

WHITE MOUNTAINS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Carroll-Dalton-Jefferson-Lancaster-Whitefield

AGREEMENT

Between the

WHITE MOUNTAINS REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

and the

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Robert D. Loiacono
B44D28A908C6475

Chairman,
White Mts. Regional School Board

3/23/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:
Cindy Boivin
59C658EDD3CA457...

Union Representative,
Educational Support Personnel

3/23/2022

Date

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ARTICLE I – RECOGNITION

For the purposes of collective negotiations, the White Mountains Regional School District, as represented by its board of education, hereinafter referred to as the School Board, recognizes the White Mountains Education Association, NEA/NH, hereinafter referred to as the Association, as the exclusive representatives of administrative assistants, secretaries, paraprofessionals, specialized paraprofessionals, licensed paraprofessionals, maintenance, custodians, cafeteria managers, and cafeteria cooks excluding administrators and all central office personnel. This negotiation shall not preclude any employee, on an individual basis, from consulting, communicating, or otherwise dealing directly with the School Board on his or her own behalf, provided such dealings are not in contravention of this agreement.

Unit A--Year-Round Employees

Unit B--Academic-Year Employees

Unit C--Limited-Time Employees

The Association agrees to represent all individuals defined above equally without regard to membership in the WMEA/NEA-NH.

ARTICLE II - NEGOTIATIONS PROCEDURES

A. Initiation

Either the Association or the School Board, if desiring to bargain, shall serve written notice of its intention on the other party by October 1, by certified mail, electronic mail or hand delivery. The Association shall make known to the School Board, in writing, all items relating to salaries, economic benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment it wishes to negotiate at the first meeting, which will take place no later than October 15.

B. Meetings

Meetings shall be arranged by the chairperson of the respective parties' negotiating committees for mutually agreeable times and places. Every effort will be made by the chairperson of each negotiating committee to meet after the business hours of the School Board members and employees.

C. Information

Facts, opinions, proposals, and counter-proposals shall be exchanged freely and in good faith in accordance with RSA 273-A:311, during the

meeting or meetings between the representatives of the parties in an effort to reach mutual understanding and agreement. Upon request, the School Board will make available to the Association for inspection, all information which is a matter of public record and which is pertinent to the negotiations in question. The Association may request, through the superintendent, copies of the above information which will be provided to the Association at the cost of duplicating said information.

D. Agreements

Agreements on any item or proposal shall be tentative and binding on neither party until all matters to be considered for a given contract period have been agreed to, reduced to writing, and ratified by a majority vote by the membership of the Association and the School Board.

Rejection of any item or proposal by either body shall be cause for reopening of negotiations. Upon ratification, this agreement shall be signed by the chairperson of the School Board and the Association's negotiating committees. Implementation of any negotiated items involving expenditure of district funds shall be subject to the raising and appropriating of sufficient funds by the voters of the district in accordance with RSA 273-A:IIIb.

E. Impasse Resolution

If the School Board and the Association have not come to at least a tentative agreement on all items and proposals before them by December 3rd, a neutral party, chosen by the parties, or failing agreement, appointed by the state's Public Employees Labor Relations Board, shall undertake to mediate the issues remaining in dispute. The mediator will meet with both parties, either jointly or separately, and will take such steps deemed appropriate to affect a mutually acceptable agreement. Every effort will be made by the chairperson of the School Board's negotiating committee and the chairperson of the Association's negotiating committee to meet the mediator after business hours of the School Board members for the purpose of resolving the conflict. The School Board and the Association agree that one member of the Association shall be released from work time in order to participate in negotiations, mediation, and fact-finding.

F. If the mediation does not result in an agreement by December 18th, either party may, by written notification to the other, request that their differences

be submitted to fact-finding. If the parties are unable to agree upon a fact finder, either party may request that the PELRB designate a fact finder. The fact finder will not, without the consent of both parties, be the same person who was appointed mediator, pursuant to Paragraph E of this article.

- G. If either the full membership of the School Board or the Association rejects the neutral parties' recommendations, the findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the voters of the White Mountains Regional School District at their annual meeting, who shall vote to accept or reject the recommendations. If impasse on the items in question is not resolved by a vote of the district at its annual meeting, negotiations on these shall be reopened. Mediation may be requested by either the School Board or the Association, and may involve the full membership of the School Board if the mediator so chooses. The School Board and Association agree to share equally in all costs of mediation and fact finding. The parties, moreover, agree that impasse resolution procedures shall not be invoked prematurely or for trivial reasons.
- H. Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the Association and the School Board from reaching agreement at any time between declaring impasse and budget submission. It is agreed that any agreement entered into by the School Board's negotiating committee is subject to the ratification by the School Board and the Association. If the school district does not fund the cost item warrant article as submitted, the negotiations will resume.

