

Fowler ESP Association Master Agreement

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

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ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms and conditions of employment; to provide procedures for the adjustment of grievances; and to promote orderly and peaceful relations for the mutual interest of the Employer, its employees and the Association.

The parties recognize that the interest of the community and the job security of the employees depend on the Employer's success in establishing and rendering proper services to the public.

To these ends the Employer and the Association encourage, to the fullest degree, friendly and cooperative relations between the respective representatives at all levels.

ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION

- A. Pursuant to and in conformity with the certification issued by the Michigan Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Relations, the Employer recognizes the Association as the sole and exclusive representative for the purpose of collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, and other terms and conditions of employment for all employees in the following described unit:

All Bus Drivers, Food Service, Custodians, Maintenance, Secretarial, and Para Professional Employees, excluding secretary to the superintendent (confidential employee), buildings and grounds supervisor, transportation supervisor, food service supervisor, all administration personnel, substitutes, temporary employees, and all others.

- B. The Employer agrees not to enter into any Agreement with another labor organization during the life of this Agreement with respect to the employees covered by this Agreement; or any Agreement or contract with the said employees, individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms or provisions of the Agreement, or which in any way affects wages, hours, or working conditions of said employees, or any individual employee. Any such Agreement shall be null and void.

ARTICLE 3 - DEFINITION OF EMPLOYEES

- A. The terms "employee" and "employees" as used in this Agreement (except where the Agreement clearly indicates otherwise) shall mean only an employee or employees within the bargaining unit described in Article II.
- B. The term "full-time employee" shall mean a regular employee whose normal schedule of work is at least 1600 hours per fiscal year irrespective of whether school is in session. Full-time employees shall receive benefits as provided in this Agreement.
- C. The term "part-time employee" shall mean a regular employee whose normal schedule of work is less than 1600 hours per fiscal year irrespective of whether school is in session. Part-time employees shall be paid the appropriate hourly rate under the wage and scale, and receive all

benefits they are entitled to in this Agreement.

- D. The term "regular employee" shall mean a bargaining unit member whose employment is expected to continue from year to year and who is not employed as a substitute or temporary.
- E. Newly hired employees shall be probationary for the first ninety (90) work days of their employment and thereafter shall be permanent regular employees. For purposes of this Agreement, the Association shall represent probationary employees for all matters other than discharge or discipline.
- F. An employee who works two (2) or more jobs in the same pay period shall not have his/her hours combined for the purpose of determining whether she/he is full or part time. Employees working eight (8) or more hours in regularly assigned combined positions during the school year shall be eligible for three (3) vacation days in accordance with Article 18, Section F.
- G. A temporary or substitute is not part of the bargaining unit:
 - 1. A temporary or substitute is an individual who is hired for the purpose of filling a temporary position of less than 90 days, and is so informed at the time of hire.
 - 2. After ninety (90) consecutive Calendar work days in any one (1) school year (July 1 to June 30) in any one (1) position as a temporary or substitute, the employee becomes a regular employee receiving full credit toward accumulation of seniority and becomes eligible for wages and benefits in accordance with the terms of this Agreement applicable to regular employees. The Employer agrees not to arbitrarily interrupt consecutive performance of these ninety (90) days. Upon becoming a regular employee, the employee shall be considered probationary for the next ninety (90) workdays of their employment and thereafter shall become a permanent regular employee.
- H. Full Schedule: A full schedule for paraprofessionals shall be defined as the length of the student day and any time that is added to the beginning or end of the student day for the purpose of student supervision; not to exceed eight (8) hours on any given day.

ARTICLE 4 - PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

The provisions of this Agreement and the wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment shall be applied uniformly and without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, weight, disability, marital status, or other factors not pertinent to performance.

ARTICLE 5 - PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

- A. The Association shall be notified of names, address, and job titles of employees newly employed to fill positions covered by this Agreement as they are employed by the Employer.
- B. The District will implement an IRS compliant 403(b) Plan Program. The TPA and a designated District representative will discuss the Plan Program and its implementation with the Association's President and Vice-President prior to its implementation. This program shall

include an IRS compliant Plan Document administered by a third party administrator (TPA). The cost for plan administration will be paid by the District all members shall be eligible to participate in the Plan through a Salary Reduction Agreement. It is agreed that one of the designated investment vendors in the Plan shall be MEA Financial Services. The District agrees to remit the member's plan contributions to the TPA in a timely manner and no later than 15 business days after the end of the month in which such amounts would otherwise have been paid. The Plan will provide for investment options, loans, and allow for hardship withdrawals under IRS guidelines. Employees will receive annual notice of their right to participate in the Plan. If there are IRS required changes to the Plan, the TPA will give timely notice to the Association and the District. Other changes to the Plan will first be discussed with the Association.

