

MASTER AGREEMENT

between the

**HARPER CREEK
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

and the

**HARPER CREEK
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION,
MEA/NEA**

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

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Agreement

This Agreement is made as of the date hereinafter set forth by and between the Harper Creek Community School District, Calhoun County, Michigan, hereinafter called the “Employer,” and the Harper Creek Educational Support Professionals Association, MEA/NEA – Educational Assistants and Para-Educators, hereinafter called the “Association.”

Article 1 Recognition

Section 1: Inclusion

The Employer hereby recognizes the Association as the sole and exclusive collective bargaining representative for educational assistants and para-educator excluding: supervisors, substitute employees, temporary employees (as defined in Article 19) and all others.

Section 2: Definition

Unless otherwise indicated, the term "Employee" when used hereinafter in this Agreement shall refer to all members of the above defined bargaining unit.

Article 2 Employee Rights

Section 1: Just Cause

No seniority employee shall be disciplined, which shall include written reprimands, suspensions, demotions, and discharges, without just cause. The specific grounds forming the basis for disciplinary action will be made available to the employee involved.

Section 2: Employee Rights Under the Law

- A. Pursuant to the Michigan Employment Relations Act of 1947, as amended in 2023 the Employer hereby agrees that every employee shall have the right freely to organize, join, and support the Association for the purpose of engaging in collective bargaining or negotiations. The Employer agrees that it will not directly, or indirectly, discourage or deprive or coerce any employee in the enjoyment of any rights conferred by the Act or other laws of Michigan or the Constitution of Michigan and the United States of America that it will not discriminate against any employee with respect to hours, wages, or any terms or conditions of employment by reason of

his/her membership in the Association; his/her participation in any activities of the Association or collective negotiations with the Employer; his/her institution of any grievance, complaint, or proceeding under this Agreement; or otherwise with respect to any terms or conditions of employment.

- B. Nothing contained within this Agreement shall be construed to deny or restrict to any employee rights and responsibilities he/she may have under the Michigan General School Laws or the applicable laws and regulations. The rights granted to employees hereunder shall be deemed to be in addition to those provided elsewhere.

Section 3: Association Representation

Upon request, an employee shall be entitled to have present a representative of the Association when disciplinary action may be taken which may adversely affect the employee's work record. Should disciplinary action likely occur at a given meeting, the employee shall be advised of said possibility. Where a disciplinary penalty requires the employee to immediately leave school district property (i.e. suspension or discharge), the employee shall be allowed to discuss the disciplinary measure with an Association representative before leaving the premises. The employer shall make available an area where this may occur.

Section 4: Notification of Complaints

Written and signed complaints against an employee shall be given to the employee prior to the inclusion of such material in the employee's personnel file. The employee may submit a written notation regarding evaluative material, including complaints, and such response shall become a part of the employee's personnel file for four (4) years.

Section 5: Assault of an Employee

Any case of assault upon an employee shall be promptly reported to the employee's immediate supervisor. The Employer will provide reasonable assistance to the employee in connection with the handling of the incident by law enforcement and judicial authorities.

Section 6: Review of Records

An employee will have the right to review the contents of all records, excluding initial references, of the District pertaining to said employee originating after initial employment and to have a representative of the Association accompany him/her in such review.

Article 3 Association Rights

Section 1: School Mail

The Association shall have the right of access to the school mails and e-mail to distribute Association material to members of the bargaining unit. Should the Board determine that a deviation from established conditions is necessary, it shall notify the Association of any alterations prior to implementing them.

Section 2: Use of Facilities

The Association shall have the right to use school facilities for meetings and school equipment, including, computers, tablets, copying machines, other duplicating equipment, calculating machines, and all types of audio-visual equipment when such equipment is not otherwise in use. The Association shall pay for the cost of all materials and supplies incident to such and shall be responsible for proper operation of all such equipment. The Association shall be liable for any damage to equipment or facilities occasioned by its use of same. Prior to use of school facilities, the Association shall complete and submit a Building Use Form.

Section 3: Association Representatives

Duly authorized representatives of the State and National levels of the Association shall be permitted to transact official Association business on school property provided that this shall not interfere with nor interrupt normal school operation. The local representative shall be the Association President or his/her designee.

The Association shall inform the Employer, in writing, the identity of Association Representatives having the authority to represent the Association and its members for purposes of grievance handling and disciplinary matters. Any grievance handling shall occur outside of normal working hours unless otherwise agreed to by the Employer.

The Employer further agrees to deduct from each employee's pay, upon proper written authorization, amounts for insurance, United Way, 403b deductions and credit unions.

Section 4: Request for Information

The parties agree to furnish one another with information required to be made available by law in order to facilitate contract administration and negotiations, per new PERA legislation as amended in 2023.

Section 5: Release Time

The Employer shall permit up to six (6) working days per school year of released time for the handling of the Association business, meetings and conferences. Two (2) additional days will be granted with the Association reimbursing the District for substitute costs. All days to be used must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the leave. These days shall not be utilized during examination periods, parent/teacher conferences or on a working day immediately preceding or immediately following a school holiday or school vacation.

Article 4 Management Rights

The District retains all rights, powers and authority vested in it by the laws and Constitution of Michigan and the United States. All policies of the Board of Education, or powers which have been properly exercised by it, shall remain unaffected by this Agreement and in full force and effect, unless and until changed by the Board. Not by way of limitation, the Board reserves unto itself all rights, powers and privileges inherent in it or conferred upon it from any source whatsoever. Rights reserved exclusively herein by the District which shall be exercised exclusively by the District without prior negotiations with the Association either as to the taking of action under such rights or with respect to the consequence of such action during the term of this Agreement shall include by way of illustration, not by way of limitation, the right to:

1. Manage and control the schools' business, the equipment, the operations and to direct the working forces and affairs of the School District;
2. Continue its rights and past practice of assignment and the direction of all of its personnel, determine the number of shifts and hours of work and starting times and scheduling of all of the foregoing, but not in conflict with the specific provisions of this Agreement, and the right to establish, modify or change any work or business hours or days;
3. Direct the working forces, including the right to hire, promote, suspend and discharge employees, transfer employees, assign work or extra duty to employees, determine the size of the work force and to lay off employees;
4. Determine the services, supplies and equipment necessary to continue its operations and to determine the methods, schedules and standards of operation, the means, methods, and processes of carrying on the work including automation thereof or changes therein, the institution of new and/or improved methods or changes therein;

5. Adopt reasonable rules and regulations:

6. Determine the qualifications of employees, including physical conditions;
7. Determine the location or relocation of its facilities, including the establishment or locations of new schools, buildings, departments, divisions or subdivisions thereof and the relocation or closing of offices, departments, divisions or subdivisions, buildings or other facilities;
8. Determine the placement of operations, productions, services, maintenance or distribution of work, and the source of materials and supplies;
9. Determine the financial policies, including all accounting procedures, and all matters pertaining to public relations;
10. Determine the size of the management organization, its functions, authority, amount of supervision and table of organization provided that the District shall not abridge any rights of employees as specifically provided in the Agreement; and
11. Determine the policy affecting the selection, testing or training of employees.

