

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 10
MCLEANSBORO, ILLINOIS**

AND

**HAMILTON COUNTY FEDERATION
OF
SCHOOL RELATED PERSONNEL NO. 6377
(TEACHER AIDES)**

2022-2023 THROUGH 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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ARTICLE 1 AGREEMENT

1.1 Agreement

This Agreement sets forth the wages, benefits, working conditions, and rights of the employee units of the Board of Education of Hamilton County Unit 10 Schools as listed in Article 2 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION

2.1 Recognition

The Board and the Federation agree that the following units shall be included in the Agreement: all full and permanent part-time aides. Excluded from the Agreement are the Library Technician, Daycare Program Director, all supervisors, managerial employees, confidential employees, substitute and short-term employees as defined in the Act and all other employees. For each regularly employed full-time employee (75% or more of the school day), the Board shall provide health insurance and life insurance coverage as outlined in Article 9.1. The school day is defined as a 7 hour day (typically 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) or 7.5 hours - .5 hour lunch.

2.2 General Principle of Negotiations

The purpose of this recognition is a mutual agreement between the parties to negotiate in a good faith effort.

“Good faith effort” is defined as the mutual responsibility of the Union and the Board to deal with each other openly and fairly and endeavor to reach agreement on items being negotiated. It does not imply that either party will agree with, or accept, the other party’s proposals, or be compelled to reach agreement on specific topics.

ARTICLE 3 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

3.1. Management Rights

Except as expressly amended, changed or modified by a provision of this Agreement, the Employer retains traditional and constitutional rights to operate the District. The District retains the respective rights as Employer as defined by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. When the District can identify an available, qualified, and acceptable substitute, the District shall hire a substitute when a teacher aide is used as a qualified classroom substitute teacher. All powers, rights, authority and responsibilities conferred upon the Board in the above sentences other than specifically included in this Agreement are reserved for the Board.

ARTICLE 4 EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

4.1 Personnel File

Employee has the right to review his/her personnel file and to place any rebuttal memorandum therein. Within 72 hours after having submitted a written request, each employee shall have the right to review the contents of his/her personnel file. The Employee's review of his/her file shall be in compliance with rules and regulations of the Illinois Personnel Records Review Act, 820 ILCS 40 et. seq. The employee, at his/her written request, may have a Federation member present during the review of his/her personnel file.

4.2 Payroll Deduction

Employees covered by this Agreement have the right to join, or not to join, the Union.

The Union shall annually certify to the District voluntary dues deduction forms and submit to the payroll office. The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the District harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits, errors or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken or not taken by the District for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of this Section.

The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the District harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits, errors or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken or not taken by the District for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of this Section or in compliance with any agreed upon forms and/or procedures related to this Section.

4.3 Union Information

In order to comply with the Illinois Education Labor Relations Act, the District will maintain an electronic document that includes the following information for each bargaining unit member: Name; Address; Home and Cell Phone Numbers if available from the employee's personnel file; Job Title; Date of Hire; Worksite; Employee ID; Work Phone Number; and Work E-Mail. The Union President and/or designee will be granted access to the electronic file.

ARTICLE 5 WORKING CONDITIONS

5.1 Work Day

On or before August 15, the District will provide each employee a notice of the employee's work location and assignment and the name of the immediate supervisor, with all information being broken down by specific item within the format. The Superintendent or designee reserves the right to adjust the above conditions beyond August 15 and during the school year so as to meet the operational needs of the District. However, recognizing that other circumstances prevail in such decisions each year, including, but not limited to, the level of state and federal funding programs, such assignments may not be finalized, if at all, until sometime after the commencement of the school year.

The regular school day for all aides shall be seven and one-half (7 ½) hours, inclusive of a thirty (30) minute duty free lunch. The normal workdays for all positions shall be weekdays (i.e. Monday through Friday).

It is understood that this time limit shall not apply to class related events, academic related events, class-related trips, meetings with administration, staffing's, parent-teacher conferences, and school sponsored open house which are a part of the bargaining unit employee's responsibilities for which there will be no additional compensation and which events employees shall be required to attend.

5.2 Lunch Breaks

Every full-time employee shall be entitled to and be allowed a duty free lunch period not less than 30 minutes each day. An aide whose assignment requires him/her to assist a student with lunch and who therefore does not receive a duty free lunch shall work 30 minutes less per day. The Administration shall determine employee lunch schedules.