1. Upon employment, the District will assure that each employee is provided with a list of approved tax-sheltered annuity vendors, and general directions that must be followed to receive this benefit.
 2. It will be the responsibility of the employee to select a vendor(s) and fill out the appropriate forms for that vendor. Forms must be returned within ninety (90) days for the benefit to be retroactive to the employment date. Forms returned after ninety (90) days will be effective starting the month they are returned.
- C. The employer shall formally adopt a qualified plan document, which complies with Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. All cost relating to the implementation and administration of benefits under this program shall be borne by the employer.
- D. Upon annual written request by the Association, the Board shall deduct membership dues for the Union from a particular bargaining unit employee's wages if the bargaining unit member submits an annual full, free written consent consistent with the Payment of Wages and Fringe Benefits Act. The District may immediately cease collections for a particular bargaining unit member if the bargaining unit employee provides written notice to the Superintendent, or their designee, that they are withdrawing consent for the membership dues deduction from their paycheck. Deductions will be made in substantially equal amounts from paychecks of the bargaining unit employee with the second pay following the receipt of the Unions annual request, and the voluntary written authorization from the bargaining unit employee. The Board shall not process monies for Political Action Committee donations associated with the dues structure. The Union will provide the form, and where to submit payment by June 1st of each new contract year.

In the event that any individual or entity files any complaint or claim against the Board (which includes its agents, employees, and officers) regarding dues deduction, the Association agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold the Board Harmless against all costs, claims, demands, suits, or other forms of liability that may arise out of or by reason of action by the Board for the purpose of complying with the Agreement to deduct membership dues set forth above. Further, the Board shall be held harmless for the assessment and collection of union dues and the imposition of any penalties related to an employee's non-payment of union dues. If the Association agrees to defend the Board concerning a dues deduction claim, the Board may choose their legal counsel to defend any lawsuit or action or compromise or settle any claim made against the Board.

ARTICLE 6 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. A grievance shall be defined as an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of the

expressed written terms of this Agreement.

- B. The termination of services of, or failure to re-employ, or the discipline of any probationary employee shall not be the basis of any grievance filed under the procedure outlined in this Article.
- C. The Association shall designate a Stewards' Committee to handle grievances. The Association shall notify the Superintendent, in writing, of the members of this committee on or before October 1, of each year or of any change thereafter. The Board hereby designates the Supervisor of the aggrieved employee as its representative at Level One as hereinafter described and the Superintendent or his/her designated representative to act at Level Two as hereinafter described.
- D. The term "days" as used hereinafter shall mean days in which school is in session. At the end of the school year, "days" will mean week days.
- E. Written grievances as required herein shall contain the following :
1. It shall be signed by the grievant or grievants, and the Association Representative.
 2. It shall be specific.
 3. It shall contain a synopsis of the facts giving rise to the alleged violation.
 4. It shall cite the section or subsections of this contract alleged to have been violated.
 5. It shall contain the date of the alleged violation or specify that it is a continuing violation. If the grievant states that the grievance is a continuing violation, the grievant shall state, to the best of his/her knowledge at that time, the approximate date that the violation began, and shall state, as close as his/her knowledge will allow, the date on which he/she became aware of the violation.
 6. It shall specify the relief requested; any written grievance not in accordance with the above requirements may be rejected as improper. Such a rejection shall not extend the limitations hereinafter set forth.
- F. Level One - An Employee, feeling himself/herself aggrieved as defined in Section A, shall within five (5) days of his/her knowledge of the occurrence orally discuss the grievance with his/her Supervisor in an attempt to resolve the same. If no resolution is obtained within three (3) days of the discussion, the employee shall reduce the grievance to writing and submit it to the Supervisor and the Stewards' Committee. Within five (5) days of the Supervisor's receipt of the written grievance, the Supervisor will submit his response in writing to the Committee. Bus Drivers' grievances shall be processed through the Superintendent while the Transportation Supervisor is performing the dual role of driver and supervisor.
- G. Level Two - If no resolution is obtained at Level One within five (5) days of the Supervisor's written response to the Committee, a copy of the written grievance shall be filed with the Superintendent or his/her designated agent by the Stewards' Committee and/or the grievant. Within five (5) days of receipt of the grievance, the Superintendent or his/her designated agent

shall arrange a meeting with the grievant and/or the Stewards' Committee to discuss the grievance. Within five (5) days of that meeting, the Superintendent or his/her designated agent shall render his/her decision in writing, transmitting a copy of the same to the grievant, the Stewards' Committee, the Supervisor, and place a copy of same in a grievance file in this office.