The Board recognizes that this Agreement sets forth limitations on the above named powers, rights, authorities, duties, and responsibilities, and hereby agrees to be bound by such limitations.

Article 5 Grievance Procedures

Section 1: Definition

A claim or complaint by an employee or group of employees or the Association that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of any expressed provision of this Agreement may be processed as a grievance as hereinafter provided.

Section 2: Hearing Levels

Informal Level:

When a cause for complaint occurs, the affected employee(s) shall request a meeting with his/her immediate supervisor within ten (10) days after the event prompting the complaint or within ten (10) days after the employee should reasonably have had knowledge of the occurrence of the event upon which the grievance is based in an effort to resolve the complaint. The Association may be notified and a representative thereof present with the employee at such meeting. The immediate supervisor will provide a response to the informal level within five (5) days. If the employee is not satisfied with the response, he/she may formalize the complaint in writing as provided hereunder.

Formal Level 1:

If a complaint is not resolved in a conference between the affected employee(s) and his/her immediate supervisor, the complaint may be formalized as a grievance. A formalized grievance shall be submitted, in writing, within five (5) days of the informal meeting between the supervisor and the affected employee(s). A formal grievance must contain:

1. A synopsis of the facts giving rise to the alleged contract violation;
2. A listing of the contract provisions allegedly violated;
3. The date of the alleged violation;
4. A specification of the relief requested; and
5. The signature of the grievant.

A copy of the grievance shall be sent to the Association and the immediate supervisor shall, within five (5) days of the receipt of the grievance, render a

written decision. A copy of this decision shall be forwarded to the grievant(s) and the Association.

Formal Level 2:

If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level 1 or if no disposition has been made within five (5) days of receipt of the grievance, the grievance shall be transmitted to the Superintendent or designee within five (5) days. Within seven (7) days of receipt after the grievance has been submitted to the Superintendent, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the Association on the grievance. The Superintendent or designee shall render a written decision thereon with copies to the Association and the grievant(s).

Formal Level 3:

If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level 2 by the Superintendent or designee, or if no disposition has been made within the period above provided, the Association may submit the grievance to arbitration before an impartial arbitrator within twenty (20) days of receipt of the disposition. The arbitrator shall be selected by the American Arbitration Association in accord with its rules which shall likewise govern the arbitration proceeding. Neither the Employer nor the Association shall be permitted to assert in such arbitration proceeding any ground or to rely on any evidence not previously disclosed to the other party. The arbitrator shall have no power to alter, add to or subtract from the terms of this Agreement. Both parties agree to be bound by the award of the arbitrator, and that judgment thereon may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction. The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the Association and Employer.

- A. The arbitrator shall have no power to rule on any of the following:
1. The termination of services of or failure to re-employ any probationary employee;
 2. Any claim or claimant for which there is another remedial procedure or forum established by law or by regulation having the force of law (to include FMLA, MERC, MDCR, EEOC, OSHA and Workers' Compensation); and
 3. Any matter involving employee evaluation content. However, matters involving alleged violations of evaluation procedure shall be subject to arbitration.

B. Claim for Back Pay

The District shall not be required to pay back wages more than six (6) months prior to the date a written grievance is filed.

All claims for back wages shall be limited to the amount of wages that the employee would otherwise have earned, less one-half (1/2) of any compensation that he/she may have received from any source during the period of the back pay.

Section 3: Miscellaneous Conditions

- A. The term "days" when used in this Article shall mean workdays of the grievant. Time limits provided in this Article shall be strictly observed but may be extended by mutual written agreement.
- B. Grievances filed as "Association" grievances may, by mutual consent, be initiated at Formal Level 2 of the grievance procedure.
- C. Grievance processing will occur outside of normal working time except when the Employer consents otherwise.
- D. Notwithstanding the expiration of this Agreement, any claim or grievance arising thereunder may be processed through the grievance procedure until resolution.

Article 6 Vacancies, Transfers, and Promotions

Section 1: Definition

A vacancy shall be defined as a newly created bargaining unit position or a present position in the bargaining unit that is not filled but that the Employer intends to fill.

Section 2: Posting

All vacancies shall be posted at the designated place in each building of the District for a period of five (5) work days. Prior to posting, the Association president or designee shall receive notification of the posting 24 hours prior to the posting. Said posting shall contain the following information:

1. Type of work
2. Location of work
3. Starting date
4. Rate of pay
5. Hours to be worked
6. Category
7. Position Qualifications

An interested employee may apply in writing to the Superintendent, or designee, within the five (5) day posting period. The Employer agrees to notify employees, including the Association President or designee using district email of any vacancies occurring during the summer months.

Section 3: Trial Period

1. An employee who is awarded a job under Section 4 or Section 6 below shall be offered a ten (10) working day trial period. During this trial period the employee shall have the opportunity to revert back to his/her former assignment. The Employer shall be entitled during this interval to fill the transferring employee's former assignment with a temporary employee.

2. If the employee is determined to be unsatisfactory by the Employer during this trial period, notice shall be submitted to the employee. Any decision by the Employer to return an employee to his/her original assignment before or at the conclusion of the ten (10) working day trial period shall not be arbitrable.

Section 4: Filling of a Vacancy

The Employer agrees to fill vacancies with the most qualified applicants. If, in the Employer's judgment, applicants are equally qualified, seniority, first within the vacant job category and then second within the bargaining unit, shall be the determining factor. An employee who is awarded a job under the provisions of this Section shall be subject to a trial period according to Section 3 above.

During the trial period, an employee shall receive the rate of pay for the job he/she is performing.

Section 5: Award

Within fifteen (15) workdays after the expiration of the posting period, the Employer shall award the position to the applicant who has been selected to fill the posted position. Each applicant shall be so notified in writing with a copy provided to the Association.

Section 6: Wage Scale Experience

An employee shall retain wage scale experience credit when transferred within the job categories covered by this Agreement.

When an employee vacates a position and accepts a higher paying position in a different category, he/she shall continue to receive the same hourly wage of the vacated position during the trial period of Section 3. above. Beginning with the eleventh (11th) working day in the new position the member shall be assigned to a step placement which shall not cause the member's hourly wage to be decreased.

When an employee maintains a position and accepts an additional position in a new category, he/she shall be placed on step one (1) of that position's wage schedule.