5.3 Discipline

The Employer shall practice progressive discipline, which shall include verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or dismissal, depending upon the severity of the infraction.

5.4 Assistance in Control of Students

Control of students shall be considered part of the job as determined by the employee's immediate supervisor. Prior to the beginning of each school year, the immediate supervisor shall review appropriate procedures with all employees.

5.5 Unsafe or Hazardous Working Conditions

Employees are required to bring to the attention of their supervisor potential unsafe and/or hazardous working conditions.

5.6 Posting of Vacancies

All vacancies covering bargaining unit positions, except positions filled by voluntary and involuntary reassignments or positions offered to employees on a recall list, shall be posted in the Central Office of each attendance center as they occur. Except in cases of emergency, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, no vacancy shall be filled in less than ten (10) days after the first posting. The District shall email said posting to the Union President during the summer months when school is not in session. Any and all requests from employees for transfers to the vacancies will be considered. Final selection shall be determined by the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent. Such positions shall contain the following information: (1) classification, (2) starting date, (3) rate of pay, (4) full or part-time, and (5) other information deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

5.7 Absences

All absences are to be reported to the principal or other assigned supervisor in accordance with established procedures. Employees unable to notify the principal or other assigned supervisor are required to report absences to a place or person to be designated by the Superintendent or designee.

5.8 Physical Management

Any employee who feels that his/her assigned student's physical size puts both the student's welfare and the employee's welfare at risk shall request a meeting with the Administration. Such a meeting shall consist of the employee, immediate supervisor, superintendent, and union representation if so desired by the employee. Aides who provide physical management shall be required to wear a supportive back brace which will be supplied by the district.

5.9 Drug Testing

In order to help provide a safe work environment and to protect the public by ensuring that employees have the physical stamina and emotional stability to perform their assigned duties, the Administration may require employees to submit to urinalysis, or other appropriate testing, at a time and place designated by the Administration. Alcohol and drug testing may also be required in compliance with state and/or federal regulations governing one or more employee classifications. If an employee tests positive in any such test, a second test shall be conducted as soon as possible. The results of these tests shall be sent to the District, but will remain confidential, to the extent possible under the applicable law, and if both tests are positive, the employee shall be advised confidentially to seek medical assistance and advice from his/her Union representative. If after a reasonable period of time for rehabilitation, as determined by the Superintendent or his designee, the same employee tests positive a second time, the test results shall be submitted to the Superintendent for appropriate action. The District shall not be limited in the number of tests required of employees each year. Unlawful use of drugs or the failure to cooperate in testing under this Section shall be cause for immediate discharge.

The District shall pay for any and all testing. Testing shall be done on a random basis except in cases where there is "cause".

5.10 Employee Information

At the time of employment and each year thereafter, the employer shall furnish to each employee a statement as to the Employee's salary schedule placement, sick days and personal days accumulated as of July 1st, and other pertinent information related to the employee's employment. Each employee shall within twenty (20) days return a signed copy of the statement if they agree that the information is correct or contact the unit office and request a conference for an explanation or correction of the statement. The information contained in the statement shall be deemed correct if the employee fails to return a signed copy or does not request a conference within twenty (20) days.

5.11 Evaluation

Employees shall be evaluated one (1) time per school year for the first 2 years of employment. Employees that have completed two (2) or more years of service shall be evaluated 1 (one) time every other school year. Additional evaluations may be conducted at the discretion of the principal in the non-scheduled year if concerns exist that warrant such evaluation/improvement.

ARTICLE 6 SENIORITY

6.1 Definition

Seniority shall be defined as the “length of service from the first day of hire as a regular employee covered by this agreement”. Part-time employees shall accrue seniority on a pro-rata basis. In addition, seniority shall, for purposes of this Agreement, be defined as an employee’s length of continuous service to the District in a position that is covered by this agreement.

6.2 Probationary Period

Newly hired employees shall be considered probationary during their first year of employment. For this purpose, the definition of their first year shall be 180 school calendar days.

Employees shall have no seniority until completion of their probationary period. Any time during this period, a probationary employee can be discharged “at will”. Such employees shall be prohibited from using the Grievance Procedure for a discharge. Upon completion of the probationary period, the employee’s seniority date shall become his/her original date of employment.

