed Years of Service</u>	<u>Percentage Increase</u>
15	1.5%
20	2.0%
25	2.5%

APPENDIX D-1
AUTHORIZATION FOR DUES DEDUCTIONS

I hereby request and authorize you to deduct union dues in the amount established by the Hudson Federation of PSRP's, AFT-NH, AFL-CIO in equal gross installments. The amount shall be paid to the TREASURER of the Hudson Federation of PSRP's, AFT-NH, AFT Local #6245 AFL-CIO, and represents payment for my union dues. I may terminate deductions between June 1st and June 15th each year by written notice to the Union or by termination of my employment.

Signature: _____

NAME: (print) _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____

POSITION: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

WORK SITE/BUILDING _____

HOME EMAIL _____