Section 7: Temporary Absence

If an employee is absent for a period exceeding, twelve (12) weeks his/her assignment shall be considered a vacancy which will be posted and

awarded utilizing the procedures specified in this Article. An employee returning to work whose position has been declared vacant according to this paragraph shall be permitted to bump the employee having the least seniority in the category of the returning employee. An employee shall notify the Employer, pursuant to Article 12, Section 1. E., of the intent to return to work.

Section 8: Involuntary Transfer

In the event it becomes necessary to make an involuntary transfer in any category, the employee with the least seniority in that category shall be transferred unless a more senior employee volunteers to be transferred

Section 9: Transfer to Non-Bargaining Unit Position

If an employee is transferred to a non-bargaining unit position with the school district for a period of up to six (6) months and is thereafter transferred again to a position within the bargaining unit, the employee shall have accumulated seniority while working in the non-unit position to which he/she was transferred. An employee transferred under the above circumstances shall retain seniority rights, as described above, for duration of time worked.

Section 10: Bus Routes

A meeting shall be held at least one (1) week prior to the start of the school year, at which time Bus Assistant/Special Education Bus Aide routes shall be posted setting forth the anticipated times. Letters will be mailed at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting to Bus Assistants/Special Education Bus Aides informing them of the meeting date unless the meeting date was included on the previous year's reasonable assurance letter.

- a. All routes shall be awarded on the basis of seniority.
- b. An a.m. and p.m. corresponding route are defined as one (1) route.
- c. Bus Assistants/Special Education Bus Aides shall be paid a minimum of one (1) hour for any run awarded or assigned.

Section 11: Changes to Bus Routes

If a bus assistant/special education bus aide's route becomes split, changed or discontinued after the beginning of the school year, the following will apply:

- a. In the event a route is decreased by a total of fifteen (15) minutes or more the Bus Assistant/Special Education Bus Aide on the route shall have the right to bump the least senior bus assistant/special education bus aide.

In the event a route is increased by a total of twenty-five (25) minutes or more, it shall be posted and awarded to the most senior bus assistant/special education bus aide indicating a desire to bump onto said route. The displaced assistant shall have the right to bump a less senior bus assistant/special education bus aide or claim a vacant position.

Section 12: Special Education Bus Aide

For the Special Education Bus Aide position, after all possible substitute/call-in staff are exhausted (sub bus drivers, other sub paras in the district), the Transportation Supervisor can place a bus driver in the Bus Aide position at the Driver's current rate of pay. This option is used only after all other substitute options have been exhausted.

The Association and the District shall meet to discuss options when ten (10) instances of using a bus driver have occurred in a school year.

Article 7 Work Schedule, Duties, and Compensation
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Section 1: Work Schedule

- A. The work schedule of each category covered by this Agreement shall be as set forth in Schedule A of this Agreement. Nothing therein shall be regarded as a guarantee of any number of hours of work per day or per week except with regard to the provisions of Schedule A pertaining to the educational assistants and Para-Educator.
- B. Nothing shall prevent an employee and his/her immediate supervisor from mutually agreeing to alter the employee's normal work schedule through the use of compensatory time. If mutual agreement is reached to use compensatory time for this purpose, it shall not obligate the Administration to payment of overtime when the compensatory time is worked.

Section 2: Compensation

Compensation for categories covered by this Agreement shall be as set forth in Schedule B.

Section 3: Overtime Compensation

- A. Time and one-half shall be paid for all hours over forty (40) worked in one week.
- B. Time and one-half shall be paid for all hours worked on Saturdays. Double time shall be paid for all hours worked on Sundays and holidays. These sums shall be in addition to holiday pay if the employee is entitled to holiday pay for that day.
- C. Compensatory time may be given if mutually agreeable to the Employer and the employee. Such compensation shall be time and one-half for all hours over forty (40) per week and shall not accumulate beyond two hundred forty (240) hours.

Section 4: Overtime Assignment

An employee shall work overtime on the following basis:

- A. Overtime will be assigned in advance by the Employer.
- B. Overtime shall first be rotated among employees within the same category and the same school building.
- C. If the overtime assignment is not filled as specified in paragraph B. of this Section, the overtime will next be offered to the most senior employee within the same job category but having a different building of regular assignment. In order to be eligible for overtime opportunities under this provision, the employee shall give written notification to his/her supervisor not later than September 1 of any school year or on the completion date of his/her probationary period if hired after the beginning of the school year.
- D. If the overtime work is not assigned pursuant to operation of paragraphs B. and C. of this Section, the Employer shall have the option to require the employee(s) having the least seniority in the affected category to perform the required overtime work.

Section 5: Job Descriptions

Written job descriptions and job titles shall be provided by the Employer for each bargaining unit position. The Association shall be consulted relative to such job descriptions. Where job descriptions are changed significantly, the employer will discuss changes with the Association. Job descriptions shall minimally include qualification for appointment, types of services to be performed, and a listing of basic performance expectations.

Section 6: Temporary Assignment

An employee required to work in a higher paid job category shall be paid the rate of the job he/she is performing. If required to work in a lower paid job, the employee shall be paid at his/her regular rate of pay.

Article 8 Seniority

Section 1: Probationary Period

A new employee hired into the bargaining unit shall undergo a probationary period of forty-five (45) days worked. Upon completion of this probationary period, the employee shall obtain seniority status and his/her name shall be entered upon the seniority list retroactive to the first date of probationary service.

- A. Probationary employees shall be represented by the Association for all purposes under this Agreement during the probationary period, except that the termination or evaluation of a probationary employee shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.
- B. Leave day credit shall accrue during the probationary period. If a paid holiday falls within a probationary period, the employee shall be paid for such holiday as per the Master Agreement.
- C. There shall be no seniority among probationary employees.
- D. A new employee will be credited with days worked towards their probationary period if all of the following conditions are met:
 - 1. The new employee is hired into the same position and in the same building/department as they were working as a substitute.
 - 2. There is no time elapsed between their workdays as a sub employee and the first day as a newly hired employee.

Section 2: Seniority Defined

Seniority shall be defined as length of service within a category included in this bargaining unit. Accumulation of seniority shall begin on the employee's first working day as described in Section 1 above. In the event two (2) or more employees begin work on the same day, the date of the job application from which they were hired shall determine position on the seniority list. In the case of job applications filed on the same date, position on the list shall be determined by lot.

