

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
NORTHWOOD SCHOOL BOARD
AND THE
NORTHWOOD EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2025– June 30, 2028

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ARTICLE I – RECOGNITION, JURISDICTION, DEFINITIONS

- A. Recognition: The Northwood School Board recognizes the Northwood Educational Support Personnel Association, NEA-New Hampshire, as the exclusive bargaining agent for the purposes of negotiations, collective bargaining and the processing of grievances for those employees in those positions specifically recognized in the certification order as defined by the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board; all Paraeducators, Custodians, Secretaries, Library Aides and Certified Nurse Assistants. Excluded: Facilities Manager and Nurse.
- B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny any employee rights guaranteed to them under applicable state and/or federal civil rights law.
- C. Definitions:
 - 1. The term "employee" when used hereinafter, shall refer to any person who is a member of the bargaining unit.
 - 2. The term "Board" shall refer to the Northwood School Board.
 - 3. The term "Association" shall refer to the Northwood Educational Support Personnel Association, NEA–New Hampshire.
 - 4. The term "parties" shall refer to the School Board and the Association.
 - 5. The term "Principal" shall refer to the Principal or the Assistant Principal of the Northwood School.
 - 6. The term "Association Representative" shall refer to any qualified designee of the Association.
 - 7. Whenever the singular is used in the Agreement, it is to include the plural.
 - 8. The term "normal work day" shall mean any scheduled workday as defined by that employee's individual employment memorandum of agreement.

ARTICLE II – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The Northwood School Board as a statutory branch of the New Hampshire Board of Education is the legal entity endowed with the powers and duties to effectively operate the public schools. The Board retains, subject to the language, provisions and implementation of this Agreement, all powers, rights, and authority vested in it by laws, rules, and regulations including, but not limited to: the right to make and amend School Board Policy; manage and control school properties and facilities; select and direct personnel; determine, manage, and control the school curriculum; relieve employees from duties; take such appropriate action as it deems necessary to maintain efficiency in the operation of the school system; and determine the methods, means, and personnel by which the functions of the school district will be performed with prejudice toward the educational process of the Northwood School and with the children's education as the central focus. It is mutually agreed that all matters of managerial policy within the exclusive prerogative of the public employer or confided exclusively to the public employer by statute or regulations adopted pursuant to statute shall not be subjects for negotiation purposes and as defined and provided for in RSA 273A:1, XI.

ARTICLE III – NEGOTIATIONS

- A Negotiations will be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in RSA 273-A.

- B All cost items contained herein are subject to approval by the annual School District Meeting. If such items are not approved, the Board and the Association shall reopen negotiations.
 - 1. In the event of an impasse, it shall be governed by RSA 273-A:12.
 - 2. Nothing in this article shall prohibit reaching agreement between the declaring of impasse and the School District Meeting.
- C The parties agree that there will be no strikes or other forms of job action on the basis of the prohibition of such activities according to RSA 273-A:13.

ARTICLE IV – EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

- A. Fair Practices: As sole collective bargaining agent, the Association will accept into voluntary membership all staff covered by this Agreement without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, political activities, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, affiliation with other organizations, or any other condition where discrimination is now, or becomes, prohibited by local, state or federal laws.
- B. The Northwood School Board and the Association agree that there will be no discrimination in the hiring of employees or in their assignments, promotion, transfer, or discipline because of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information lawful out of school political activities, or any other condition where discrimination is now, or becomes, prohibited by local, state or federal laws.
- C. Protection of Individual and Group Rights: Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent any person from informally discussing any dispute with his immediate superior. No such dispute shall be resolved contrary to the Association’s interpretation of the Agreement.
- D. Transporting Children: Employees shall not be required to transport children, except in an emergency.

ARTICLE V – ASSOCIATION PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. A committee of the Association representatives shall have the option to meet with the Principal to discuss matters relating to the welfare of the school. Both parties shall provide input for the meeting.
- B. A copy of the public agenda of all School Board meetings will be sent by email to the Association President at least twenty-four hours before the meeting.
- C. Since the Board and the Association are working together in good faith for the advantage of the School, both parties will make available to each other, upon request, without prejudice, all information in public domain.
- D. The Northwood School District Policy Manual

The Board make publicly available online a current and updated copy of the complete Board policy manual.
- E. Existing Laws and Regulations Preserved

1. The rights and benefits of persons provided herein are in addition to those provided by State or Federal law, rule, or regulation, including without limitation all applicable contract, pension, or education laws and regulations.
2. This Agreement is intended to comply with School Board policy for the term of said Agreement, and the Board shall carry out in good faith the commitments contained herein and give them full force and effect as School Board Policy.

If a discrepancy does arise, Article XV shall apply.