ARTICLE III - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. "Grievance" means an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication, as defined in Article I of any provisions of this agreement. Only claims based on interpretation, meaning an application of any provisions of this agreement, shall be construed grievances under this article. A grievance to be considered under this article must be initiated within twenty (20) calendar days of its occurrence, or when the grievant should have known of its occurrence.
- B. Level I - Principal
The grievant shall discuss the matter with his/her immediate supervisor with the aim of resolving the grievance informally at that level. If the grievance is not resolved, or if no decision is forthcoming from the supervisor within seven (7) days, the grievant may reduce the grievance to writing, detailing the nature of its outcome, any actions taken thus far regarding it, and his/her reasons for pursuing

it further, and submit his/her appeal to the proper building principal within seven (7) calendar days; otherwise, the grievance shall be considered withdrawn. The building principal shall meet with the grievant to seek resolution of the grievance within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written appeal and shall convey his/her decision in writing to the grievant within seven (7) days thereafter.

C. Level II - Superintendent

If the grievance remains unresolved, or if no written decision is forthcoming from the building principal, the grievant may, within seven (7) calendar days of such time as he or she did or should have received a written decision from the building principal, appeal the grievance to the superintendent of schools; otherwise the grievance shall be considered withdrawn. This appeal shall be in writing, presenting all particulars regarding the grievance, as outlined in Level I, and shall have appended copies of all correspondence and other documents relative to the grievance. The superintendent shall meet with the grievant within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the appeal and a further attempt to resolve the grievance, and shall convey his/her decision, in writing, to the grievant within seven (7) calendar days of receiving the appeal and a further attempt to resolve the grievance, and shall convey his/her decision, in writing, to the grievant within seven (7) calendar days thereafter, with copies provided to both the building principal and supervisor.

D. Level III - School Board

If the grievance still remains unresolved, or if no decision is forthcoming from the superintendent, the grievant may, within seven (7) calendar days of such time as he/she did or should have received a written decision from the superintendent, appeal the grievance to the School Board. This appeal shall be in writing, present all particulars regarding the grievance to date, have appended all correspondence of documents relating thereto, and be sent to the chairperson of the School Board. The School Board, no later than its second regularly scheduled meeting after receiving the appeal, shall review the grievance with all concerned parties. Within 30 calendar days thereafter, the School Board chairperson shall notify the grievant and all concerned parties of the School Board's decision in writing through the superintendent of schools.

E. If the employee or the Association is not satisfied with the decision of the School Board, then the employee or the Association may take whatever action they may deem appropriate.

F. General Provisions

A grievant shall be entitled to Association representation at any and all levels of the grievance procedure as herein provided. The School Board and the Association shall assure that all parties involved in the processing of the grievance shall be guaranteed freedom from restraint, coercion, reprisals, or discrimination thereto. The parties shall seek to make the processing of the grievance as informal, rapid, and confidential as lawfully possible. Insofar as possible, processing of grievances shall be done other than during regular school hours. No cost incurred by a grievant, or any of his/her chosen representatives, in pursuing a grievance shall be borne by the district, except as the School Board, at its sole discretion, may agree to assume, or as may be ordered by a higher authority of proper jurisdiction as a result of legal proceeding.

If any party involved in the grievance is unable to present or review a grievance by reasons of physical absence, further processing of the grievance shall be deferred until the third school day that person becomes physically available to make such presentation or review. In the event the absent party shall not be available within thirty calendar days, the grievance shall proceed to the next level. The physical condition is to be verified by a doctor's certificate.

ARTICLE IV - SAVINGS CLAUSE

- A. If any provision of this agreement is, or shall at any time be, contrary to the law, then such provisions shall not be applicable or performed or enforced, except to the extent permitted by law.
- B. In the event that any provision of this agreement is or shall be contrary to law, all other provisions of this agreement shall continue in effect.
- C. The terms and conditions of this agreement shall not be modified, amended, or altered in any way, unless made in writing and signed by both parties.
- D. Except as this agreement shall otherwise provide, all terms and conditions are dictated by School Board policy applicable as of the effective date of this agreement and shall continue to be so applicable during the terms of this agreement.
- E. Regularly scheduled meetings shall be established between the Association and the superintendent to discuss areas of mutual concern.

ARTICLE V - DURATION

This agreement shall be effective as of July 1, 2022, and shall continue in effect until June 30, 2025 subject to the Association’s rights to negotiation over a successor agreement, as provided in Article II of this agreement. This agreement shall not be extended orally, and it is expressly understood that it shall be automatically renewed and remain in full force and effect unless either party notifies the other of its intent to terminate or modify the terms of this agreement.