6.3 Termination of Seniority

Seniority shall be terminated when an employee:

1. resigns or otherwise quits from any full-time position within the District;
2. leaves employment to be employed elsewhere;
3. is discharged
4. retires;
5. is laid off for a period exceeding the next two (2) school calendar years (exception may be a case involving Workman’s Compensation, which will be determined upon reviewing the regulations in force);
6. is absent for three (3) consecutive scheduled work days without proper notification and authorization;
7. fails to return to work at the conclusion of an approved leave of absence or vacation;
8. accepts other employment without the District’s written approval during a period of authorized leave of absence; or
9. declines employment offered by the district for any full time position in the bargaining unit.

6.4 Seniority While on Authorized Unpaid Leave of Absence

Employees will continue to accrue seniority credit for all time spent on authorized unpaid leave of absence up to three (3) months, which shall not include other employment. Vacation, sick leave, authorized holidays and other benefits will not be earned while on an authorized unpaid leave of absence.

6.5 Annual Seniority List

Prior to November 1 of each school term, the administration shall post a listing of the seniority rank of all employees in the school district covered by this Agreement. Each employee shall then have twenty (20) employment days thereafter to file a written objection to his/her ranking and shall

detail the alleged specific error in the ranking. Failure to make such timely objections will be deemed as acceptance of the ranking, and the employee cannot thereafter challenge his/her seniority for the school term.

6.6 Seniority While on an Honorable Dismissal

If an employee covered under this agreement is given an Honorable Dismissal, but returns within the next two school calendar years, that employee shall retain his/her original date of employment for seniority rights.

6.7 Temporary Re-assignment

An employee may accept a re-assignment to another job in the District outside this bargaining unit's classification for no more than one school year. At the end of that school year, the employee will be allowed to return to the bargaining unit in a teacher aide position with seniority rights retained as when they left for the reassignment. However, seniority will not accrue nor salary schedule movement occur during the length of employment in the job that is outside this agreement. An employee re-assigned to a position outside the bargaining unit shall not be covered under the terms of this agreement during the period of the re-assignment, except for Section 6.7.

However, as an exception to the above procedures, the parties agree that a former Teacher Aide, who is currently assigned to the position of Childcare Director (a non-bargaining unit position), shall earn seniority on the Teacher Aide seniority list for the period of time she previously performed Teacher Aide duties and for the full period of time she has been and continues to be assigned to the non-union Childcare director position. If the Childcare Director position is eliminated, the employee shall have the right to bump into a Teacher Aide position with her salary based on the Teacher Aide salary schedule with credit on the salary schedule for all years of service she worked as a Teacher Aide and all years of service she has worked as the Childcare Director. The individual assigned to the Childcare Director position will be listed on the Teacher Aide seniority list to reflex this agreement. The position of Childcare Director shall remain a non-union position outside the scope of this bargaining agreement and shall not be subject to the terms of this bargaining agreement.

**ARTICLE 7
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

7.1 Introduction

Should a difference arise between an employee and the Employer as to an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of specific provisions of this Agreement, it shall be settled in accordance with the Grievance Procedure as set forth below:

7.2 Representation

The grievant has the right to representation of choice in the Grievance Procedure. The grievant shall be present at all grievance discussions unless the Board, Union, and the grievant mutually agree that the grievant's presence is not desirable or necessary. When the presence of the grievant at a grievance hearing is required by either party, illness or incapacity of the grievant shall be grounds for any necessary extension of grievance procedure time limits.

7.3 Initiation of Grievance

The Grievance shall be presented by an employee promptly so that the facts can be readily obtained. The time limit shall be established as within ten (10) working days of the occurrence that comprised the Grievance.

7.4 Procedures

The parties acknowledge that it is usually most desirable for an employee and the employee's immediate supervisor to resolve problems through informal and free communications. If, however, the informal process fails to satisfy the employee, a grievant may be accompanied by a representative of choice:

Step One

The employee or the Union shall file the grievance in writing with the immediate supervisor, who shall certify by signature the date the grievance was received. The written grievance shall state the nature of the grievance, shall note the specific clause or clauses of the Agreement, which are applicable, and shall state the remedy requested. The supervisor shall arrange for a meeting to take place with the grievant within ten (10) days after receipt of the grievance. The supervisor shall make a decision on the grievance and communicate it in writing to the grievant and the Superintendent within five (5) days of the meeting.

Step Two

In the event a grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved at Step One, the grievant may present the grievance within ten (10) days to the Superintendent, who will follow the same provisions as established in Step One.