3. This provision shall in no way imply any circumvention of any statute or law, State Board or School Board Policy.

F. Association Activity at the School Level

1. Before the opening of school, during lunch time and after the close of school on school days, the Association shall have the privilege to use areas approved by the Principal in the school building for meetings of employees, provided there is no interference with any scheduled school activities or with the continuity of work assignments, as determined by the Principal.
2. The Association shall have the right to place Association related materials in the mailboxes of employees with the advance knowledge of the Principal. The Association shall have the right to use the District's email system, printers, and photocopiers. The cost to the District of the use of such equipment shall not exceed \$100 annually. All materials placed in the mailboxes or sent using the District's email system shall be in good taste, being legal according to all applicable state and/or federal laws.
3. The Association shall have space on an existing bulletin board for the purpose of posting Association related notices and other materials. All materials posted shall be in good taste and be legal according to all applicable state and/or federal laws.

- G. Association Leave: One member of the Association shall be entitled to be released without loss of pay to attend the NEA–New Hampshire Assembly of Delegates. In addition, the President of the Association or his/her designee shall be released without loss of pay not to exceed the equivalent of three (3) workdays per year for Association business.

- H. Printing and Distribution of the Agreement: Upon ratification of this contract, contract will be posted on the district website. The District will provide a copy of this agreement to every newly hired bargaining unit employee, upon hire. The Board agrees to make copies of this Agreement to the administration and supervisory personnel in the district available.

- I. Dues Deductions: The Association dues will be deducted from the regular paycheck of the Association member upon request of the member. From a list of participating members, given to the School District by October 15, these payroll deductions shall be made in equal installments. If an Association member leaves the District before the full dues have been deducted, the balance due shall be deducted from the member's final check up to the legally allowable amount per the Department of Labor. The School District will transmit the payroll deductions to the Treasurer of the Association on a monthly basis.

ARTICLE VI – WORK YEAR – WORK DAY

A. Length of Work Day and Year

1. The existing workday and work year for employees shall not be increased or decreased more than five percent (5%), without prior notification and negotiation with the Association.

2. Employees regularly scheduled work assignment shall be printed on their individual memorandum of agreement.
 3. We agree to reopen negotiations regarding alternative school year.
- B. Assignments: The Administration shall notify employees of their tentative assignments for the coming year prior to June 1. Tentative assignments are not a guarantee of continued employment.

ARTICLE VII – EMPLOYEE WORKING CONDITIONS

- A. Lunch Periods: Employees shall be provided a daily thirty (30) minute, duty-free, unpaid, lunch period.
- B. Substitute Teaching: Any Paraeducator who substitutes for a teacher for a half a day or more, shall be paid at the substitute teacher's rate of pay if it is higher than the employee's regular pay rate. Paraeducators who substitute teach shall not be responsible for their duties scheduled under their regular assignment as a Paraeducator.
- C. Meetings
1. Any required meetings or trainings requiring information to better improve the employee's ability to perform their job, for hourly employees, held after the normal work day as defined by that person's individual employment memorandum of agreement shall be paid at the employee's hourly rate.
 2. The notice of any staff meeting shall be given to the employees. Employees shall have the opportunity to suggest items for said agenda. Four employees will be allowed to attend the staff meetings and shall be paid at the employee's hourly rate.
- D. Extra-curricular activities shall be voluntary and employees shall be compensated for all extra-curricular activities according to the School Board's approved extra-curricular activities stipend amount. Preference in hiring will be given to certified staff first, then non-certified staff, then community members. The administration will make the final selection with the approval of the School Board.
- E. Substitutes: Substitutes shall be hired, to cover assignments of Paraeducators and Office Secretaries at the discretion of Administration when they are absent one day or longer. Whenever possible, these substitutes shall be qualified. An employee shall not be asked to substitute except in an emergency. Administration reserves the right to assign in-house substitutes at their discretion based on student needs.
- F. Notices and Announcements
1. All notices coming from the School Board or Administration pertaining to employees shall be placed in the appropriate mailboxes.
 2. A directory of school personnel shall be provided to the Association by October 1 of each year.
- G. Facilities and Supplies: Employees shall be allowed to make requests in regards to what equipment, supplies and materials are to be ordered for their use.
- H. All new employees shall be presented with a copy of their contract and job description as well as be given orientation and training. Each employee shall be provided with a current copy of their job description upon their hiring.

I. Duties:

1. Duties shall be shared and assigned equitably and shall coincide with a predetermined daily schedule which may change depending on the needs of the school and the students.
2. No paraeducator shall be required to accept added responsibilities that would cause an IEP to be violated during the required contract hours.
3. This section (Duties) does not apply to School Secretaries, Custodian, and Cafeteria Workers, who do not perform any duties.

ARTICLE VIII – EVALUATIONS, FILES, DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- A. Evaluation Criteria: The purpose of observations and evaluations is to help the employee improve in their work assignment. Employees recognize that observations and evaluations may be used for the purpose of non-rehiring. All observations and evaluations shall be made by their immediate supervisor, who could be any of the following: Special Educator (Case Manager), Facilities Manager, Assistant Principal, Principal, Superintendent, or Student Services Director and with input from the Classroom Teacher. Evaluations shall be completed by the supervisor who conducted the actual observation(s). All formal observations of working performance shall be conducted in person and with the full knowledge of the employee. The evaluation criteria will pertain/relate to job description and current responsibilities and will be stated in writing.