ARTICLE VI - JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

The School Board, subject only to the language of this agreement, reserves to itself full jurisdiction and authority over all matters of policy and retains the unrestrictive right

- a. to direct and manage all activities of the school district;
- b. to direct the work of their employees;
- c. to hire, promote, transfer, assign, and retain employees in position within the school district; also, to suspend, demote, discharge, withhold all salary increases and/or wage increments or to take other disciplinary action against employees;
- d. to maintain the efficiency of the school district’s operations entrusted to them;
- e. to relieve employees from duties because of lack of work;
- f. to determine the methods, means, and personnel by which the operations of the schools are to be conducted;
- g. to take any actions as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the mission of the White Mountains Regional School District in emergencies;
- h. to adopt and implement any rule or regulation concerning employee practices or working conditions without prior discussion with the Association, provided it does not conflict or violate any of the terms of this agreement.

ARTICLE VII - VOLUNTARY DUES DEDUCTION

Upon receipt of written authorization signed by an employee, the School Administrative Unit 36 office shall deduct an amount to provide payment of dues for membership in the Association from the regular salary check of that employee. Membership will be continuous, unless the member withdraws their membership by October 15th. Deductions shall be made in equal amounts for consecutive pay periods, beginning with the first full pay period following receipt of the employee’s authorization. Amounts so deducted shall be remitted to the Association’s treasurer. Authorization forms shall be as hereinafter specified and must be signed by the

employee and returned to the School Administrative Unit 36 office no later than October 15 of any school year in which that person wishes the deductions to be made. New members shall have a prorated amount deducted in either 10 or 20 equal payments (at the member's option), provided that the employee becomes a member before October 15.

ARTICLE VIII - RESPONSIBILITY

All employees covered by this agreement are directly responsible to the building principal or a supervisor who has been designated in writing on the job description and ultimately responsible to the superintendent of schools.

ARTICLE IX - NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Association and School Board agree that there will be no discrimination on the basis of membership or non-membership in the Association.

ARTICLE X - HOURS

The starting time for employees in the schools shall be determined by the building principal or designated supervisor.

Lunch period shall be determined by the building principal or the designated supervisor.

Unit A--Year-Round Employees: Work 52 weeks per year and 30 or more hours per week. (Grandfather Clause: Those employees hired prior to July 1, 1996, will be grandfathered at the prior 20-hour level.)

All Unit A employees shall be employed up to eight (8) hours daily, including one-half hour duty-free paid lunch, except in the event of an emergency or unusual circumstance, and two (2) 10-minute breaks.

Unit B--Academic-Year Employees: Work less than 52 weeks per year and 30 or more hours per week. (Grandfather Clause: Those employees hired prior to July 1, 1996, will be grandfathered at the prior 20-hour level.)

All Unit B employees shall be employed up to eight (8) hours daily, including one-half hour duty-free paid lunch, except in the event of an emergency or unusual circumstance, and two (2) 10-minute breaks.

Unit C--Limited-Time Employees: Work less than 30 hours per week.

All Unit C employees must submit a time sheet and are paid only for the hours that they work. Only employees who work 20 or more hours per week, but less than 30 hours per week, are eligible for certain benefits as outlined in this contract.

ARTICLE XI - LEAVE

Unit A--Year-Round Employees

Twelve (12) paid sick days per year, accumulative to 90 days at the rate of one (1) day per month of employment.

Three (3) paid personal days per year (non-accumulative).

Eligibility for bereavement leave.

Vacation:

1. Unit A employees with 1 – 5 years of service in the school district shall receive ten (10) paid vacation days per year.
2. Unit A employees with 6 - 10 years of service in the school district shall receive fifteen (15) paid vacation days per year.
3. Unit A employees with more than 11 years of service in the school district shall receive twenty (20) paid vacation days per year.

Holidays:

Unit A employees shall receive the following eleven (11) holidays with pay:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day
- Day after Christmas
- Columbus Day (Only if this is a student holiday)

Note: If Veteran's Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, or on a day when school is in session, the holiday will be observed on Friday or Monday as indicated on the school calendar.

Unit B--Academic-Year Employees:

Ten (10) paid sick days per year, accumulative to 90 days at the rate of one (1) day per month of employment.

Two (2) paid personal days per year (non-accumulative).

Eligibility for bereavement leave.

Unit B employees shall receive no vacation with pay.

Unit B employees shall receive the following nine (9) holidays with pay:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Memorial Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day
- Day after Christmas
- Columbus Day (Only if this is a student holiday)

Note: If Veteran's Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, or on a day when school is in session, the holiday will be observed on Friday or Monday as indicated on the school calendar.

Unit C – Limited Time Employees

Unit C employees working 20 or more hours per week, but less than 30 hours per week, will receive the following:

Five (5) paid sick days per year, accumulative to 45 days at the rate of one half (.5) day per month of employment.

One (1) paid personal day per year (non-accumulative).

One (1) paid holiday – Christmas

Eligibility for bereavement leave.

Leave Provisions and Procedures:

- a. All leave requests are processed via the Frontline Absence Management system.

- b. Sick Leave:
Employees with an accumulative total of more than the allowed total (90 days for A & B, 45 days for C) shall be allowed to retain the total until the total falls below the limit. A physician's or osteopath's certificate of health or illness may be required after an absence of five (5) consecutive work days. Failure to present a certificate when requested may mean that the employee will not be allowed to return to work, or that his/her pay will be withheld pending compliance.