Step Three

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step Two, the grievant shall file, within ten (10) days of receipt of the Superintendent's decision at Step Two, a request for a hearing with the Board. The Board shall meet with the grievant within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the request for a hearing. The Board, or their designee, shall file an answer within ten (10) days of the hearing and communicate it in writing to the grievant and the Superintendent.

Step Four

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step Three, the grievance shall proceed to binding arbitration. The Union shall submit to the Superintendent a written request on behalf of the Union and the grievant to enter into binding arbitration. If a demand for binding arbitration is not filed within twenty (20) days of receipt of the Step Three decision, then the grievance shall be deemed withdrawn. Arbitration proceedings shall be conducted by an arbitrator to be selected by the two parties from a roster of arbitrators provided by the American Arbitration Association. Within seven (7) days after the Union requests binding arbitration, the two parties will request the American Arbitration Association to provide a panel of arbitrators in accordance with their procedures. The selection of an arbitrator shall also be accomplished in accordance with AAA procedures. Expenses for the arbitrator's services shall be borne equally by the District and the Union.

The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties. The arbitrator, in their opinion, shall not amend, modify, nullify, ignore, or add to the provisions of the Agreement. The arbitrator's authority shall be strictly limited to deciding only the issue or issues presented to them in writing by the District and the Union, and their decision must be based solely and only upon their interpretation of the meaning or application of the express relevant language of the Agreement.

7.5 Additional Procedures

1. *Bypass*
By mutual written agreement of the parties, any step of the grievance procedure may be bypassed.
2. *Withdrawal*
A grievance may be withdrawn at any level without establishing a precedent.
3. *Settlement*
By mutual agreement of the parties, a grievance may be settled at any step without establishing precedent.
4. *Costs of Arbitration*
The fees and the expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the parties. The parties shall each be responsible for the costs of their own representation. If only one party requests the presence of a court reporter, that party shall bear the costs of the reporter. If only one party requests the postponement of an arbitration hearing, that party shall bear the costs of such postponement.
5. *Cooperation*
The District and the Union shall cooperate in the investigation of any grievance.
6. *Handling of Grievance*
Any investigation or other handling or processing of any grievances by the grievant or the Union shall be conducted so as to result in no interference with or interruption whatsoever of the instructional program, District operations, and related work activities of the grievant or of the District's employees.
7. *Contract Expiration*
A grievance arising under this Agreement may be processed through the grievance procedure until resolution even after expiration of the Agreement.
8. *Bar to Appeal*
Failure of a grievant or the Union to act on any grievance within the prescribed time limits will act as bar to any further appeal. An administrator's failure to give a decision within the time limits shall permit the grievant to proceed to the next step. Time limits may be extended by mutual agreement.
9. *No Reprisal*
No reprisal shall be taken by the District or the Union against any employee because of the filing or participation in a grievance, or not participating in a grievance.

10. *Definition*
When the term “days” is used in this Article, it shall be defined to mean “days when school is in session” except that when school is not in session, it shall be defined to mean weekdays.
11. *Expedited Arbitration*
Upon completing a mutual written agreement by the Superintendent and the Union, the expedited arbitration rules of the AAA shall be utilized instead of the voluntary labor arbitration rules.
12. *By-pass of Arbitration to Grievance Mediation*
By mutual written agreement, the Superintendent and Union may elect to enter into a grievance mediation prior to submitting the grievance to arbitration. The parties shall mutually agree, in writing, on the procedures for mediation, including the handling of any costs to implement the process and selecting a mediator. If the parties can’t agree on a mediator, then the Federal Mediation Service shall be contacted to provide a mediator.

ARTICLE 8 LEAVES

8.1 Sick Leave

The Board shall grant to each full-time employee (75% or more) fourteen (14) days sick leave at full pay. If any employee does not use the full amount of annual leave thus allowed, the unused amount shall accumulate to a maximum of two hundred forty (240) days. Upon maximum accumulation, unused sick leave awarded at the beginning of the school year will be held in escrow to be used at retirement if needed to reach the maximum allowable days for the IMRF retirement pension benefits (i.e., Upon accumulation of 240 days, the following year the employee will receive 14 days. If 5 days are used, the remaining 9 days will be held in escrow.) Eligible employees electing to use half (1/2) of a sick day must complete 3 ½ paid hours prior to leaving from their assigned duties or upon returning to their assigned duties.