- H. Level Three - Individual employees shall not have the right to process a grievance at Level Three.
1. If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Two, it may within twenty (20) days after the decision of the Superintendent or his/her designated agent, submit the grievance to arbitration. An arbitrator shall be selected according to the procedures established for Arbitrator selection by the American Arbitration Association.
 2. Upon selection by the parties, the arbitrator shall conduct the arbitration hearing and other related matters in accordance with the rules and regulations of the American Arbitration Association.
 3. Neither party may raise a new defense or ground at Level Three not previously raised or disclosed at other written levels.
 4. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and conclusive and binding upon employees, the Board and the Association, subject to the rights of the Board or the Association for judicial review. Any lawful decision of the arbitrator shall be forthwith placed into effect.
- I. Powers of the arbitrator are subject to the following limitations:
1. He/she shall have no power to add to, subtract from, disregard, alter, or modify any of the terms of this agreement.
 2. He/she shall not have power to establish salary scales.
 3. He/she shall have no power to change any practice, policy or rule of the Board nor substitute his/her judgment for that of the Board as to the reasonableness of any such practice, policy, rule or any action taken by the Board which is not inconsistent with this contract.
 4. He/she shall not hear any grievance previously barred from the scope of the grievance procedure, but shall determine whether the grievance is barred.
 5. More than one (1) grievance may not be considered by the arbitrator at the same time, except upon expressed written mutual consent of the parties.
 6. The cost of arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties except each party shall assume its own cost for representation including any expense of witnesses.
 7. He/she shall have no power to interpret state or federal law.
- J. Should an employee fail to institute a grievance within the time limits specified, the grievance will not be processed. Should an employee fail to appeal a decision within the time

limits specified, or leave the employ of the Board (except a claim involving remedy directly benefiting the grievant regardless of his employment), all further proceedings on a previously instituted grievance shall be barred.

- K. All preparation, filing, presentation, or consideration of grievances shall be held at times other than when an employee or a participating Association representative are to be at their assigned duty stations except by mutual consent or by order of the arbitrator.
- L. A grievance may be withdrawn at any level without prejudice.
- M. If a grievance involves more than one (1) employee, the Association may bypass Level One and proceed directly with the written grievance presented at Level Two.
- N. If the Board disputes the arbitrability of the grievance, the arbitrator shall be requested to first rule on the arbitrability of the grievance and if he rules that it is not arbitrable, the grievance will be terminated.

ARTICLE 7 - DISTRICT RIGHTS

- A. In order to carry out its responsibility for the development and operation of education programs providing the best possible educational opportunity for the Fowler Public School District consistent with community resources, the Board retains and reserves unto itself all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in the Board by law including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, the following:
 1. Manage and control the school's business, the equipment, the operations and to direct the working forces and affairs of the Employer.
 2. Continue its rights and past practice of assignment and direction of work of all of its personnel, determine the number of shifts and hours of work and starting times and scheduling of all the foregoing, and the right to establish, modify or change any work or business hours or days.
 3. The right to direct the working forces, including the right to hire, promote, suspend and discharge employees, transfer employees, assign work or extra duties 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 the subcontracting thereof, the automation thereof or changes therein, the instruction of new and/or improved methods or changes therein so long as it is in compliance with any and all state laws in place at the time of said change.
 5. Adopt rules and regulations regarding the job performance of employees as governed by the evaluation process.
 6. Determine the qualifications of employees, including physical conditions.