B. Procedures

1. At the beginning of each school year, a conference will be held with each Paraeducator and their immediate supervisor for the purpose of discussing the Paraprofessional Growth Plan according to SAU #44 Professional Development Master Plan. This Professional Growth Plan will be one of the criteria used during the employee observations.

Other members of the bargaining unit will review the expectations based on the School District's correlating evaluation forms with the assigned Administrator.

2. Newly-hired employees begin a probationary period upon their first day of employment, which extends to sixty (60) work days after their first day of employment. During this probationary period, the District may terminate employment without following the procedures outlined in this Agreement.
3. A conference will be held within five (5) workdays of the observation before the written report is completed. A formal copy of the observation report shall be given to the employee within ten (10) workdays of the observation. The employee shall have the right to append his/her remarks to the formal report and any and all remarks shall be included in the employee's file. No such report shall be included in the employee's file, be sent to the SAU Office, or otherwise acted upon without prior conference with and knowledge/notice given to the employee.
4. If any employee's performance is found to be unacceptable, or in need of improvement in any area, a program of improvement will be developed by the supervisor, as defined in paragraph A. above, which may include, with mutual consent, the assistance of peers or a Union Representative. The plan will be based on needs recognized during observation and evaluation. This program of improvement will be in written form and should include a schedule for follow-up visits and conferences.

The procedure shall be as follows:

1. Oral Warning
2. Written Warning
3. Improvement Plan will be established with a union officer in attendance.

4. An Improvement Plan shall be reviewed within 90 days.

C. Employee's Files

1. No material derogatory to an employee shall be placed in his/her personnel file unless the employee has received notice that said material has been placed in his/her file. The employee shall acknowledge that he/she has had the opportunity to review the material by affixing his/her signature to the copy to be filed with the express understanding that such signature in no way indicates agreement with the contents thereof. The employee shall also have the right to submit a written answer to such material and his/her answer shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee and attached to all copies.
2. Upon request, employees shall be given access to their files in the administrative office upon reasonable notice during regular business hours. Upon receipt of a written request, the employee shall be furnished a reproduction of any material in his/her file. Any applicable costs will be borne by the employee. No material may be removed prior to the employee's inspection of the file. Any employee shall have access to his/her official files or records maintained in the school district. No unofficial files will be kept on any employee. The employee will remove nothing from his/her personnel file.
3. Upon request of the employee, material will be removed from the files and destroyed when an employee's claim that it is inaccurate or untrue is sustained through the Grievance Procedure and its remedy. Material in the employee's file proven to be untrue or unsubstantiated shall be removed and/or destroyed after the recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the School Board.
4. Any complaint regarding an employee made to any member of the Administration by a parent, student, or other person shall be investigated. The employee involved shall be given an opportunity to respond in order that he/she may rebut the complaint. If a person making the complaint refuses to participate in this procedure (the Administration's finding of fact) and the complaint cannot otherwise be substantiated, any and all references to the complaint shall be removed from the employee's file. The employee shall acknowledge that he/she has had the opportunity to review such complaint by affixing his/her signature to the copy to be filed with the express understanding that such signature in no way indicates agreement with the contents thereof. The employee shall also have the right to submit a written answer to such material, and his/her answer shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee and attached to all copies.

D. Disciplinary Action

1. Both parties shall have the right to representation at every formal stage of the review process or any disciplinary proceeding or action.
2. Nothing in this contract shall be construed to deprive an employee or the Board of their rights under the law.
3. No employee shall be disciplined except for Just Cause.

ARTICLE IX – TRANSFERS AND VACANCIES

A. Vacancies

1. When new positions are open or vacancies occur within the bargaining unit, (including extra-curricular activities), notice shall be posted promptly on the Association bulletin board. The Association President will receive notice of all bargaining unit vacancies. During the summer

months, employees desiring to find out about existing vacancies shall contact the Association President and/or the SAU Office. The Association president will be notified of all vacancies that occur during the summer via mail. Notification will consist of the posting and necessary information.

2. Qualifications, requirements, duties, wages and other pertinent information shall be posted.
3. In considering candidates for a position, qualifications by reason of experience, training, capacity and general ability to execute proficiently all the demands of the position, shall be reviewed and considered among the candidates. Where these factors are the same among a number of candidates, experience at the school shall be a deciding factor.
4. Such applications shall be in writing and shall set forth the basis on which the applicant solicits consideration.