Section 3: Seniority Lists

The Employer shall prepare and maintain seniority lists as defined in this Article. The seniority lists shall be provided annually to the Association by November 1. Said seniority list shall include each member's category and step. The Association shall notify the Employer of any errors within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the seniority lists. In the absence of a timely objection, the Employer's seniority lists will be considered conclusive. The seniority lists shall reflect the following categories:

Category 1:	Health Aide, Library Para, Hall Monitor, Student Responsibility Room Para
Category 2:	Special Ed Bus Aides, Lunchroom, Recess, Bus Assistant, Parking Lot Duty
Category 3:	Special Ed Assistants (Program, One-to-One, Least Restrictive Environment), Classroom Assistants, Intervention Paras, ELL Intervention Paras

Section 4: Loss of Seniority

Seniority shall be lost if the employee:

1. Voluntarily quits;
2. Is discharged and the discharge is not reversed through the grievance procedures set forth in this Agreement;
3. Is absent for two (2) consecutive working days without notifying the Employer. In proper cases, exceptions may be made. After such absence, the Employer shall send the employee written notification, at the last known address, that the employee has lost seniority and has been

terminated. A copy of such notice will be provided to the Association.

4. Does not return to work when recalled from layoff, as set forth in the recall procedure
5. Does not return from sick leave or other leave of absence
6. Retires
7. Otherwise terminates his/her employment relationship with the Employer; or
8. Is laid off and is not recalled to work within two (2) years from the time of layoff.

Article 9 Reduction in Work Force

Section 1: Authority

In the event the Board of Education determines to reduce staff, the procedures outlined in this Article shall be followed.

Section 2: Notification of Layoff

No employee shall be laid off pursuant to a reduction in the work force unless the employee is notified of said layoff fourteen (14) days prior to the effective date of the layoff, except notice for the Classroom Assistant category shall be seven (7) calendar days.

Section 3: Order of Reduction/Bumping

In the event of a necessary reduction in a job category, the Employer shall first lay off probationary employees within that category provided there are senior employees remaining within the category who are available and can perform the required work. Next, the least senior employee within the job category affected by the reduction shall be laid off. In no case shall a new employee be hired in a job category while there are laid off employees in that category who are qualified and available for the vacant or newly created position.

An employee whose position has been eliminated due to reduction of work force or who has been affected by a layoff/elimination of position may bump the least senior employee in another category provided the following conditions are satisfied:

1. There is no "bump" possible within the current assignment job category of the employee affected by the reduction in force,
2. The "bumping" employee is qualified and able to perform all duties of the least senior employee in the different category whom the "bumping" employee is displacing, and
3. The "bumping" employee possesses sufficient seniority in the different job category into which placement is desired. The bump is exercised upon the least senior employee in the different job category.

When an employee affected by reduction in force is not able to exercise a bump within his/her current job category or into a different job category for which he/she possesses sufficient seniority (as described above), he/she shall be placed on layoff status with recall rights as described in this Article.

Section 4: Recall

A. Recall to Same Category.

1. Laid off employees possessing seniority shall be recalled in order of seniority, with the most senior laid off employee being recalled first to an open position. The Employer shall not be required to post such openings as vacancies under Article 6 of this Agreement.
2. Notices of recall shall be sent by certified or registered mail to the last known address shown on the Employer's records. The recall notice shall state the time and date on which the employee is to report back to work
3. A recalled employee shall be given five (5) workdays from receipt of notice to notify the Employer of the date that he/she will be returning to work. Said return date must be within fifteen (15) workdays of the receipt of the notice. The Employer may fill the open position on a temporary basis until the recalled employee reports to work.
4. An employee recalled to a position of an equivalent number of hours, in a category where the employee is qualified and possesses sufficient seniority, is obligated to take said work at the step of the employees previous category. An employee who declines recall to work shall forfeit his/her seniority rights and shall be considered a quit.

5. An employee on layoff status shall accrue seniority but no advancement of salary steps during the period of layoff in the category from which the employee was laid off. Upon recall the employee shall continue to accrue seniority only in the category of his/her assignment.

B. Placement Outside Seniority Category

A laid off employee shall be eligible for assignment to a different job category within the bargaining unit where he/she does not possess seniority if all of the following conditions are met:

1. A "vacancy" as defined in this Agreement exists and there are no employees on layoff status within the category of that vacancy.
2. The employee from the different category meets the posted position requirements necessary to qualify for the vacancy. In the event more than one employee from a different category applies for a vacancy under this provision, the Employer shall determine which person is best qualified for the position and shall award the assignment on that basis. Such determination by the Employer shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.
3. Failure to apply for and/or qualify for a vacancy in another category shall not relinquish a laid off employee's right to recall in his/her own previous seniority category.
4. The Employer shall have the right to award the job first to a qualified employee within the same job category (either currently employed or on layoff status) before determining to offer any employment opportunities to employees in a different job category. However, laid off employees in different categories who meet the posted job requirements shall have priority over currently employed employees seeking transfer to a different category, irrespective of seniority.
5. An employee who is awarded a job under the provisions of this Section shall be subject to a trial period pursuant to Article 6, Section 3. If the employee is determined to be unsatisfactory by the Employer during this trial period, the employee shall be returned to lay off status without prejudice to his/her right to recall to his/her original seniority category when a vacancy for recall purposes occurs.

6. An employee who accepts a job under the provisions of this Section for less hours than the position from which they were laid off may choose to also retain recall rights per Article 8, Section 4.

Section 5: Recall Notices

It is the employee's responsibility to keep the business office informed of the employee's current telephone number and address or of any change in phone number and/or address within three (3) working days of such change. In the event an employee fails to comply with this procedure, the Employer shall not be obligated to recall the employee until such time as correct information is submitted. Further, the employer shall be held harmless for any time, wages or recall opportunities lost because of such failure by the employee.

Section 6: COBRA

Any employee laid off pursuant to this Article may, upon application and at his/her option and expense, continue to receive insurance protection, as outlined in this Agreement, under the provisions of COBRA. Such continuation of insurance benefits shall be contingent on prior payment by the employee of the applicable policy premiums and is further subject to rules and conditions established by the carrier and/or the policyholder.

Section 7: Priority Substitution

A laid off employee shall, upon application, and at his/her option be granted priority status on the substitute list for the category from which he/she was laid off. An employee serving as a substitute in this capacity shall be paid at the first step of the position in which substituting.

Section 8: Bumping Rights

- A. If a Classroom Assistant is laid off during the school year due to a loss in student enrollment and the same employee had obtained that position by bidding into it from a Category 6 (Lunchroom Assistant, Recess Assistant, or Ready Start Bus Assistant) position during the same school year, that employee shall be able to bump back directly to the Category 6 position he/she held immediately prior to successfully bidding on the Classroom Assistant position.
- B. If the Category 6 position held by the displaced Classroom Assistant is no longer in existence, the displaced employee shall be entitled to exercise bumping rights as otherwise specified in Article 9, Section 3.
- C. The right of a Classroom Assistant employee to revert to his/her former Category 6 position, according to the process described above, shall exist

only for the balance of the initial school year in which the Category 6 employee successfully bids upon and assumes a Classroom Assistant position. In subsequent school years a displaced Classroom Assistant shall be subject to the provisions of layoff and recall as outlined in the other Sections of this Article and shall not be entitled to bump according to the procedures specified in this Section.