Sick leave may be used to care for members of an employee's family or household.

- c. Shared Sick Leave:
A shared sick leave policy will be established for the benefit of those professional employees whose accumulated sick leave for illness becomes exhausted. It cannot be used to care for family members.

Any support staff member wishing to contribute sick leave to another support staff member recipient must make their request in writing to the union's Sick Leave Committee. Any employee who has accumulated more than ten days of sick leave is eligible to share days with another employee in the same classification (teacher's and support staff cannot share with each other). An employee may not donate more leave than he or she could earn in one year. Additionally, the amount donated must not reduce the donor's sick leave balance below one-half of what that person can earn in the year.

Any staff member requesting shared leave must submit a written request to the union's Sick Leave Committee including a doctor's statement indicating the nature of the illness and the projected amount of time needed for sick leave. The recipient must have exhausted all available sick leave and have been ill for at least five consecutive days. Five-day period may be waived by Sick Leave Committee.

The sick bank will be administered by a committee of three members of the association appointed by the president. This committee will promptly notify the office of the superintendent in writing of any benefits duly approved by the

committee, such days will be deducted from the contributing employee and added to the recipient's number of sick days.

The superintendent may reject the request for shared sick leave and return the request to the committee if the request does not comply with the tenets of this article. Shared leave may not exceed 90 days.

d. Paid Personal Days:

No reason is needed, nor shall any be asked of the employee requesting such leave. Notification must be given twenty-four (24) hours prior to the taking of leave, except in emergencies, with the approval of the immediate supervisor or the superintendent. Paid personal leave cannot extend vacation time or holiday/three-day weekends, except with the approval of the superintendent.

e. Bereavement Leave:

Pay shall not be deducted for absences related to death in the immediate family, as defined below.

Such paid absence shall not exceed five (5) consecutive workdays at any one time for the death of a mother, father, brother, sister, child, spouse, grandparents, and grandchildren unless, because of unusual circumstances, the superintendent may extend the period. The paid absence shall not exceed three (3) consecutive workdays at any one time for the death of a son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparents-in-law, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law. Subject to the sole discretion of the superintendent, for other persons with whom an employee has a particularly close personal relationship the paid absence shall not exceed one (1) workday.

f. Other Leave:

It is agreed that the district shall grant leave for childrearing or family medical issues to all employees who qualify under the following provisions:

1. Except in cases of emergency, leave must be requested in writing by the applicant at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date the leave is to commence.
2. All personal benefits accrued, including seniority, will be retained during leave, unless the person concerned does not renew his/her employment as required below. Upon return from leave, the leave recipient shall be placed

in the same position on the salary schedule as he/she would have been had her employment in the district been continuous during the period represented by the leave.

3. Leave will be granted for a period not to exceed one (1) year. The request for such a leave must include the length of time desired. Leave time granted will be determined by the School Board upon recommendation of the principal through the superintendent. However, this period may be extended at the sole discretion of the School Board, upon receiving written request by the leave recipient's physician, or to preserve continuity of instruction by having the leave recipient renew his/her employment at the commencement of a school semester or quarter. An employee must notify the superintendent through the principal of his/her intent to return or not return by March 15, preceding the beginning of the school year.
4. The district will have discharged its entire responsibility under this policy by offering reemployment to the leave recipient within the time limits established in (3) above.
5. Reemployment will be guaranteed no later than the expiration date of the leave granted, unless extended by the School Board as noted in (3) above.
6. All leaves will be granted without pay.
7. The employee shall notify the superintendent of his/her intent of continuing health insurance during the leave prior to actually going on leave. An employee may continue his/her health insurance at his/her expense (group rate). The premium must be paid to the Superintendent's Office by the 18th of the month prior to the month of coverage (payment in advance). An employee returning to the district shall be reimbursed for the school district's percentage (%) of health insurance contribution, after the completion of two (2) full years of employment with the school district.

ARTICLE XII - MEDICAL & DENTAL INSURANCE

Medical Insurance:

Members of the Unit (Unit A and Unit B) may subscribe to a single, two-person or family plan through SchoolCare Yellow with Choice Fund or SchoolCare Yellow without Choice Fund or SchoolCare Orange.

The district will pay an amount equal to the lessor of 89% of the SchoolCare Yellow with Choice Fund 99% of the SchoolCare Yellow without Choice Fund or 100% of the SchoolCare Orange, for the plan that is chosen.