ARTICLE X – TEMPORARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Temporary Leaves of Absence: All leaves must be taken at a minimum of quarter $\frac{1}{4}$ day increments. Employees will be entitled to temporary leaves of absence from school, with full pay, each school year as follows:

A. Sick Leave

1. Employees in the district shall be credited with sick leave as follows:
Custodians, School Secretary, Special Education Secretary, Paraeducators, Special Education Paraeducators, Cooks, Cafeteria Helpers, Library Aides and Certified Nurse's Assistant: Fifteen (15) days per year. Cumulative to one hundred (100), days over one hundred (100) will be paid at a rate of ninety (\$90) per day. Up to 10 days per year to be paid in the last paycheck of the year. The remaining days will be forfeited. New Hires shall serve a 90-day probation period during which time said employee shall accumulate five (5) days for each thirty (30) calendar days.
2. Sick time will be prorated to annual contract length. This could result in overpayment. Staff who have been overpaid as of time of separation are required to reimburse the district for overpayment. The Board may waive this requirement at the board's discretion.
3. If an employee takes sick leave for more than three (3) consecutive days, the Principal or his/her designee may, at his/her discretion, require a doctor's note for verification.
4. Employees shall be notified of their accumulated sick leave with the first paycheck in October.
5. Sick leave shall be determined to mean absence due to personal illness, serious illness or medical appointments in the immediate family.

A2. Sick Leave Bank

1. Upon hire by the District, all Support Staff will become members of the sick bank by providing one (1) of their sick days to the "Sick Bank".
2. Member shall become eligible to request extended benefits from the Sick Bank after an Incapacitating Illness or disability, provided they have exhausted all of their accrued sick leave. This may also be used in the event of a spouse or tax dependent child's illness with the Superintendent's approval. Employees in their first six months of employment shall not be eligible to access the sick bank.

3. Reseeding will occur on the first of September following the year the bank falls below two hundred (200) days. All employees will contribute one day until the number of days exceeds two hundred (200). The bank will carry over the greater of the number of days in the bank or 200 days until the balance falls below 200 days; thereafter, a maximum of 200 days will carry over.
4. An employee may apply for up to sixty (60) days from the Sick Bank. Application for Sick Bank days shall be submitted along with medical evidence to the Association Sick Bank Committee. This committee shall make decisions regarding Sick Bank use. In the event of a tie the chairman of the committee shall cast the deciding vote. If the application is approved by the committee, the committee will submit the application and supporting medical evidence to the Superintendent for processing.
5. The Association will be notified of the sick bank balance during the month of October and the end of July.

B. Emergency Days: Non-cumulative emergency days will be granted for hospitalization of, or death of, significant other and/or a close personal friend, or a member of the immediate family: spouse, grandparents, parents, in-laws, siblings, children, and grandchildren. This will not be deducted from sick leave. Leave will be granted as follows: Three (3) days per year: five (5) days per year for spouse or a family member with the approval of the Principal.

C. Personal Days: Non-cumulative personal days will be granted for personal or legal business with at least three (3) working days' notice, except in emergency situations. Bargaining unit members are entitled to three (3) personal days per year. One personal day may be used to extend a holiday or vacation, (for staff who have been in the district more than 5 years) with at least three (3) days' notice, in advance of the holiday or vacation. The District may deny a personal day request if granting the request would result in more than three (3) paraprofessionals taking a personal day on the same date, with the deciding factors being date of request and seniority.

D. Vacations: *Secretaries and Custodians working 32.5 hours per week or more and 229 days per year.

0 – 6	Months of employment:	No Time
6 – 12	Months of employment:	Five (5) Days
1 – 3	Years of employment:	Ten (10) Days
4 – 7	Years of employment:	Fifteen (15) Days
8 +	Years of employment:	Twenty (20) Days

* Vacation time shall be prorated according to contract length. Use not more than a 1/3 of accrued vacation days when students are in session.

1.a. Secretaries and Custodians:

Holidays that fall within the employees contracted year shall be paid:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- President's Day (to be taken Monday of February vacation)
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving Day

- Christmas Day
 - Day before or the day after Christmas (to be determined by the Superintendent)
 - New Year's Eve
- b. All employees shall submit a schedule to the Principal of their intended use of vacation two (2) weeks prior to using those scheduled vacation days if more than 1 vacation day is being requested.
 - c. Scheduling and the use of vacation days must be approved by the Principal in advance of any use of vacation time.
2. Employees shall have the right to take their full vacation time allotment within the year earned.
 3. Snow Days – Clerical staff may be allowed to work from home on “snow days” if approved by administration. The hours will be paid at their regular hourly rate of pay.
- E. Training Days or equivalent hours: To help each employee develop in the performance of his/her job, training days shall be provided by the School District for all special education Paraeducators, and regular education Paraeducators. These personnel are required to attend three (3) teacher workshop days or conduct professional development for the equivalent number of paid hours, with hours scheduled and content determined by mutual agreement between the employee and the District. If agreement regarding scheduling cannot be reached, the hours will be scheduled immediately after the last student day. Professional development content shall be related to the employee's professional development plan. If the District does not provide the professional development, the employee shall provide evidence that s/he completed the professional development. No fewer than one of these days shall be scheduled before the first student day. One of these days may be NEA-NH Fall Instructional Conference, should the paraeducator wish to attend.
 - F. With the approval of the Principal, employees shall be reimbursed the cost of job related workshops/courses up to a maximum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per employee per year. The total cost to the School District for all bargaining unit employees shall not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) per year. The Paraeducator shall have the option of having the workshop prepaid. If they do not attend the workshop, the money will be repaid to the School District in three (3) equal payments from their paycheck.
 - G. Paraprofessionals will receive three (3) paid holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's in school year 2026. Paraprofessionals will receive four (4) paid holidays: Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's in school year 2027. Paraprofessionals will receive five (5) paid holidays: Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Memorial Day in school year 2028.
 - H. Unpaid Leave: Unpaid leave may be granted for reasons other than those stated above at the sole discretion of the Superintendent. This decision will not be subject to the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE XI – EXTENDED LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Extended Leaves of Absence: Employees will be entitled to temporary leaves from school, without pay, each school year as follows:

A. General Terms

1. Any employee who has been granted a leave of absence may keep his/her insurance benefits in force while on an unpaid leave by paying the total cost of the benefits to the School District. These payments must be paid thirty (30) days prior to the due date according to the regulations set up by the School Board.

2. Such leaves are to be without loss of existing sick leave and seniority.
 3. Failure to notify the Superintendent by March 1 of the intent to return shall be deemed as a resignation and any district obligation with respect to re-employment and unemployment compensation shall be thereby waived/discharged.
- B. Child Rearing/Adoptive Leave: Any employee may request a child rearing/adoptive leave for up to one year. Any request for an unpaid child rearing/adoptive leave must be submitted with the notification of maternity disability or notification of adoption. The return date from this leave must be specified upon request.
- C. Extended Personal Leave: An employee may be granted one-year (July - June) personal leave without pay. Request for such leave should be made no later than March 1st for the coming year. An employee on personal leave shall notify the administration of his/her intent to return by March 1st for the following year.

ARTICLE XII – REDUCTION IN FORCE AND RESIGNATIONS

- A. In the event that it becomes necessary for the Board to reduce the number of bargaining unit members employed by the District, the following procedures will be followed:
1. The Board will make every effort to minimize the effects of any reduction in force on current staff by absorbing as many positions as possible through attrition.
 2. Any bargaining unit member(s) who will be affected by a reduction in force will be notified within two (2) weeks of the time when such reduction is determined to be necessary.
 3. A bargaining unit member whose position has been identified to be eliminated shall have the right to be offered a contract if a position for which the bargaining unit member is certified and qualified becomes vacant and available, subject to the recall time limits and conditions specified below. If more than one bargaining unit member is laid-off due to reduction in force, rights to vacant positions will be determined by the school board using the factors listed in #6 (below).
 4. The maximum period of recall shall be two (2) years, running from the last date of their employment with the District. During that time, it shall be the sole responsibility of the bargaining unit member(s) to keep the District and NESPA President informed of their current home mailing address which the bargaining unit member(s) has supplied to the district and NESPA President.
 - a. If a bargaining unit member fails to respond to a notice of recall within ten (10) calendar days of its mailing by the District, or declines the recall offered, all rights to recall which the bargaining unit member(s) may enjoy are specifically extinguished.
 5. A recalled bargaining unit member's previous years of service will not be lost as a result of reduction in force.
 6. In identifying which bargaining unit member to release or recall, the school board shall consider all of the following factors:
 - a. responsible in attendance
 - b. job performance, including existing bargaining unit member evaluations
 - c. overall effectiveness and ability
 - d. academic preparation and professional growth
 - e. certification and experience in the certified area

All factors being equal, then seniority will control in making a final determination. Seniority is defined as the total number of years continually employed by the Northwood School District.

7. A released bargaining unit member will have the opportunity to substitute within the district and be given priority when substitutes need to be contacted for employment.
- B. Resignations: If a NESPA staff member resigns from their employment by the School District after July 1 and before August 1, the NESPA staff member shall reimburse the District for the cost of medical and dental insurance for the month of July. If a NESPA staff member resigns after July 31 and before the start of school, the NESPA staff member will reimburse the District for the cost of medical and dental insurance for the months of July and August. The District shall notify the NESPA staff member of the insurance cost reimbursement within thirty days of their resignation. If the NESPA staff member does not pay the district within sixty days of receipt of the District's notice of these costs, the NESPA staff member also shall be liable for the School District's cost of collecting these costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees. The covered employee may submit information to the Northwood School Board in support of a request for the Northwood School Board's permission to resign and waiver of these costs. The Board shall grant waiver requests if resignation or retirement is caused by serious illness of the employee or an immediate family member, death of an immediate family member or the employee, relocation of the principal wage earner in the family (other than the NESPA staff member) of more than 75 miles, or another circumstance deemed appropriate by the Board. This provision shall be included in each covered member's individual employment contract.