- D. If a Classroom Assistant exercises bumping rights over a Category 6 employee, according to the process described in this Section, the timelines for notification of layoff specified in Section 2 above shall be considered waived with respect to the separation of the displaced Category 6 employee. However, the Category 6 employee so displaced shall possess bumping and recall rights as specified in this Article with the exception of the right to bump the Classroom Assistant employee who has reverted to his/her former Category 6 assignment held previously in the same school year.

Article 10 Fringe Benefits

Section 1: Insurances

An employee in the Educational Assistant/Para-Educator category shall be eligible for the following:

1. ADN (80/80/80:\$1,300)
2. Board paid life insurance of \$15,000 term with AD&D.
The Board may bid the life insurance carrier.
3. NVA – Vision Coverage – Single Subscriber Only

Section 2: Section 125 Plan

- A. The Board will administer a Cafeteria Plan under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- B. It is the responsibility of each eligible employee to comply with all requirements for eligibility, enrollment and coverage specified in the Cafeteria Plan and/or by any insurance carrier, insurance policyholder or third-party administrator pertaining to the underlying benefits set forth in the Cafeteria Plan. These responsibilities shall include, but shall not be limited to, initial enrollment, benefit election, and submission of all information necessary for claims processing and or claims administration.
- C. All disputes regarding coverage and claims processing with respect to the foregoing insurance plans shall be solely between the eligible employee and insurance carrier, policyholder and/or third-party administrator. Any

disputes relative to the administration and/or operation of the Cafeteria Plan shall be resolved in conformance with the Claims Procedure section of that plan.

- D. It is agreed that the sole obligation of the Board shall be to make such premium payments required under this Article and other payments as may be authorized by the Cafeteria Plan during the periods of an employee's eligibility for participation in that Plan and for fringe benefit plan enrollment under this Agreement.
- E. In the event that an employee waives available coverage(s) under the Cafeteria Plan and thereby elects to receive additional compensation under PAK-B, pursuant to the terms of the Plan, any direction of that compensation to a tax-deferred annuity under Section 403 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code or within the meaning of Section 1224 of the Revised School Code shall be regarded as a voluntary and elective contribution made by the employee through salary reduction.

Section 3: General Conditions of Fringe Benefits

- A. An employee newly hired by the Board shall be eligible for Board-paid insurance premiums upon acceptance of written application by the insurance carrier(s) on the first day of the month following the month work commenced.
- B. The Board agrees to provide the above-mentioned benefit programs within the underwriting rules and regulations as set forth by the carrier(s) in the Master Contract held by the policyholder.
- C. Changes in family status shall be reported by the employee to the personnel office within thirty (30) days of such change. The employee shall be responsible for any overpayment of premiums made by the Board in his/her behalf for failure to comply with this paragraph.
- D. Any employee newly hired working less than fifteen (15) hours per week and/or thirty-six (36) weeks per year shall not be entitled to any fringe benefits under Article 10 during his/her first three (3) years of employment. He/she would become eligible on the first open enrollment period after his/her third (3rd) anniversary date.

Article 11 Paid Leaves

Section 1: Sick Leave

A. The Employer shall furnish each employee with a written statement at the beginning of each school year setting forth the total accumulated sick leave credit for said employee. The employee will have ten (10) days from receipt of the written statement in which to bring to the attention of the Employer any alleged error in the stated amount of sick leave credit. In the absence of timely notification by the Employee, the Employer's records shall be considered conclusive.

B. Sick leave shall accrue as follows:

Each educational assistant/para-educator employee shall be credited with nine (9) days of sick leave per year, accumulative to sixty (60) days. Such days shall be credited at the beginning of the school year.

Each employee in this category who has reached the maximum accumulation and has not utilized his/her allotment of sick days in a given school year shall be paid seventy-five percent (75%) of his/her daily rate for every day more than the maximum of sixty (60) days.

C. Bargaining unit members with perfect attendance (No sick leave used on days while school is in session) will receive a \$200 stipend to be paid in the last pay period of the school year. Bargaining unit members with no more than 2 sick-leave absences will receive \$100 stipend also payable in the last pay period of the school year. This is in addition to the payout. addressed in the paragraph above (B). Sick leave used for approved Family Medical Leave and/or to supplant a snow day cannot be used to disqualify an employee for this bonus.

C. Utilization of sick leave shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The employee may use all or any portion of his/her sick leave to recover from his/her own illness or disability.
2. The employee may use up to five (5) days per year for the purpose of attending to illness of a spouse, child, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, or any minor, legal dependent living in the same household.
3. An employee absent for more than three (3) days or who demonstrates a consistent pattern of abuse may be required to submit a statement from his/her doctor.

- D. Absence due to injury or illness incurred during the employee's employment shall be charged against the employee's sick leave days, provided that the Employer shall pay such employee the difference between his/her normal compensation and benefits received under the Michigan Worker's Compensation Act, deductible from the employee's accumulated sick leave.
- E. If the employee has initiated a claim for Worker's Compensation but the validity of the claim has not been determined or benefits have not commenced, the employee may use sick leave accumulated if the employee is medically unable to report for work. However, when Worker's Compensation benefits are received, the employee shall reimburse the school district for any sick leave payments received during the benefit period. Said reimbursement shall be made immediately upon receipt of any Worker's Compensation benefits by the employee. Upon such payment to the District, sick leave so utilized shall be reinstated to the employee's personal sick leave accumulation.
- F. Each employee in the educational assistant and para-educator category who works six (6) or more hours per day will have one (1) hour per month which may be used for doctor or dental appointments which cannot otherwise be scheduled. This time is to be utilized for doctor and dental appointments concerning the employee only and will not be charged to sick leave or personal leave.

Section 2: Funeral/Bereavement Leave

- A. The employee shall be granted a maximum of five (5) paid leave days per death in the immediate family. "Immediate Family" shall be defined for purposes of this Section as spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, brother, sister, and any legal dependents.

Employees using more than three (3) working days of bereavement leave for a death in the immediate family shall, in advance of utilizing such additional days, notify the Employer of the circumstances necessitating the utilization of the maximum five (5) days leave limit for this purpose.

- B. The employee shall be granted one (1) day paid leave per death for other relatives. "Other Relatives" shall be defined for purposes of this Section as aunt, uncle, cousin, nephew, niece, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or person to whom the employee was engaged to marry.

If the employee has no personal leave days left, he/she may use one (1) paid leave day per year for death of persons living in the same household.