For members who elect a plan not offered through the District, the member must provide proof of coverage under such plan each year and the District shall not pay any portion of the premium for that plan. Each year on or before July 1, a member who previously had elected a plan not offered through the District may replace that plan with a plan offered through the District. Each year that a member (1) elects a plan not offered through the District that is not subsidized (e.g. under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) and (2) provides proof that the member and all family members the member will claim as tax exemptions have minimum essential coverage outside the individual market, he/she shall receive a bonus. The amount of the bonus shall be \$2,000 minus any penalty imposed upon the School District because the employee receives an insurance subsidy (e.g. under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act); however, in no event shall the District hold the member liable for more than the amount of the bonus. The bonus shall be payable in two installments (December and June). Members who have insurance through a family member who is also employed by the District shall not be eligible for the bonus.

1. The employee's share will be paid through payroll deductions in each year of this contract. Employee contributions shall be in pre-tax dollars (Section 125) unless employer is notified in writing to the contrary.
2. Coverage will be the **Yellow Open Access Plan** through the School Care Health Insurance Program (CIGNA) or an equivalent insurance plan.
3. Carriers/third-party administrators to be selected by the School Board with consultation with the educational support personnel.

Dental Insurance:

Unit A employees are eligible for dental insurance.

In the 2022-2023 school year, Unit B employees who have been employed by the district for five years are eligible to receive dental insurance at the beginning of their sixth year.

Effective beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the district shall make available CIGNA dental insurance for single coverage with the following plan structure for Unit A and Unit B employees:

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| a. | Coverage A – Diagnostic and Preventative Care | 100% |
| b. | Coverage B – Basic Restorative Care | 80% |
| c. | Coverage C – Major Restorative Care | 50% |
| d. | Coverage D – Orthodontia | 50% |

The maximum amount that the plan pays per year is \$1,000 per person. Coverage D has a separate \$1,500 lifetime maximum for each eligible person.

Additional coverage for two-person or family coverage may be purchased at the employee's expense.

ARTICLE XIII - LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

Unit A and B employees are eligible for the following:

1. The School Board will pay 100 percent (100%) of an insurance package which will include \$28,000 life insurance; \$25,000 accidental death benefit; dismemberment and loss of sight insurance (twenty-four-hour coverage). Amounts will be reduced to 50 percent (50%) of the original amount at age 67.
2. Monthly disability insurance will be equivalent to 2/3 of monthly earnings, up to \$2,500 per month. Maximum duration of payment is five (5) years. For accidents and/or sickness, benefits begin on the 90th work day, or after accumulative sick leave is exhausted, whichever is greater. Selection of an insurance carrier will be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

ARTICLE XIV - RETIREMENT

All employees, as determined by regulations of the New Hampshire Retirement System, shall be part of the New Hampshire Mandatory Retirement System.

ARTICLE XV - WORKSHOP DAYS/PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

A. All bargaining unit members shall be equally entitled to attend workshops or similar activities. The School Board shall allocate a reimbursement rate of \$150.00 per support staff employee to cover the costs of workshop. Provided, however, that the

decision whether to grant permission to attend a particular workshop or program, and the evaluation of the usefulness of a particular workshop or program to the district shall be made by the superintendent and/or building principal at their sole discretion. Such a determination by the superintendent and/or building principal may include, but is not limited to, such factors as the time the workshop or program is offered, the subject matter covered, and the number of employees who will be permitted to attend.

B. Professional leave shall be granted, at the sole discretion of the superintendent, for the purpose of professional employee growth and for carrying out school functions. Examples of professional leave are school visitations, conferences that pertain to the employee's position, receiving a degree, and professional examinations. Such absences shall not exceed one (1) day in any school year unless the superintendent extends the period.

Reimbursement will be paid for the following expenses if incurred while taking professional leave:

Meals: \$8.00 for breakfast, \$12.00 for lunch and \$30.00 for dinner (including tips) for workshops and conferences. The dinner amount is allowed only when it is an overnight workshop or conference; itemized receipts required; no alcohol or specialty/novelty items allowed. Maximum of 20% reimbursement for tips. Require credit card statement or itemized receipt showing total paid including tip for tip verification.

Mileage: Current IRS mileage rate for any trip.

Trips over 500-mile radius: Reimbursement and mode of travel is determined by the participant and superintendent. Car-pooling will be encouraged.

Other Expenses: Allowable if a necessary prerequisite of the conference; itemized receipts required.

Request for reimbursement: forms with itemized receipts and certificate of attendance or other means of proof of attendance will be submitted to the building principal for approval, and then to the superintendent for approval and payment, upon return from the conference.

ARTICLE XVI - REDUCTION IN FORCE (ALL UNITS)

Whenever it becomes necessary to lay-off employees or reduce the hours of employees for any reason by more than 5 hours, the procedure shall be as set forth in this article. The decision to lay-off, the determination of the service area in which lay-offs are to

be made, and the number of employees who are to be laid-off rests solely with the School Board and shall not be bargainable or grievable.