ARTICLE XIII – COMPENSATION

- A. Basic Wage Schedule: The wage and differentials of the members of the bargaining unit are set forth in Appendix A which is attached to and made part of this Agreement.
- B. Extra-Curricular Activities: The School Board will fund compensation for extra-curricular duties at the current stipend hourly rate for all facilitation or co-facilitation of extracurricular activities. This rate will be the same as the teacher rate, unless teacher licenship is required. All extra-curricular positions will be posted yearly.
- C. Placement on the Wage Schedule:
 1. Paraprofessionals: New paraprofessional employees shall be placed at the proper step and track on the wage schedule according to the following guidelines:

New paraprofessional employees shall receive full experience credit for years worked as a paraprofessional or professional in a public school, three-quarters credit for years worked in a private school, and one half credit for years worked in a preschool or a child care facility. Other work experience shall be considered on a case-by-case basis and shall be determined by the superintendent and communicated in writing to the Association president.
 2. New Hires for non-paraprofessional positions shall be placed at one step above the number of years of relevant work experience. The Association will be made aware of any new hires and their placement.
 3. It is understood that an employee's step placement does not necessarily reflect his or her total years of experience. In this regard, the Association specifically waives any claim to step movement for prior years for which no contract was approved by voters and the parties operated under status quo.

- D. Method and Time of Wage Payment: Wages shall be paid in bi-weekly payments, in alignment with the teachers' pay schedule. When unplanned delayed opening or unplanned early release from school occurs (e.g. due to weather conditions), employees shall be paid for hours lost as a result of the unplanned delayed opening or unplanned early release. For a planned early release paraeducators shall end their day when teaching staff does, including having a lunch break, and be paid for a full day.

Paraeducators who work at least 180 days per year, shall, at their option, be paid in one of the following manners:

- (1) Anticipated annual wages, divided by 25, or
- (2) Full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

Paraeducators must specify their choice in writing prior to the first payroll period on a form provided by the School District. Failure to specify a choice shall result in being paid as is described in paragraph (2), above.

A reconciliation payment under option (1), above, shall occur on the last bi-weekly payment of the contract year (on or before June 30th) and may result in a paycheck of less than the equal pay amount, to a possible zero balance, being due to the paraeducator. A reconciliation payment shall be calculated as a final wage payment for any paraeducator being paid on an equal pay basis who, for whatever reason, leaves employment before the end of the contract year. Paraeducators who have been overpaid as of the time of their separation are required to reimburse the District for any amount of overpayment.

The lump check (summer pay) needs to be split into 4 (four) separate checks to minimize the effect of payroll taxes.

All remaining bargaining unit employees (i.e., custodians, secretaries, library aides and certified nurse assistants) shall receive full pay for hours actually worked in a pay period, paid at regular intervals not to exceed 14 days.

- E. Stipends: Lump Sum stipends will be paid in December and May unless they are seasonal stipends, which will be paid at the second pay period following the completion of the activity. All other stipends will be paid in the regular paycheck after approved timesheets have been submitted.
- F. Anniversary Dates: For the purpose of wage payment, employees serving more than one half (1/2) of a work year continuously in the same full time (school year) position will advance one step on the wage schedule.
- G. Any member of the bargaining unit who is required to work beyond their number of contracted days shall be compensated for work performed at a pro rata of his/her rate.
- H. Members of the working staff will be reimbursed at the current rate per mile for travel authorized by the Principal required in the execution of their responsibilities.
- I. Longevity: Longevity will be earned for consecutive years completed at Northwood School and upon the employee's return the following year. Four Hundred (\$400) upon completion of four to eight (4-8) years, eight Hundred (\$800) upon completion of nine to twelve (9-12) years, One Thousand Two Hundred (\$1,200) upon completion of thirteen to sixteen (13-16) years, Sixteen Hundred (\$1600) upon completion of seventeen to twenty (17-20) years, two thousand (\$2,000) upon completion of twenty-one to twenty-four (21-24) years and Two Thousand Four Hundred (\$2,400) upon completion of twenty five (25) or more years. These yearly longevity payments will be made in one lump sum settlement in a separate check at the time of the employee's second paycheck in September.
- J. Reduction in force, severance or retirement
1. Upon reduction in force or severance and at least ten (10) continuous years in the district including leaves, an employee shall receive compensation equal to eighty dollars a day (\$80/day)

for up to fifty (50) days of accumulated sick leave. This will be paid in their last check at time of separation.

2. Upon retirement and 10 years of service an employee shall receive compensation equal to 55 sick days, 15 years of service get paid 75 sick days, 20+ years of service get paid 100 sick days, all at One hundred \$100/day. This will be paid in their last check at the time of separation.
- K. Evening meetings or functions shall be paid the hourly rate of pay to support staff when requested and preapproved by administration to attend. These events shall be paid at a two hour minimum.
- L. Jury Duty: If called for jury duty or subpoenaed as a witness and is unable to obtain a waiver shall be excused from work and will receive his/her full day(s) pay less any court reimbursement. These days shall not be deducted from any other leave.
- M.. Any member of the bargaining unit who is planning to retire shall notify the Superintendent in writing by November 1st of the school year in order to receive the benefits in section J. This notification shall be waived for a medically necessary retirement. The retirement benefit in section J shall be awarded to no more than 6 employees. If more than six employees notify the superintendent before November 1st, the benefit will be awarded to the six most senior employees. An employee may rescind their retirement notice until April 1. Medically necessary retirements will be exempted from the six employee limit.

ARTICLE XIV – INSURANCES AND BENEFITS

Benefits listed below shall be applicable to those employees having thirty (30) or more hours per week in their contract.