Part-time employees who are employed (50% but less than 75%) will receive seven (7) sick leave days per year. Part-time employees employed less than 50% will not be granted any sick leave days.

Sick leave shall be interpreted to mean personal illness, quarantine at home, or serious illness or death in the immediate family or household, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. Employees shall also be eligible to use sick leave for the birth, adoption, placement for adoption, and the acceptance of a child in need of foster care. Employees are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Paid sick leave because of the birth of a child may be used absent medical certification for up to 30 working school days, which days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. The use of up to 30 working school days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child may not be diminished as a result of any intervening period of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as for summer, winter, or spring break or holidays, that may occur during the use of the paid sick leave. For paid sick leave for adoption, placement for adoption, or the acceptance of a child in need of foster care, the school board may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption

process or the formal foster care process is underway, and such sick leave is limited to 30 days. Paid sick leave for adoption, placement for adoption, or the acceptance of a child in need of foster care need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption process or the formal foster care process is underway, and such sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption process or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, in addition to using such sick leave upon taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care.

For purposes of the Section, “immediate family” shall include parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandparents-in-law, grandchildren, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, parent-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and legal guardians.

Sick Day Leave Incentive

Employees who demonstrate excellent or above average attendance shall be entitled to a one-time payment for the school year when the employee meets the following criteria. Employees will be compensated at the following rate for attendance. Payment will be made on the June 20th pay period.

<u>Absent 0 days</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>Absent 3 days</u>	<u>\$ 50</u>
<u>Absent .5 day</u>	<u>\$175</u>	<u>Absent 3.5 days</u>	<u>\$ 25</u>
<u>Absent 1 day</u>	<u>\$150</u>	<u>Absent 4 or more days</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
<u>Absent 1.5 days</u>	<u>\$125</u>		
<u>Absent 2 days</u>	<u>\$100</u>		
<u>Absent 2.5 days</u>	<u>\$ 75</u>		

The “trading” of sick days for personal days will count against the sick day leave incentive.

8.2 Personal Leave

Each full-time employee (75% or more) shall have two (2) personal leave days per year from year one to year fifteen of district service. Employees will be awarded three (3) personal leave days per year from year sixteen to year twenty-five of district service. Employees will be awarded four (4) personal leave days per year from year twenty-six and until retirement of district service. Personal leave days may be accumulated to a maximum of four (4). Part-time employees who are employed at (50% but less than 75%) will receive one (1) personal leave day per year. Part-time employees who are employed less than 50% will not receive any personal leave days. Eligible employees electing to use half (1/2) of a personal day must complete 3 ½ paid hours prior to leaving from their assigned duties or upon returning to their assigned duties. Employees shall notify the Superintendent at least three (3) days in advance of the requested use of personal leave days. However, the Superintendent may waive this advance notice requirement in emergency situations. No more than one (1) bargaining unit member in any one building may use personal leave on the same day unless approved by the Superintendent.

Personal leave shall not be used on the following days unless special exception is granted by the Superintendent based on the individual merits of the request:

1. The working day before or after a designated school holiday.
2. The working day before or after any scheduled break.

Employees that begin a school term with 2 personal leave days will be entitled to trade two (2) sick leave days for one (1) personal leave day and can make the trade a maximum of two times during the school year. Employees that begin a school term with 3 personal leave days will be entitled to trade two (2) sick leave days for one (1) personal leave day and can make the trade one time during the school year. The trade of any sick leave for personal leave will be subject to the following limitations/restrictions:

- a. The employee must have exhausted all of his/her personal leave days (either 2 or 3 as applicable), in order to make a trade, or
- b. The employee has not exhausted all of his/her personal leave days (either 2 or 3 as applicable), makes the trade and will be required to use all available personal leave days consecutively. For example, an employee is given 2 personal leave days at the start of the school year. The employee trades 4 sick leave days for 2 personal leave days. The trade is permitted, but the employee must take all 4 personal leave days at the same time.
- c. Under no circumstances can an employee accumulate or use more than 4 personal leave days in a school year.
- d. All other provisions of personal leave procedures shall apply.

Unused personal leave days shall accumulate as sick leave days.

8.3 Jury Duty

Employees summoned to jury duty when school is in session shall receive full salary during the time the member is on jury duty provided the member pays to the District the fees for performing jury duty service.