- C. Additional leave may be granted in special cases, such as for travel time, without pay, subject to the approval of the Administration.
- D. Unused funeral/bereavement leave shall not be cumulative.
- E. For a funeral involving a present or former employee, or where the employee serves as a pall bearer, the employee will be allowed up to four (4) hours to attend. The employee in such circumstances will make up lost time with an equal amount of compensatory time. The Employer reserves the right to limit the number of employees absent under this provision on a given day.
- F. Should a holiday fall during a bereavement leave, it will not extend the bereavement leave allowed.
- G. Bereavement is to be taken on consecutive days and within a reasonable amount of time unless given special permission by the superintendent or designee.

Section 3: Personal Business Leave

- A. At the beginning of every school year, each employee shall be credited with two (2) day(s) personal business leave:
- B. Personal business leave shall be utilized in accordance with the following conditions:
 - 1. Such days are to be used for conducting business that the employee cannot arrange to conduct other than during work hours.
 - 2. An employee planning to utilize a personal business day or days shall notify his/her supervisor at least two (2) days in advance, except in cases of emergency.
 - 3. Personal business leave shall not be granted on the opening or closing days of school nor on the day prior to or following a holiday or vacation unless an emergency exists and utilization is approved by the employee's immediate supervisor.
 - 4. Personal business leave shall be available for the practice of individual religious preferences.

5. It is recommended that no more than one (1) personal business leave day be used during each six (6) month period, except in cases of emergency.
6. At the end of each contract year all unused personal business leave days shall be credited to the employee's accumulated sick leave.
7. The Employer reserves the right to limit the number of employees absent under this provision on a given day to no more than twenty percent (20%) in a category provided that the category has five (5) or more members.

Section 4: Jury Duty and Subpoenas

Any employee called for jury duty or subpoenaed to testify during work hours in any judicial or administrative matter shall be paid his/her full compensation for such time provided the employee shall remit all witness and juror fees (excluding expenses) to the Employer upon return to work. Subpoenas issued in conjunction with litigation between the Association and the Employer will be exempted from this Section.

Section 5: Holidays

- A. Employees will receive their regular daily pay, exclusive of any overtime, additional time, sub pay or other income generated from special circumstances, for days indicated as "paid holidays" in B.
- B. The following holidays shall be considered as "Paid Holidays":

Thanksgiving	2 days (day after)
Christmas	3 days (day before, and day after)
New Year's Day	2 days (day before)
Monday of Spring Break	1 Day
Memorial Day	1 day
Friday before Labor Day	1 day
Labor Day	1 day
- C. The special education bus aide that works the 231-day program (Doris Klaussen Center) shall have the Fourth of July as a paid holiday.
- D. When a holiday is observed by the Employer during an employee's scheduled vacation, the holiday will not be considered as a vacation day.

- E. If a holiday falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, the Friday before or the Monday after shall be observed as the holiday, as determined by the Employer, unless otherwise required by law.
- F. To receive holiday pay, an employee must work his/her entire shift on both the last regularly scheduled workday before the holiday and the first regularly scheduled workday after the holiday. The only exception will be illness verified by a doctor's statement, or funeral/bereavement leave with documentation.

Section 6: Retirement

Any employee who retires and has served in the Harper Creek Community Schools for not less than twenty (20) years shall be eligible for payment of one-half (½) of his/her then current daily rate of pay for each sick day of accrued.

Article 12 Unpaid Leaves

Section 1: General Conditions

- A. A leave of absence without pay or benefits up to one (1) year in duration may be granted upon written request from an employee. An employee may apply for a one (1) year extension of this leave. During said leave, seniority shall continue to accumulate but salary schedule experience credit shall remain frozen.
- B. The employee shall notify the Superintendent in writing of his/her desire to take leave under this Article. The letter requesting leave shall include the proposed commencement date of the leave and the date of return. Except in the case of an emergency, the employee shall give such notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the date on which the leave is to begin.
- C. Upon expiration of a leave of absence, an employee shall be reinstated to the position from which the leave was taken if it is in existence; or, if not, to an equivalent bargaining unit position for which he/she possesses sufficient seniority and is qualified. Return to an assignment shall be subject to the operation of the reduction in personnel procedures specified in this Agreement.
- D. At least fifteen (15) working days prior to the date a leave is scheduled to expire, the employee shall notify the Employer, in writing, of his/her intent to return to work.

Section 2: Child Rearing/Family Medical Leave

- A. Employees eligible for FMLA must have been employed for at least twelve (12) months and have worked at least 1250 hours of service during the previous twelve (12) month period. FMLA unpaid leave is to be taken concurrently with paid leaves for serious health conditions, birth of a newborn child or care of a new child, as defined by the FMLA. The employee is entitled to all rights conferred under the Act. Eligible employees are entitled to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid FMLA leave during any twelve (12) month period, or twenty-six (26) weeks under the injured service member provision.
- B. Where an employee's spouse, child or parent has a serious health condition, an unpaid leave of absence shall be granted for a period of up to twelve (12) weeks. An employee who is unable to work because of personal illness or disability and who has exhausted all sick leave available shall, upon application, be granted a leave of absence of up to six (6) months without pay. An employee who is still unable to work may be granted an extension of up to one (1) year by the Board of Education.
- C. An unpaid leave of absence shall be granted to an employee for the purpose of childcare, as defined within the Act. Such leave shall be taken within the twelve (12) month period immediately following the birth or adoption of the employee's child. The length of leave under this paragraph shall not exceed twelve (12) weeks, renewable at the discretion of the board for up to an additional one (1) year period.
- D. An employee adopting a child (children) or having a child (children) placed with him/her for foster care purposes shall begin his/her leave at any time between entry of a court order awarding custody and twelve (12) weeks after the child arrives in the home. In the case of an adoption or foster care placement, a copy of the order awarding custody to the employee shall be provided to the Administration, if requested, in connection with the employee's application for those purposes.
- E. When leave is taken under this section to care for an employee's seriously ill spouse, child, or parent, or due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee will, upon administrative request, provide medical certification from a health care provider supporting the necessity for the leave. An employee taking leave under this Article for medical and/or psychological reasons shall provide, at the Board's request, appropriate verification of the necessity for leave and the employee's fitness to return to duty at the conclusion of the leave. The Board has the right to require that a second opinion (at the Board's expense) be obtained. If that opinion differs from that of the employee's health care provider, the health care

provider, the employee, and Administration (in consultation with the Association, if requested by the employee) shall mutually designate a third health care provider whose opinion relative to leave eligibility or initial fitness to return to work shall be considered final and binding on the Board, employee, and Association. The cost of this examination shall be paid by the Board.