7. Determine the location or relocation of its facilities, including the establishment or relocation 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, production, 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.
 11. Determine the policy affecting the selection, testing, evaluation or training of employees providing such selection shall be based upon lawful criteria.
- B. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, duties and responsibilities by the Board and the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in the furtherance thereof, shall be the exclusive prerogative of the Board except as otherwise limited by express provision of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 - EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

- A. The Association shall be represented in the grievance procedure by representative(s) designated by the Fowler ESP Association.
- B. The Association shall keep an up-to-date list of the names of the Stewards' Committee and shall furnish the Employer with a copy of the same.
- C. Representatives of the Stewards' Committee shall process grievances at all levels of the procedure. The Vice President of the Association may participate in the grievance procedure at the level of Step 3. It is agreed that at any step, either the Association or the Employer may request participation of the MEA Uniserv Director.
- D. The Stewards' Committee, during their working hours, without loss of pay may, upon mutual arrangement with the management, present grievances. Work time lost in the presentation of grievances shall be made up without pay during the same pay period if possible and, if not possible, not later than the following pay period.

ARTICLE 9 - ACCESS BY MEA REPRESENTATIVES

Association representatives may visit the employees at break times during working hours for the purpose of representing employees. Such visits will be conducted in a professional manner and representatives will not disrupt or interfere with the education of students or the performance of work by employees. Association representatives may visit Employer representatives by appointment at reasonable times during business hours for the purpose of representing employees. When an employee

requests the presence of an Association Representative, the meeting will not be held until the Association Representative can be present.

ARTICLE 10 - ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND USE OF FACILITIES

- A. The Board shall provide a total of two (2) days per year to the Association President or his/her designee to participate in Association business. The Association shall reimburse the Board for the cost of obtaining substitutes at the Board approved rate. Request for absence will be submitted to the Superintendent at least one (1) calendar week in advance of the scheduled absence, except in the case of an emergency. Association business days may be taken in single day increments.
- B. The Association President or his/her designated alternate shall have access to and use of a telephone. The Association shall be responsible for charges resulting therefrom, excepting local calls. The Association shall have the right to post notices of activities and matters of Association concern on a bulletin board in each building or facility where bargaining unit members' work.
- C. The Association shall be permitted to use school facilities for its meetings upon proper application on the standard forms used for requesting room reservations.
- D. The Association President shall be provided a copy of Board of Education agendas and minutes (including committee minutes), at the time they are originally disseminated. Upon request, the Association President will be provided other materials subject to the Freedom of Information Act or materials necessary for administration of or bargaining of this Agreement.
- E. Association members will be provided the District's Acceptable Use Policy on the first workday of the school year and shall abide by the Policy as it relates to the use of the Internet and Email.

ARTICLE 11 - NEGOTIATIONS PROCEDURE

- A. The parties will cooperate in arranging meetings, furnishing necessary information, and otherwise constructively considering and resolving any matters of common interest.
- B. In any negotiations described in this Article, neither party shall have any control over the selection of the negotiating representatives of the other party, and each party may select its representatives from within or outside the area. It is recognized that no final agreement between the parties may be executed without ratification by the membership of the Association, and approval by the Board.

The parties mutually pledge that representatives selected by each shall have necessary power and authority to make proposals, consider proposals, and make concessions in the course of negotiations, subject only to ratification and approval as noted above.

- C. Bargaining unit employees will be represented in negotiations by the Association Negotiating Committee. The membership of the Association Negotiating Committee shall be determined by the Association. In the event the Association deems it necessary to have additional bargaining unit member(s) present during a specific negotiating session, the Association will notify the Superintendent thereof and said person(s) shall be entitled to attend the session. The Employer

agrees that bargaining unit members engaged in negotiation during their work shift shall be entitled to release time without loss of pay, which time shall be made up without pay during the same pay period if possible, and if not possible, not later than the following pay period.