A. If it becomes necessary to reduce the number of support staff through a layoff or the number of hours worked by more than five hours per week, the following procedure shall be utilized:

1. The superintendent shall notify the Association of the grouping(s) and assignment area(s) that are being considered for reduction.
2. Reductions shall be accomplished first by attrition, resignations and/or retirements in the groupings and assignment areas that are designated by the School District for reduction.
3. If more reductions are necessary, then staff in the designated groupings and assignment areas will be laid off. In identifying which support staff to release, the administration and the board will consider the following factors with equal weight: assignment area, work performance (utilizing the last five years of evaluations), certification (if applicable), professional development, and seniority (experience in the assignment area). If all the factors are equal, then seniority will be used in making a final determination. Seniority is defined as the total number of years continuously employed in the District. All support staff transferred between categories shall maintain their original hire date.

B. Assignment areas shall be as follows:

Administrative Assistant
Secretary
Grounds Maintenance
Facilities Maintenance
Custodian Leader
Custodian Level 1
Custodian Level 2
Custodian Assistant
Custodian (Training)
Paraprofessional
Specialized Paraprofessional
Licensed Paraprofessional

Cafeteria Manager
Cafeteria Cook

- C. Employees to be laid-off will be given written notice of lay-off as follows:
1. No later than 45 calendar days prior to the effective date of the lay-off when the layoff becomes necessary during the school year due to unforeseen circumstances.
 2. No later than April 15th when the layoff is due to budgetary reductions for the following school year.

Bargaining unit members laid off under the procedure above will be entitled to a recall period that lasts one year beyond November 1 following the date of layoff. An employee who refuses a job offer during the one-year recall period shall forfeit any right to further recalls. An employee who is laid off and recalled shall suffer no loss of seniority or benefit of employment due to the lay-off.

ARTICLE XVII- PROFESSIONAL COURSE REIMBURSEMENT

Members of the bargaining unit shall be reimbursed up to the current UNH credit hour rate for tuition for up to nine (9) graduate and/or undergraduate credits or \$7,065, whichever is greater, per fiscal year. Reimbursement will be paid only for a course approved in advance by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and only upon satisfactory completion of that course with a minimum grade of B.

The School Board shall allocate a total of \$7,500 per fiscal year to cover these costs for the entire bargaining unit, and, if these funds are insufficient to cover the costs, individual reimbursement to unit members shall be prorated. Initially the allocation shall be set at \$1,875 each of the quarters July through September, October through December, January through March, and April through June. To qualify for reimbursement, the bargaining unit member must submit written application (via Frontline-Professional Growth or e-mail) by the first day of each quarter (July 1, October 1, January 1, April 1). If the application deadline is missed, any reimbursement which is authorized will be taken from the allocation for the following quarter. If there is a balance in the total account of \$7,500 at the end of the fiscal year, prorated reimbursements authorized earlier will be reimbursed up to the maximum allowable reimbursement. These funds may only be used for courses that lead to a teaching degree, certification, or other activities approved by the superintendent or his/her designee.

If there is still a balance remaining after all courses have been reimbursed up to the full UNH rate per credit hour, then the remaining funds will be proportionally divided between those who are not yet fully reimbursed up to the full cost per credit. Bargaining unit members are responsible for notifying the central office if they decide not to enroll in a course that has been pre-approved for reimbursement.

Reimbursement will be made within forty-five (45) days following the individual's submission to the Superintendent's Office of satisfactory completion of a course (grade transcript) and proof of payment for registration and tuition fees for the course. Proof of payment must be a detailed financial statement from the educational institution. Members will not be reimbursed for any costs not incurred by them (i.e. scholarships, grants, etc...).

If the member chooses to leave the employment of the White Mountains Regional School District for employment elsewhere within 1 year after the end of the classes for which the member is reimbursed, the district shall require a refund of the reimbursements that were given within 12 months of departure.

ARTICLE XVIII - DISCIPLINARY ACTION

No employee shall be disciplined without receiving a supportive statement of fact for said disciplinary action. Information forming the basis for disciplinary action shall be available to the employee and his/her designee. Inasmuch as possible, a letter of warning will be sent to the employee before disciplinary action is to be taken. The employee shall be provided with an opportunity to read and sign the letter prior to placing it in his/her personnel file. His/her signature does not indicate that he/she agrees with it. The Association and the School Board agree that there are circumstances when no written warning or letter is necessary prior to disciplinary action being taken.

The employee shall have the opportunity to attach a letter of rebuttal to any written document being placed in their file.

ARTICLE XIX - OVERTIME

Any employee who is required by his/her supervisor to work beyond that employee's contractual agreement will receive payment for such hours. Any hours over 40 hours per week will be paid at time and a half. If an employee works on a holiday (only if required by supervisor and pre-approved by superintendent), they will be paid twice their normal hourly rate of pay.

Any employee designated by their supervisor to respond to alarms shall receive a flat rate of \$80 per call. If additional alarms occur within 3 hours of the original alarm, no additional pay shall be granted.