- F. An employee who is disabled may continue in active employment provided he/she continues to perform his/her regular duties satisfactorily.
- G. Upon expiration of a leave of absence under this Section, an employee shall be reinstated to the position from which the leave was taken if it is in existence; or, if not, to a position within his/her category for which he/she possesses sufficient seniority. Return to an assignment shall be subject to the operation of the reduction in personnel procedures specified in this Agreement.
- H. The Board and the employee agree to cooperate in scheduling commencement and return from leave at a time which minimizes disruption to the continuity of the operations of the District. When leave is foreseeable, the following guidelines shall be required:
 - 1. Requirement of Notice – in any case in which the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement, the employee shall provide the employer with not less than thirty (30) days’ notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee’s intention to take leave under such paragraph, except that if the date of the birth or placement requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.
 - 2. Duties of Employment – in any case in which the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee:
 - a. shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the son, daughter, spouse, or parent of the employee, as appropriate; and
 - b. shall provide the employer with not less than 30 days’ notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee’s intention to take leave under such subparagraph, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than thirty (30) days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

3. Notice for leave due to active duty of family member – in any case in which the necessity for leave under subsection is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to activate duty in support of a contingency operation, the employee shall provide such notice to the employer as is reasonable and practicable.
- I. The Board of Education will continue premium payments for health care benefits for an employee who has been granted an unpaid FMLA leave under this Section. If the employee fails to return from a leave at its expiration (except in the event of the continuance, onset or recurrence of a serious health condition of the employee or other circumstances beyond the employee’s control), the Board shall have the right to recover all premium payments made during the unpaid leave interval. These amounts may permissibly be deducted from any wage or other payments due the employee with any deficiency to be remitted by the employee to the Board in accordance with the applicable state law.

An employee eligible for twelve (12) weeks of leave under the Family Medical Leave Act may choose to use or be required, by the District, to use accrued paid time, such as sick leave, vacation days or personal days, for all or part of the twelve (12) week leave.

- J. Injured service member leave – FMLA eligible employees may take leave of up to twenty-six (26) weeks of FMLA leave to care for a parent, child, spouse, or next of kin who is an injured service member. To be considered “next of kin” the employee must be the nearest blood relative of the injured service member. This leave is only available in a single twelve (12) month period.
- K. Qualifying exigencies leave. FMLA eligible employees make take leave of up to twelve (12) weeks for qualifying exigencies arising out of the employee’s parent, child, or spouse being on active duty or being called to active duty. This type of leave is included as part of the twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave available to eligible employees.

Article 13 Continuing Education

Section 1: Required Courses

An employee who is required to take specific high school or post-secondary courses by the Administration shall be fully reimbursed for cost of tuition, books and mileage costs incurred.

Section 2: Reimbursement for Continuing Education

An employee participating in an Adult Education Program or earning high school level or college level credits shall be eligible to receive reimbursement from the Employer for full tuition, cost of books and other required materials if given prior approval by the Central Administration Office and upon submission of written notice of course completion with a passing grade of "C" or above. It is understood that reimbursement will only be made for courses which:

1. Maintain or improve skills required in the employee's current employment, or
2. Meet the requirements imposed by statute, administrative regulation and/or this Agreement for the employee's retention of a position in his/her seniority category.

Section 3: Seminars

An employee shall be eligible for registration costs, travel expenses and full pay to attend seminars which are related to employment within the School District, if given prior approval by the Central Administration Office. An employee shall be eligible for mileage reimbursement when travel is requested by the Administration.

Section 4: Professional Development Hours

The District will provide a minimum of ten (10) professional development hours each year to be aligned with teacher professional development days. An additional ten (10) hours of professional development may be obtained with preapproval from Central Administration Office and may include online training. Such time will be paid at the employee's current rate of pay.

Para Educators and Educational Assistants shall receive their respective hourly rate per hour for attending professional development in the summer and after school hours.

Article 14 School Closing

Section 1: Announcement

When the Employer determines to close school(s), reasonable effort shall be made to make such public announcements prior to 6:30 a.m.

Section 2: Early Closure/Delay of School

If school closes early Para-Educators and educational assistants' normal workday shall end one-half (1/2) hour after all students leave the building. Para-Educators and educational assistants shall receive their regular rate of pay for the day.

If the District must reschedule those days, the effected employees will work with no additional compensation.

Para-Educators and Educational Assistants must notify their Supervisor by October 1 if they choose to report on 2-hour delays. These employees must notify their Supervisor if they choose not to report for 2 the hour delay.

Section 3: Act of God Days

- A. Scheduled days of student instruction which are not held because of conditions not within the control of school authorities, such as inclement weather, fires, epidemics, mechanical breakdowns, or health conditions (as defined by city, county, or state health authorities) will be rescheduled to ensure that there are a minimum number of days of student instruction as prescribed by Michigan law.

School year" employees who are not required to work on such days shall be excused from reporting and shall be paid at their regular daily rate of pay for the first three (3) days. However, "school year" employees shall work on any rescheduled days beyond the first three (3) of student instruction and shall be paid only when the days are made up.

“School year” employees have the option of utilizing sick/personal days to receive pay in excess of the three (3) district-paid days. The request for using sick or personal days must be made within the same pay period as the day. Sick days used to supplant snow days shall not be considered as part of the attendance incentive and shall not preclude the member from receiving the attendance stipend.

- B. The parties agree that this contract provision has been negotiated to comply with the provisions of the State Aid Act and to ensure that the District will incur no loss of State Aid. Further, the parties recognize the school district's obligation to comply with any requirement set forth by the State Board of Education respecting the number of "student instruction" days, as defined by that agency. In addition to any requirement of the State Aid Act to receive full State Aid, the parties agree to reschedule lost days of student instruction (attributable to the above conditions) to ensure the minimum number of instructional days mandated by the Michigan Department of Education or otherwise by law.

Article 15 Resignation

Section 1: Notification

An employee desiring to resign shall submit a resignation, in writing, to the Administration Office at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the effective date of the resignation unless new employment requirements prohibit. In such case, the employee shall submit the resignation at least ten (10) working days prior to the effective date of the resignation.

Section 2: Severance Payout

Any employee who discontinues his/her services, in accordance with Section 1 above, does not forfeit his/her right to all severance payments required by this Agreement.

Article 16 General Provisions

If any provision of this Agreement or any application of the Agreement shall be found contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law; but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

Pursuant to the Public Employee Relations Act of 1947, as amended in 2023 Section 15, an Emergency Manager appointed under the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act shall have the authority to reject, modify or terminate this agreement according to MCL.

Article 17 Communications

Section 1: Employer and Association Meetings

Representatives of the Employer and the Association, by mutual agreement, may meet on one (1) workday each month for the purpose of reviewing the Administration of the contract and to resolve problems which may arise. These meetings are not intended to bypass the grievance procedure or to be negotiations. Each party will submit to the other, on or before the Friday prior to the meeting, an agenda covering what they wish to discuss.