ARTICLE 12 - SPECIAL CONFERENCES AND LIMITATIONS

- A. Neither party shall have the unqualified right to demand bargaining regarding items not previously contemplated by the parties during the life of the agreement. However, the parties recognize, that from time to time, there may arise matters or questions which are either not completely resolved by the terms of the Agreement, or which are not contemplated by the Agreement, but, regarding which the parties, having a mutual interest in promoting calm, rational and reasonable relationships between the management and the union, may determine that union/management discussions are in order. Matters of common concern may be subject to negotiation during the period of this Agreement upon request and mutual agreement of both parties.
- B. At the request of either the management or the union, the President of the Association and the Superintendent will meet, discuss whatever the issue brought forth is, and determine whether it would be productive to call a Special Conference. If there is mutual agreement to call such a conference, an agenda shall be prepared with the items mutually placed there for discussion listed and a date agreed upon for the Conference.
- C. Health and Safety matters are specifically recognized as appropriate subjects for Special Conferences.
- D. Unless otherwise specifically agreed upon by both parties, there shall not be more than four (4) representatives of the Union or the Management authorized to participate in the Special Conference. The specific persons to be authorized to represent either the Board or the Union at Special Conferences is within the discretion of the party being represented.
- E. When Special Conferences result in supplemental agreements which constitute amendment to this Agreement, they shall be reduced to writing and, if necessary, submitted to the Board and Union members for their consideration and approval at the earliest practical opportunity. Such agreements shall be subject to ratification by the Board and Union membership and shall, thereafter, be attached to and made part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13 - DISCIPLINE

- A. The discipline of non-probationary employees shall be for just cause only.
- B. The parties subscribe to the principle of corrective, progressive discipline in appropriate cases.
- C. Prior to the imposition of disciplinary action, the Employer shall provide a warning to employees and counsel the affected employee as to the nature of the offense and the way to correct it. The parties further recognize some offenses are of such a nature that the imposition of greater disciplinary action may be appropriate. Consequently, both parties agree that the warning may be issued in conjunction with other steps of progressive discipline.

- D. Where disciplinary action is necessary, the principle of corrective discipline may include any of the following: Verbal Reprimand, Written Reprimand, Suspension (paid), Suspension (unpaid), and Discharge. The parties recognize that some circumstances (charges) are of such a nature that not all steps of the corrective discipline procedure may be appropriate. Examples of such charges (but not necessarily limited to these) might be where immediate action is necessary to protect the welfare of students, other employees, or the employee in question.

The parties recognize that proven charges of any of the following shall constitute just cause for discipline up to and including discharge:

1. Unsatisfactory performance or incompetency;
2. Personal misconduct on the job;
3. Persistent violations of policies, regulations, laws and work Rules;
4. Insubordination;
5. Neglect of Duty.

The parties recognize that the foregoing list does not necessarily exclude other proven charges which may be asserted by the Employer.

- E. Should it be necessary to discipline an employee, the discipline shall be issued in private.
- F. The employee shall be notified by the management when required to attend a meeting with the management that the meeting is for the purpose of levying discipline on the employee or that discipline could occur as a result of the meeting, if such is the case. The employee is entitled, at the employee's option, to have a Union representative present during such meetings. Whenever possible, no such meeting shall occur more than ten (10) working days from the time management has knowledge of the incident except where the employee or employer requests postponement. Further meetings may occur later.
- G. All disciplinary actions involving non-probationary employees shall be subject to the grievance procedure. The employee may also seek such other legal remedy as may be available to him/her upon the employee's election.
- H. Upon reasonable request, an employee may review his/her personnel file.
- I. The private and personal life of any bargaining unit member is not within the appropriate concern of the Board, except as it may affect the employee's work performance.

ARTICLE 14 - PROMOTION, TRANSFER

- A. An employee who meets the minimum qualifications for a vacant position shall be given the opportunity to apply for and be considered for a vacancy. "Qualifications" shall mean education, training, experience in the Fowler Public Schools, written evaluations as provided in Appendix A (Employee Evaluation Form), physical and mental ability. "Ability" is defined as the capacity to do the required tasks without additional training of more than one week's duration where the qualifications cannot be determined through testing or assessment as determined by the employer.

A notice of each vacancy and the necessary qualifications will be posted on the Association bulletin boards and emailed to all association members via school email account not less than five (5) working days prior to filling the vacancy. The posting shall include the minimum qualifications which are related to the duties of the position. Any qualified employee regardless of classification may apply in writing for the vacancy. Past on-the-job work experience will be taken into consideration to promote employee advancement. Vacancies shall be awarded within thirty (30) calendar days of the posting during the school year and within sixty (60) calendar days of the posting during the summer break.

When school is not in session, vacancy postings will be emailed to bargaining unit members' via school email account if the employee has previously indicated in writing an interest in a vacancy in the classification in which the vacancy exists. The Association President will be emailed a copy of all summer postings.