ARTICLE XX - PAYROLL

All employees shall receive his/her paychecks biweekly during the term of their contract.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Unit A (Year round) employees paid on an equalized or "balanced pay" basis as of June 30, 2022 shall, at their option, 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. In years with 27 pay periods, anticipated annual wages will be divided by 27 which equals 26 bi-weekly checks and one reconciliation payment.
- (b) Full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

Unit B (Academic-year) employees paid on an equalized or "balanced pay" basis as of June 30, 2022 shall, at their option, be paid in one of the following manners:

- (a) Full pay for hours actually worked in the first pay period of the academic year, and remaining anticipated annual wages, divided by 25, which equals 24 bi-weekly checks, and one reconciliation payment. In years with 27 pay periods, anticipated annual wages after the first pay period will be divided by 26 which equals 25 bi-weekly checks and one reconciliation payment.
- (b) Full pay for hours actually worked in the first pay period of the academic year, and remaining anticipated annual wages, divided by 20, which equals 19 bi-weekly checks and one reconciliation payment, or
- (c) Full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days. All 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 for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

The reconciliation payments referenced above may result in a paycheck of less than the

equal pay amount, to a possible zero balance, being due to the employee. 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. Employees who have been overpaid as of the time of their separation are required to reimburse the District for any amount of overpayment.

All employees hired on or after July 1, 2022 shall, at their option, be paid in one of the following manners:

- (a) Full pay for hours actually worked in the first pay period of employment, and remaining anticipated annual wages, divided by the number of remaining pay periods in the year, which equals one less than that number bi-weekly checks, and one reconciliation payment.
- (b) Full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

All 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 for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

The reconciliation payments referenced above may result in a paycheck of less than the equal pay amount, to a possible zero balance, being due to the employee. 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. Employees who have been overpaid as of the time of their separation are required to reimburse the District for any amount of overpayment.

Once an employee elects the option of full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, the employee shall be prohibited from selecting the balanced pay option in any future year.

Employees who receive checks associated with co-curriculars, stipends, longevity, etc. shall be issued a separate check from their regular pay check.

ARTICLE XXI - VEHICLE COMPENSATION

Any employee required by his/her supervisor to use his/her personal vehicle in the course of his/her duties shall be reimbursed at the current rate set by the Internal

Revenue Service.

ARTICLE XXII - POSTING OF JOB OPENING

When a vacancy exists, a notice will be placed on the SAU #36 website; and an email will be sent from the Central Office to all WMRSD employees. The position will be officially posted on SchoolSpring.com.

Current employees who are interested in the vacancy, shall inform their immediate supervisor and/or the superintendent in order to be considered for a transfer of assignment. Selection of the candidate shall be at the discretion of the superintendent. Such decision by the superintendent is not subject to the grievance procedure.

External candidates must apply on SchoolSpring.com.

ARTICLE XXIII - EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

The parties recognize the importance and value of a procedure for assisting in evaluating the progress and success of both newly employed and experienced personnel for the purpose of improvement.

All employees shall receive written evaluation feedback at least once per year. In addition, a yearly evaluation summary report will be presented to all employees prior to April 30th by their immediate supervisor as delineated in the job description. This evaluation summary will be a compilation of previous reports, observations, and/or memoranda made by the supervisor.

All evaluations must be in written form with a copy to the employee and a copy to the employee's personnel folder. The supervisor must meet with the employee to discuss the evaluation and the employee must sign the evaluation to signify that it has been read. The employee will have the opportunity to attach comments to any evaluation report. Evaluations will describe strengths and areas to improve.

The summative evaluation report must have one of the following recommendations:

- a) Recommended for continued employment with scheduled increase.
- b) Recommended for continued employment with no scheduled increase.
- c) Not recommended for continued employment.

If an employee does not receive a written summative evaluation by April 30th, then they will be recommended for continued employment with scheduled step increment. An employee receiving a (b) or (c) recommendation may request the superintendent to review the evaluation decision of the supervisor.

The forms and procedures in use at the beginning of the school year will remain in effect throughout the year.

ARTICLE XXIV - EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES

The following job classifications are recognized in the salary schedules:

- Administrative Assistant
- Secretary
- Grounds Maintenance
- Facilities Maintenance
- Custodian Leader
- Custodian Level 1
- Custodian Level 2
- Custodian Assistant
- Custodian (Training)
- Paraprofessional
- Specialized Paraprofessional
- Licensed Paraprofessional
- Cafeteria Manager
- Cafeteria Cook

These classifications are defined by job descriptions approved by the School Board.

ARTICLE XXV – REQUESTS FOR UNPAID DAYS

Planned unpaid days must be approved in advance by the superintendent and the employee’s full per-diem (district cost) will be deducted for each approved unpaid day.

ARTICLE XXVI – LONGEVITY

Employees in Units A & B only shall receive the following yearly longevity stipend for uninterrupted service in the district:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Beginning with 6 to 10	\$ 200
11 to 14	\$ 400
15 to 19	\$ 600
20 to 24	\$ 800
25 to 29	\$1,000
30 or more years	\$1,200

Will be paid in two installments annually in December and June.