Employees issued a court subpoena concerning matters relating to their employment by the District shall be paid for each working day of required absence, providing the member pays to the District any witness fees received. This provision is not applicable if the member is subpoenaed to testify under the following conditions:

1. A matter in which either the member, or any of the member's family, or any business associate has a financial interest.
2. If the employee is a witness against the School District, the Board of Education, or its representatives as the result of any legal actions commenced by or on behalf of the Union, its agents or members, or as the result of any legal actions arising from collective negotiations between the parties.

The final decisions as to applicability of such leave to be paid by the District shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

8.4 Bereavement Leave

Any full time employee may be excused for whatever number of days necessary for the funeral of his/her immediate family. Full-time employees (75% or more) shall be granted 3 bereavement

leave days per year. Part-time employees (50% but less than 75%) shall be granted 2 bereavement leave days per year. Part-time employees working less than 50% will not be granted any bereavement leave days. Any days in excess of three (3) will be charged to sick leave. Eligible employees electing to use half (1/2) of a bereavement day must complete 3 ½ paid hours prior to leaving from their assigned duties or upon returning to their assigned duties.

For purposes of this Section, “immediate family” shall include parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandparents-in-law, grandchildren, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, parent-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and legal guardians. In addition, two of the three bereavement leave days for full-time or one of the two bereavement leave days for part-time employees can be used for the funeral of a close friend or a non-immediate family member not previously mentioned. Bereavement leave will not accumulate from year to year.

ARTICLE 9 FRINGE BENEFITS

9.1 Hospitalization and Life Insurance

For the 2022-2023 through the 2024-2025 school years, the Board shall provide 75%, up to a maximum of \$700.00 per month of the rate of the individual health insurance from the current district health insurance program at whichever tier the employee chooses to participate. The district shall provide 100 percent of the life insurance premium for \$15,000 in life insurance coverage. For eligible employees as defined in Article 2.1, the health and life insurance benefit is made available only to those employees working 75% or more of the time and subject to carrier age restrictions.

An insurance committee consisting of teachers, Board members, administrators, and employees covered by this Agreement shall meet annually to evaluate the District’s insurance program. The Committee’s considerations shall include but not be limited to costs, coverage and possible re-bidding of the insurance package. The committee shall, after consultation with their respective groups, make recommendations to the Board of Education for coverage.

9.2 Retirement Contribution/IMRF

The District will participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for all employees eligible to participate in it and shall tax shelter such contributions as permissible by law.

9.3 Mileage Reimbursement

Employees who are required to use their personal vehicles in the course of their employment or otherwise use their vehicles in the authorized service to the school district shall be reimbursed at the rate established by Central Management Services as of July 1 of that year.

9.4 Early Retirement Incentive

The Board shall recognize the service of full-time employees who have rendered at least ten (10) years of creditable service to Hamilton County Unit No. 10 and who are eligible to receive regular retirement pension benefits through the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) of the State of Illinois.

- A. Requirements to Qualify – To be eligible for this benefit, an employee must comply with all of the following requirements and limitations:

1. Must have completed a minimum of ten (10) or more years, but not more than forty (40) years of full-time employment in the bargaining unit with Hamilton County Unit No. 10 before being eligible for this early retirement incentive and be eligible to retire under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) without causing any penalty or cost to the District, and;
2. Must submit an irrevocable letter of resignation for retirement. As many as the last four (4) years of an employee's career may be included in the pre-retirement period. An irrevocable letter of resignation establishing the date of retirement will create and determine the length of the pre-retirement period. During the pre-retirement period, the employee shall be removed from the salary schedule and will receive a 6% increase in each year of the pre-retirement period, but not to exceed 4 years.
3. The irrevocable letter of resignation for retirement must be filed on or before May 30 of the year up to, and including, the school year of retirement. The pre-retirement period may be from 1 to 4 years in duration depending upon when the irrevocable letter of resignation is received and the specified effective date of retirement. For example, employees who file by May 30, 2023 may indicate a retirement date of June 30, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027. Employees indicating retirement in 2024 will have a pre-retirement period of 1 year. Employees indicating retirement in 2025 will have a pre-retirement period of 2 years. Employees indicating retirement in 2026 will have a pre-retirement period of 3 years. Employees indicating retirement in 2027 will have a pre-retirement period of 4 years.
4. No employee may participate in this incentive program if the employee does not retire at the end of their fortieth (40th) year of IMRF creditable service and present an irrevocable letter of resignation indicating such plan to retire before then.