A. Medical Insurance:

1. The School District shall pay ninety percent (90%) of a single membership, eighty percent (80%) of a two-person, single parent/child or family with Access Blue- AB20(07) – RX 10/20/45 for all employees working thirty (30) or more hours per week .
2. The School District shall offer a "buy out" plan of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) per year to be paid in equal payments in the December and May check to any covered employee who chooses not to participate in a health plan. Support staff wishing to take advantage of this opportunity will need to demonstrate to the Superintendent that they have health coverage from another source, other than subsidized insurance under the Affordable Care Act, by the second Friday in September or within 15 days of hire. The buyout amount will be prorated to the length of the benefit eligibility.

B. Dental Insurance:

The School district will pay one hundred percent (100%) of a single, eighty-five (85%) of a two person or eighty -five percent (85%) of a family membership in the Northeast Delta Dental Program, or comparable plan as determined by the District, as follows: 100% of coverage A, 80% of Coverage B, 50% of Coverage C, maximum \$2,000/year. Coverage D, Orthodontics 50%. Coverage D has a separate lifetime maximum of \$1,000.00 for each eligible dependent child to age 19.

- C. Life Insurance: The School District will continue to pay the full premium of term life insurance at the rate of two (2) times the individual's current wages in the District's Group Life Insurance Program in effect on the effective date of this Agreement for all employees.

- D. Tax-Free Annuities: The School Board agrees to allow employees to take advantage of the federal law concerning tax-free annuities as long as the employees use the companies currently available through the

human resource office. The District will match employee contributions up to 1% of an employee's anticipated annual wages in the year beginning 2025; 2% of an employee's anticipated annual wages in the year beginning 2026; and 3% beginning in the year 2027 for all employees who are not active participants in the New Hampshire Retirement System.

- E. Physical Examinations/Finger Printing/Hepatitis B shots: shall be paid by the school district if required as a part of job necessity.

ARTICLE XV - HANDLING OF NEW ISSUES

All working conditions and benefits of employment shall be maintained at not less than the highest minimum standards in effect at the time that this Agreement is signed, and this Agreement shall not be applied or interpreted so as to deprive employees of advantages therefore enjoyed unless otherwise provided in this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI – SAVINGS CLAUSE

- A. If any provision of this Agreement is or shall at any time be contrary to law, then such provision shall not be applicable, or performed, or enforced except to the extent permitted by law and substitute action shall be subject to appropriate consultation and negotiation with the Association.
- B. In the event that any provision of this Agreement is or shall be contrary to law, all other provisions of this Agreement shall continue in effect.

ARTICLE XVII – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. Definitions:
 - 1. A grievance shall mean a complaint by an employee or the Association that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or inequitable application of the provisions of this Agreement.
 - 2. As used in this Agreement, the term employee shall mean: 1) an individual employee, or; 2) a group of employees, or; 3) the Association.
 - 3. This procedure shall not be used to adjust a complaint where the law requires a specific procedure and method of redress inconsistent with this procedure.
- B. Adjustment of Grievances:

Informal Step – Principal Level:

An employee must informally discuss the grievance with the Principal within ten (10) work days after the employee knew or should have known of the act or condition upon which the complaint is based and to include a remedy for the grievance. Failure to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution may be cause for the employee to refer the grievance to Step 1.

Step 1 – Formal Written – Principal Level

An employee wishing to process a grievance at Step 1 will do so in writing to the Principal within five (5) work days from the conclusion of the discussion at the informal step after the grievant knew or should have known of the act or condition upon which this complaint is based. An employee with representation from the Association or the Association itself may process a grievance at Step 1 in writing and shall have fifteen (15) work days to execute this grievance after the grievant knew or should have known of the act or condition upon which this complaint is based. The Principal shall establish a formal

conference on the matter and whenever a grievance is filed by an employee without the Association, the Principal shall notify the Association and shall give the Association the opportunity to be present and to state the views of the Association. The aggrieved employee and the Association shall be given at least two (2) workdays notice of said conference. The Principal shall respond in writing ten (10) workdays from the date the formal grievance is filed. The Principal's decision shall be presented in writing to both the employee and the Association.

Step 2 – Superintendent Level

If the grievance is not resolved at Step 1, the employee or his/her representative may, within five (5) work days of receipt of the answer submit the grievance in writing to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall set up a conference to be held within fifteen (15) workdays of the submission of the grievance to him/her. The Superintendent shall furnish the employee and the Association a written decision within fifteen (15) workdays of the conference.

Step 3 – School Board Level

If a grievance remains unsettled after having been processed through Step 2, the employee or the Association may, within five (5) work days from the date the decision is rendered at the previous step, submit the grievance to the School Board. In which case, the grievance is to be submitted in writing and specify the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. Copies of previous decisions are to be included with the grievance.

Within five (5) workdays from the date the grievance is filed at Step 3, the School Board will establish a mutually convenient date and time for a meeting to discuss the matter. Both parties reserve the right to include consultants in any such meeting. The School Board shall render its decision in writing together with supporting reasons to the employee, Association, Principal, and Superintendent within fifteen (15) workdays from the date the grievance is heard by the Board.