Section 2: Signed Agreement

There shall be two (2) signed copies of any final agreement. One (1) copy shall be retained by the Employer and one (1) by the Association.

Section 3: Computer Access

All bargaining unit members shall have computer access within their building to access district email and for legitimate educational purposes consistent with HCCS's mission statement and signed Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA) form.

Article 18 Work Rules

Section 1: Enforcement

The Employer retains the right to promulgate and uniformly enforce work rules that do not conflict with the express terms of this Agreement.

Section 2: New Work Rules

New work rules shall be given to the Association's president at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective date of the work rule being established. Within said thirty (30) calendar days, the Association may request a meeting with the Employer for the purpose of discussing the work rule(s). Copies of work rules in effect shall be given to all new employees upon employment.

Section 3: Posting of Work Rules

All work rules shall be posted. Upon the execution of this Agreement, all employees shall be given a copy of existing work rules.

Article 19 Bargaining Unit Work

Section 1: Supervisory Positions

Supervisory employees shall not be permitted to perform work within the bargaining unit except in case of an emergency arising out of an unforeseen circumstance which calls for immediate attention, or for instruction or training of employees, including demonstrating the proper method of accomplishing the task assigned.

Section 2: Temporary Services

The Employer shall be allowed to secure the services, as needed, of a temporary employee for the purpose of replacing an employee on sick leave, leave of absence, or vacation. A temporary employee shall be paid at a rate to be determined by the Administration, but the rate shall not exceed that of the employee being replaced. A temporary employee shall accrue no rights under this Agreement.

Section 4: Creation of Position

The Employer shall have the right to create part-time bargaining unit positions in all categories under the following conditions:

1. A part-time employee is not eligible for overtime work unless it has been refused by all full-time employees in the same category.
2. When the District hires a part-time employee, he/she must be hired for at least eight (8) weeks during a fiscal year.
3. The District shall not decrease the number of current full-time employees due to hiring of part-time employees.

Article 20. Duration of Agreement

This Agreement shall be effective upon ratification and shall continue in effect, expiring at the end of the 30th day of June 2026.

This agreement may be extended by written agreement of both parties.

For the Association:

For the District:

Susanne Davison, President HC Paras

Rob Ridgeway, Superintendent/Date

Beau Bess, President Board of Education

Erin Allwardt, Secretary Board of Education

Schedule A Work Schedules

1. All employees shall have their hours of work set by the Administration, after consultation with the involved employee(s).
2. All employees working 6 hours or more per day shall be entitled to a paid duty-free lunch period, taken on their respective campus, of at least one-half (½) hour per day. Employees leaving campus during their duty-free lunch period shall receive an unpaid lunch period.

Special Education Assistants required to be with their students during lunch will be entitled to two (2) fifteen (15) minute duty-free release times in mid-morning and mid-afternoon as scheduled by the building administrator.

3. All employees shall be given written notice of date of return to work each year no later than June 1 of the prior year.

Schedule B Compensation

- Category 1: Health Aide, Library Para, Hall Monitor, Student Responsibility Room Para
- Category 2: Special Ed Bus Aides, Lunchroom, Recess, Bus Assistant, Parking Lot Duty
- Category 3: Special Ed Assistants (Program, One-to-One, Least Restrictive Environment), Classroom Assistants, Intervention Paras, ELL Intervention Paras

<u>Category 1</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
<u>Step 1</u>	<u>\$15.00</u>	<u>\$15.50</u>
<u>Step 2</u>	<u>\$16.00</u>	<u>\$16.50</u>
<u>Step 3</u>	<u>\$17.50</u>	<u>\$18.00</u>

<u>Category 2</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
<u>Step 1</u>	<u>\$14.75</u>	<u>\$15.25</u>
<u>Step 2</u>	<u>\$15.50</u>	<u>\$16.00</u>
<u>Step 3</u>	<u>\$16.50</u>	<u>\$17.00</u>

<u>Category 3</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
<u>Step 1</u>	<u>\$16.00</u>	<u>\$16.50</u>
<u>Step 2</u>	<u>\$17.00</u>	<u>\$17.50</u>
<u>Step 3</u>	<u>\$18.50</u>	<u>\$19.00</u>

Section 3: Payout language

All employees shall be paid at the end of the school year for each year of this agreement the following.

Longevity	
<u>Years</u>	
5-9	\$500.00
10-15	\$750.00
16-20	\$1250.00
21 +	\$1750.00

Section 4: Miscellaneous—All Employees

A. Increments

1. Any employee first hired before December 31 of any year shall receive an increment raise the following July 1. Any employee first hired on or after December 31 but before July 1 shall not receive an increment raise (except as provided below) on the following July 1 but shall instead receive an increment raise on the July 1 immediately following the employee's completion of twelve (12) months of service.

B. When any position not listed in the above wage schedules is established by the Employer, the Employer may designate and implement a job category and a rate structure for the position. If the Association disagrees with the rate structure, the rate shall be subject to negotiation.

Any member of the bargaining unit can add an off-schedule premium of \$.35/hour to their wage by obtaining at least one of the following:

- Earn an Associate's degree or higher,
- Successfully pass the Work Keys/ETS in Reading, Writing and Math (or equivalent) test, or
- Obtain twenty (20) hours of pre-approved professional development. Professional development may include attending District PD days and outside professional development at the employee's expense.

- C. Lunchroom Aides/Recess Assistants and Bus Assistants/Special Education Bus Aides will receive their choice of one (1) winter or spring jacket every three (3) years after having served for three (3) years in that position. The wearing of these jackets will be required, weather permitting.
- D. Employees assigned to work at a Kindergarten Roundup Event by their building administrator shall be compensated at a rate of \$25.00 per hour with a maximum of four (4) employees from each building per event.
- E. Employees assigned by their building administrator to test incoming Kindergarten students shall be compensated at a rate of \$25.00 per hour with a maximum of four (4) employees from each building.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT
Between
THE HARPER CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION
And
THE HARPER CREEK EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS AND PARA-EDUCATORS, MEA/NEA

Both parties agree that hereby agree to support approved staff under the Grow Your Own Grant by:

1. Providing a cost-free pathway to gaining an additional endorsement
2. Providing regular paid release time. Release time will be coordinated with the building principal, the staff member, and human resources.
3. This Letter of Agreement shall establish no precedent for either party.

For the Union

For the District

Susanne Davison
Union President

Rob Ridgeway
Superintendent

Sandy Paesens
MEA UniServ Director

Beau Bess
Board of Education President

Erin Allwardtc
Board of Education Secretary