- B. If two (2) or more employees who are qualified for a position apply for a vacancy, the senior employee will be awarded the position unless a more junior applicant is significantly better qualified.
- C. A vacancy is defined as a bargaining unit position resulting from a newly created job or one caused by discharge, quit, retirement, death, or permanent transfer of an employee, which the employer intends to fill. Any position, which the employer intends to fill, shall be posted no later than ten (10) work days after the position has been vacated.
- D. The Employer will also post temporary positions caused by leaves of absence that are expected to last longer than forty-five (45) calendar days.

Qualified internal applicants shall be given first consideration when filling the temporary vacancy. When the employee on leave of absence returns to work, he/she shall be returned to his/her former position or to a similar (same classification, equal or more hours) if the former position is no longer available. The employee filling the temporary vacancy shall be entitled to his/her former position, or to a similar position (same classification, equal or more hours) if the former position is no longer available. The awarding of temporary positions will be performed in accordance with Section C above pertaining to vacancies.

- E. When extra hours (non-overtime work; non-substitute work) become available, such hours shall be offered on a seniority basis to the employee(s) in the classification who do not have a full schedule. For purposes of defining a full schedule: Paraprofessionals will be 8 hours per day, 5 hours per day for food service employees, 8 hours per day for custodians, 8 hours per day for secretaries, and 3 routes per day for bus drivers. In order to receive such hours, the employee must possess the skills necessary to perform the duties involved. The extra hours must not conflict with the employees current schedule.
- F. At least five (5) work days prior to the beginning of each school year, a tentative work schedule of aides will be established. To the extent practical aides will be assigned according to seniority, qualifications, and skills necessary to perform the duties of the position with the more senior aides assigned to the longest work day and work week.
- G. In the event the District elects to replace aides who are absent on a given day , the following

procedure will apply:

1. Another regularly assigned aide will be assigned to a portion of the a.m. and/or p.m. assignment of the absent aide which does not conflict with the regular aide's daily schedule.
 2. This provision will not require the complete schedule of the absent aide to be reassigned.
 3. Assignments under this provision are mandatory for the employee.
 4. This provision will not prohibit the assignment of a non-bargaining unit substitute to cover periods of time in which the regular employee is assigned to his/her regular position.
 5. Schedules for breaks and lunches on such days will be designated by supervision as may be necessary.
 6. This provision shall not apply in instances where the employee reports an absence after 3:10 p.m. of the day prior to the absence.
- H. An employee may request to be considered for substitute work in any classification and shall be given first consideration in awarding substitute work, provided he/she is qualified to do the work per Section A.

ARTICLE 15 - SENIORITY

- A. Seniority is defined as continuous, uninterrupted bargaining unit employment in a classification beginning from the initial date of hire.
- B. Seniority shall accrue, up to one (1) year while on paid leaves of absence. Time on paid leaves of absence shall not constitute a break in continuous employment. *NOTE: Workers Compensation shall be considered paid leave for purposes of calculating seniority.*
- C. Seniority shall accumulate during unpaid leaves of absence. Time on unpaid leaves of absence shall not constitute a break in continuous employment.
- D. Temporary periods of employment in a bargaining unit position prior to assuming a bargaining unit position shall not count toward seniority accumulation unless the temporary period was continuous prior to assuming the bargaining unit position.
- E. One (1) seniority list shall be maintained for all bargaining unit employees. This list shall be updated once annually by November 30. The Employer shall provide the Association with the complete seniority list at each issuance. In the event no objections are received within twenty (20) working days from issuance, the list shall be considered final and binding. *EXCEPTION: In the event of a layoff the accuracy of the seniority list will be confirmed and adjusted if a correction is necessary.*
- F. Individual bargaining unit members having the same seniority date shall participate in a drawing to determine position on the seniority list. The drawing will be conducted openly and at a time and place which will reasonably allow affected bargaining unit members and local Association officers to attend.

- G. Upon resignation or discharge, all seniority shall be lost. Leaving the bargaining unit to assume a supervisory position with the Employer shall constitute a loss of bargaining unit seniority, unless the employee returns to the bargaining unit within two (2) years, in which case seniority shall not accrue during the period of supervisory employment.
- H. Seniority does not include periods of employment with the Employer in non-bargaining unit positions.
- I. A day worked by a regular employee shall count as one (1) day of seniority regardless of the number of hours worked during that day.
- J. An employee who voluntarily transfers from a classification retains his/her seniority in that classification accrued up to the date of transfer. Seniority is neither lost nor gained in the previous classification unless and until the employee returns to that classification(s). The employee in the new classification(s) shall retain the use of his/her seniority from the previous classification(s) for purposes of layoff and recall described in Article 16 of this Agreement.
- K. Seniority of the employee voluntarily transferred into a new classification begins to accrue on the date of transfer into the new classification. This seniority is used for promotion and transfer in the new classification.