Step 4 - Binding and Advisory Arbitration

1. If the School Board's answer from Step 3 is unsatisfactory, and if the issue in dispute involves compensation, hours, benefits, leaves, and/or working conditions, the Association may submit the matter to arbitration within ten (10) work days of the receipt of the written answer. If no answer is received by the Association within ten (10) work days of the Step 3 conference, the Association may submit the matter to arbitration.
2. The Association may initiate arbitration by filing with the American Arbitration Association, copies going to the Superintendent and the School Board. The notice shall include a brief statement of the issue to be decided by the arbitrator.
3. The arbitrator shall be selected by the parties in accordance with the Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association.
4. The arbitrator's hearing shall be held in this district. The arbitrator shall hear and decide the case that was set before him/her by the notice. The arbitrator shall be bound by this Agreement; he/she shall have no power to delete or modify the provisions of this Agreement.
5. The arbitrator shall issue his/her award consistent with the time frames set forth in the "Labor Arbitration Rules" of the American Arbitration Association.
6. The award and opinion of the arbitrator shall be final and binding. Fees and expenses shall be shared equally by the Association and the School Board.

C. General Provisions:

1. Both parties shall have the right to include in its presentation representatives of its own choosing.

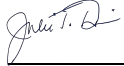
2. The School Board acknowledges the right of the Association to participate in the processing of a grievance at Step 1 or above, and at the Informal Step, with the concurrence of the employee.
 3. Providing the parties agree, Informal Step, Step 1, and/or Step 2 of the grievance procedure may be bypassed and the grievance may be brought directly to the next step.
 4. Time limits in the section(s) may be extended, or shortened by mutual consent of the parties.
- D. Should it become necessary, pursuant to the Grievance Procedure, for a member of the Association to attend a grievance meeting or hearing during the school day, he/she will be released without loss of pay, as is necessary, to permit participation in the forgoing activity.

ARTICLE XVIII – DURATION

This agreement and each of its provisions shall become effective on July 1, 2025, and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2028. Either party to this Agreement may initiate negotiations for a successor Agreement by notifying the other no later than October 1, 2027.

For:

Northwood Educational Support
Personnel Association, NEA–New Hampshire



Julie Doiron, President

(vacant), Vice-President



Keli Wood, Treasurer



Denise Andrews, Secretary

Northwood School Board
Northwood, New Hampshire



Brian Winslow, Chair



Chrissy Vander Hook, Vice Chair



Nate Byrne

Superintendent, SAU #44

APPENDIX A – COMPENSATION

Compensation Schedule

Placement on Wage Schedule

New Hires shall be placed on the wage schedule based on the requirements in Article XIII C.

To qualify for Secretary II, an employee must be fulltime and serve in the primary compacity as the Administrative Assistant to the Principal or Director of Student Services. New hires shall be placed one step above the number of years of relevant work experience.

To qualify for Paraeducator II, an employee must hold a Paraeducator II certification from the New Hampshire Department of Education, or be eligible and be on an approved plan.

2025-26							
Step	Custodians	Lib Aid	Para II	Sec I	Sec II	CNA	NECC
1	17.00	15.00	17.00	17.00	19.00	20.00	20.00
2	18.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	20.00	21.00	21.00
3	19.00	17.00	19.00	19.00	21.00	22.00	22.00
4	20.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	23.00	23.00
5	21.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	23.00	24.00	24.00
6	22.00	20.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	25.00	25.00
7	23.00	21.00	23.00	23.00	25.00	26.00	26.00
8	24.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	26.00	27.00	27.00

2026-27							
Step	Custodians	Lib Aid	Para II	Sec I	Sec II	CNA	NECC
1	18.00	16.00	18.00	18.00	20.00	21.00	21.00
2	19.00	17.00	19.00	19.00	21.00	22.00	22.00
3	20.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	23.00	23.00
4	21.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	23.00	24.00	24.00
5	22.00	20.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	25.00	25.00
6	23.00	21.00	23.00	23.00	25.00	26.00	26.00
7	24.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	26.00	27.00	27.00
8	24.75	23.00	24.75	25.00	27.00	28.00	28.00

2027-28							
Step	Custodians	Lib Aid	Para II	Sec I	Sec II	CNA	NECC
1	19.00	17.00	19.00	19.00	21.00	22.00	22.00
2	20.00	18.00	20.00	20.00	22.00	23.00	23.00
3	21.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	23.00	24.00	24.00
4	22.00	20.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	25.00	25.00
5	23.00	21.00	23.00	23.00	25.00	26.00	26.00
6	24.00	22.00	24.00	24.00	26.00	27.00	27.00
7	25.00	23.00	25.00	25.00	27.00	28.00	28.00
8	25.50	24.00	25.50	26.00	28.00	29.00	29.00

Library Aid and Secretary I employees hire before July 1, 2024, and who have been on step 8 for at least one year will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour above Lib Aid and Sec I Step 8 for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and the 2027-2028 school years.