B. Aspects of the Plan

The aide will remain on the salary schedule and will be paid according to the negotiated contract.

In June, at the end of each year an employee is in the retirement plan, the District will compare the teacher's IMRF creditable earnings to his/her previous year's creditable earnings. The District will pay the aide a retirement benefit in an amount to ensure the aides' IMRF creditable earning increases 6% over the previous year's IMRF creditable earnings.

For example, an aide enters the retirement plan for one year with a retirement date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. In June 2022, the District will compare the aide's 2022-2023 IMRF creditable earnings to his/her 2021-2022 IMRF creditable earnings. The District will increase the aides' 2022-2023 IMRF creditable earnings in an amount to ensure it increases 6% above his/her 2021-2022 IMRF creditable earnings.

2021-2022 IMRF Creditable Earnings:	
Salary:	\$20,000
Extra Stipend	<u>\$1,000</u>
Total IMRF Earnings	\$21,000

2022-2023 IMRF Creditable Earnings:	
Salary	\$21,000
Extra Stipend	\$1,100
Retirement Benefits	<u>\$ 160</u>
Total Earnings:	\$22,260 (Reflects 6% increase over previous year's earnings)

If an employee no longer performs any IMRF creditable earnings work in any year the retirement benefit is calculated, such as a stipend position, the stipend is removed from the calculations: For example:

2021-2022 IMRF Creditable Earnings:	
Salary:	\$20,000
Extra Stipend:	<u>\$1,000</u> (Removed from calculation because not performed in the subsequent year)
Total IMRF Earnings:	\$21,000 \$20,000

2022-2023 IMRF Creditable Earnings:	
Salary:	\$21,000
Stipend:	No longer performed, Stipend removed from previous year's calculation
Retirement Benefit:	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total IMRF Earnings:	\$21,200 (Reflects 6% increase over previous year's earnings)

The parties agree that if the IMRF statute and/or regulations change in any manner during the term of this contract that would create a penalty or additional cost to the District for offering this retirement program to employees, the parties will re-open and renegotiate this retirement program language.

ARTICLE 10 COMPENSATION

Pay day will be on the 5th and the 20th of each month or the last banking day prior to the 5th and 20th if either date falls on a weekend or holiday.

1. Stipends, extra trips, additional pay, pay docks, etc., will be made on the check issued on the 5th or 20th of the month, as necessary.
2. Increments will be paid in equal installments on the 5th and the 20th. Lump sum increment payments will be made on the 20th of the month.
3. Deductions for insurance, optional insurance, union dues, etc., will be made in equal installments from each check received.
4. Employees will be afforded the opportunity to elect to take their pay in 12 (payable on the 20th of the month) or in 24 equal payments. If an employee elects to have

12 payments rather than the 24, then the employee must so inform the Superintendent in writing at least 30 days prior to the first payment of an annual contract cycle, usually by September 5 each year. This would require notification by August 5th of each year. Adjustments from a 12 payment to a 24 payment or the reverse thereof will only be accommodated at the beginning of a yearly pay cycle.

10.1 Salary

A. Aides employed by the District shall be paid in accordance with the salary schedule attached and identified as Appendix A for the term of this contract. For the 2022-2023 contract year (Appendix A), Step 1 shall be paid \$14.75 per hour, Steps 2-13 shall be paid a \$3.00 per hour increase, Step 14 shall be paid a \$2.75 per hour increase, Step 15 shall be paid a \$2.50 per hour increase, Steps 16-17 shall be paid a \$2.00 per hour increase. Longevity movement will be a \$1.50 per hour increase from the previous year's base + longevity. (i.e. \$20.00 per hour base (\$25,200 annual) + \$135 longevity = \$25,335 or \$20.11 per hour in 2021-2022 – pay rate for 2022-2023 would be \$20.11 + \$1.15 = \$21.26 per hour or \$26,787.60).

For the 2023-2024 contract year (Appendix A) Step 1 shall be paid \$16.00 per hour, Steps 2-17 shall be paid a \$1.50 per hour increase. Longevity movement will be a \$1.15 per hour increase from previous year's hourly rate.

For the 2024-2025 contract year (Appendix A), Step 1 shall be paid \$16.75 per hour, Steps 2-17 shall be paid a \$1.00 per hour increase. Longevity movement will be a \$1.00 per hour increase from previous year's hourly rate.