This benefit shall not be retroactive.

ARTICLE XXVII – EARLY RELEASE DAYS

The District shall notify the employees of the dates of the early release days that include scheduled professional development responsibilities by September 1st of each school year.

In cases of early release days, both parties agree that the make up for any early release days scheduled in the school calendar can include:

1. Attendance at the District’s scheduled professional development activities on early release days for professional development (count the hours of attendance at sessions attended);

AND/OR

2. The option to make up the hours remaining in the employee’s normally contracted day. In order to gain approval of an alternative option, employees shall apply on Frontline for pre-approval.

Alternative options shall include:

- Staff Meetings
- NCES Workshops
- NEA/NH Sponsored trainings, including the Fall Instructional Conference, Spring Instructional Conference, regional trainings
- MSB Training
- CPR, First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, Mandated Reporting, Bullying and Harassment
- Other trainings as pre-approved by the Superintendent

The principal will enter the hours that are made up in a spreadsheet provided by the Central Office. The spreadsheet will indicate each paraprofessionals’ contracted daily hours; thus, hours that need to be made up may vary from person to person.

ARTICLE XXVIII – UNEXPECTED DELAYED OPENING/EARLY RELEASE

In the event there is an unexpected delayed opening or early release, all employees shall receive their regular rate of pay for their regularly scheduled hours on said day.

School Closures:

Snow days are not workdays for school year employees (Unit B & C) and thus not a paid day. These individuals will be required to work on the makeup day which will be their regularly scheduled work day replacing the snow day.

Unit A employees who are required to report to work on a snow day shall have the option of working remotely.

In the event the make up snow days are waived for students, employees shall have the option of using personal days.

AND/OR

The administration shall consult with the WMSS to determine professional development activities that are applicable to their work for make up days that do not include students.

ARTICLE XXIX – WEAPON FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Notwithstanding tools, cutlery, machinery or other equipment used in the normal delivery of services, no bargaining unit employee will be required to possess, carry, or use a weapon of any kind in the course of his/her employment. A weapon includes, but is not limited to, a firearm, knife, self-defense spray or ammunition. This prohibition applies to any time spent by a bargaining unit employee performing job-related duties, including but not limited to those during the normal workday, extracurricular activities, field trips, preparation periods or other school or district activities. A bargaining unit employee's refusal to possess, carry, or use a weapon shall not be used as a factor to evaluate an employee, in determination of an employment decision (e.g., hire/termination, vacancy/transfer), or be a part of or lead to disciplinary action.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

<u>Level</u>	<u>2022-2023 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$18.50	\$19.00	\$19.50
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$20.00	\$20.50	\$21.00

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

SECRETARIES

<u>Level</u>	<u>2022-2023 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$16.50	\$17.00	\$17.50
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$19.00

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIANS**2022-2023**

<u>Custodian Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Maintenance Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Custodian Training	\$14.10	Grounds Maintenance	\$18.90
Custodian Assistant	\$15.50	Facilities Maintenance	\$20.90
Custodian Level 1	\$17.90		
Custodian Level 2	\$19.90		
Custodian Leader	\$24.40		

2023-2024

<u>Custodian Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Maintenance Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Custodian Training	\$14.60	Grounds Maintenance	\$19.40
Custodian Assistant	\$16.00	Facilities Maintenance	\$21.40
Custodian Level 1	\$18.40		
Custodian Level 2	\$20.40		
Custodian Leader	\$24.90		

2024-2025

<u>Custodian Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Maintenance Skills</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Custodian Training	\$15.10	Grounds Maintenance	\$19.90
Custodian Assistant	\$16.50	Facilities Maintenance	\$21.90
Custodian Level 1	\$18.90		
Custodian Level 2	\$20.90		
Custodian Leader	\$25.40		

If a member's current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be "grandfathered" and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

PARAPROFESSIONALS

<u>Level</u>	<u>2022-2023 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$16.50	\$17.00	\$17.50

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

SPECIALIZED PARAPROFESSIONALS

<u>Level</u>	<u>2022-2023 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.50
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$19.00	\$19.50	\$20.00

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

LICENSED PARAPROFESSIONALS

<u>Level</u>	<u>2022-2023 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2023-2024 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2024-2025 Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$19.00
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$19.50	\$20.00	\$20.50

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

CAFETERIA COOK MANAGERS

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Level	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.50
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$19.00	\$19.50	\$20.00

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.

CAFETERIA COOK

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<u>Level</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Level 1 - Entry Level (0-5 years)	\$13.50	\$14.00	\$14.50
Level 2 – Experienced (6+ years)	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00

If a member’s current hourly rate is higher than the above schedule, then they will be “grandfathered” and will receive a \$1.00/hour raise in year 1 and \$0.50/hour years 2 and 3.