- B. To be eligible to move down the salary schedule, a bargaining unit member must have been employed more than 50% of the school year (180 days) and more than 50% of the school day the previous school year. Not included in this calculation is substitute aide work.
- C. Overtime, extra trips, additional pay, pay docks, etc., will be made in equal installments from each check received.

**ARTICLE 11
NO STRIKE – NO LOCKOUT**

11.1 General Employee and Union Responsibilities

Neither the Union or any officers, agents, or employees shall instigate, promote, sponsor, engage in, or condone any strike, sympathy strike, secondary boycott, residential picketing, slow down, sit down, concerted stoppage of work, concerted refusal to perform overtime, or any other intentional interruption or disruption of the operations of Employer at any location during the term of this Agreement or any agreed upon extension of this Agreement.

11.2 Union Responsibilities

It is agreed that the Union will, within one (1) week of the date of the signing of this Agreement, serve upon the Superintendent a written notice which will list the Union's authorized officers and stewards.

11.3 Union's Communications Responsibilities

In the event of an unauthorized action by any employee, in violation of Section 11.1, the Union, within twenty-four (24) hours of being informed of such action, will notify the Superintendent in

writing that said Union will make every reasonable effort to assure compliance with Section 11.1 of the Agreement.

11.4 No Lockout

The Employer agrees that it will not lock out employees during the term of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 12
EFFECT AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

12.1 Period Covered

This Agreement shall become effective on July 1, 2022 and shall continue in full force and effect through June 30, 2025.

12.2 Savings Clause

In the event that any of the provisions of this Agreement shall conflict with any State or Federal law, such provision shall be deemed to be modified sufficiently in respect to either or both of the parties to the extent necessary to comply with such laws and regulations and the remaining portion of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

12.3 Content of Agreement

The terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement represent the full and complete understanding and commitment between the Board and the Union. Both parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each party had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals upon the other party. All understandings and agreements arrived at after the exercise of this right and opportunity is set forth in this Agreement. The parties each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waive any rights, which might otherwise exist under law to negotiate over any matter during the term of this Agreement. Subject matters not referred to in this Agreement shall not be considered as part of the Agreement and remain exclusive Board prerogatives.

12.4 Changes

The terms and conditions of this Agreement may be altered, changed, added to, deleted from, or modified only through voluntary, mutual consent of the parties in a ratified written agreement.

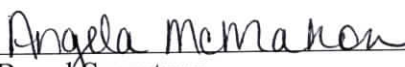
**ARTICLE 13
TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

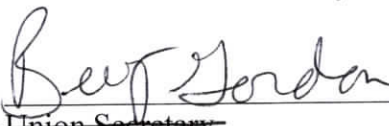
Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Termination: June 30, 2025


Board President


Union President


Board Secretary


~~Union Secretary~~
Bargaining member

**APPENDIX A
TEACHER AIDES SALARY SCHEDULE**

Steps	2022/2023 Salary	2022/2023 Hourly Rate	2023/2024 Salary	2023/2024 Hourly Rate	2024/2025 Salary	2024/2025 Hourly Rate
1	18,585	14.75	20,160	16.00	21,105	16.75
2	18,900	15.00	20,475	16.25	21,420	17.00
3	19,215	15.25	20,790	16.50	21,735	17.25
4	19,568	15.53	21,105	16.75	22,050	17.50
5	20,425	16.21	21,458	17.03	22,365	17.75
6	21,773	17.28	22,315	17.71	22,718	18.03
7	22,214	17.63	23,663	18.78	23,575	18.71
8	22,655	17.98	24,104	19.13	24,923	19.78
9	23,234	18.44	24,545	19.48	25,364	20.13
10	23,663	18.78	25,124	19.94	25,805	20.48
11	24,104	19.13	25,553	20.28	26,384	20.94
12	24,419	19.38	25,994	20.63	26,813	21.28
13	24,860	19.73	26,309	20.88	27,254	21.63
14	24,986	19.83	26,750	21.23	27,569	21.88
15	25,162	19.97	26,876	21.33	28,010	22.23
16	25,376	20.14	27,052	21.47	28,136	22.33
17	26,221	20.81	27,266	21.64	28,312	22.47

NOTES:

All employees will remain at step one (1) for two (2) years.

The above schedule is based on 180 working days at 7 paid hours per day.