ARTICLE 16 - LAYOFF AND RECALL

- A. Each employee shall be retained, laid off or recalled to work in accordance with seniority.
- B.
 - 1. For purposes of layoff, employees shall be arranged by classification seniority. When it becomes necessary for the Employer to lay off employees, the least senior employee in the classification shall be laid off first provided more senior employees are qualified to perform the work.
 - 2. An employee identified as laid off from one classification may bump the least senior person in another classification for which the identified laid off person is qualified, as defined in Article 15, Section A "Qualifications" shall mean education, training, experience in the Fowler Public Schools, written evaluations as provided in Appendix A (Employee Evaluation Form), physical and mental ability. "Ability" is defined as the capacity to do the required tasks without additional training of more than one week's duration where the qualifications cannot be determined through testing or assessment as determined by the employer
 - 3. During a layoff within a classification, an employee within the classification may volunteer to be laid off out of order of seniority. Employees taking a voluntary layoff will only be eligible for reemployment through the recall procedures and limitations set forth in Section D.
- C.
 - 1. Recall shall be in the inverse order of layoff provided the employee is qualified. Recall shall be effective, however, only after active employees have had the opportunity to apply for vacant positions as specified in Article 15.

2. Recall rights shall be limited to a period of thirty-six (36) months from the effective date of the employee's layoff.
- D. Employees on layoff status shall, if the employee indicates his/her desire in writing to the Employer, be placed on a list maintained by the Employer for substitute work. In the event that substitute work becomes available within an employee classification from which an employee was laid off, the work will be offered to those on the list on a rotating basis. Employees on layoff shall be added to the list maintained by the Employer in order of receipt of written request. Qualified employees may request placement on the list for substitute work in more than one (1) classification.
 - E. Employees will be given three (3) weeks' notice of layoff and or a reduction of hours. In the event that a senior employee's reduction of hours can be offset via reallocation of a junior employee's hours (within the same classification), the senior employee shall be made whole through transfer of hours and duties from the junior employee's position to the senior employee notified of a reduction in scheduled hours of work.

ARTICLE 17 - ORIENTATION

- A. The Employer shall be responsible for providing an adequate orientation program which acquaints each employee with Employer's procedures, and familiarizes and informs the employee as to his/her general duties and responsibilities. Said program shall cover all major aspects of the work assignments, concentrating specifically on the position the employee will hold.
- B. All probationary employees shall participate in the orientation program.
- C. Orientation shall occur during regular working hours and probationary employees shall be paid at their regular hourly rate for their participation.
- D. An employee who is temporarily transferred from one work assignment to another or, through layoff/recall, moves to a different position or building, shall be provided adequate orientation for such new assignment.

ARTICLE 18 - PAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. Paid leaves of absence, for the purpose of this Agreement, shall be jury duty, bereavement leave, sick leave days, personal business days, and vacation.
- B. During said leaves, the employee shall accumulate seniority.
- C. JURY DUTY

1. An employee who is called to and reports for jury duty shall be compensated by the Employer for time spent in performing jury duty during such hours as the employee was scheduled to work. In order to receive payment, the employee must furnish proof of jury

attendance.

2. The employee will give the Employer notice of his/her call for jury duty. Jury duty shall be counted as time worked.
3. An employee who is subpoenaed to testify during their regularly scheduled work hours in any judicial or administrative matter connected with the Employer or the Board, in which the employee is not a party, shall receive his/her full salary for such time. It is expressly understood that this provision shall not apply in the event the employee is subpoenaed to testify against the Employer or the Board.

A leave of absence will be granted to an employee called for jury service. The Board shall pay an amount equal to the employee's daily salary (not including travel allowances or reimbursement of expenses) for each day on which the employee reports for or performs jury duty on which he/she otherwise would have been scheduled to work.

An employee who is subpoenaed to testify as a witness in any civil or criminal action not related to the employee's status or not connected to the Board (during their regularly scheduled work hours), in a case in which the employee is not the moving party, shall receive his/her full wages for such time.

4. Whenever practicable and notwithstanding the then existing schedule of work of other employees, an employee while on jury duty will be assigned to the day shift.
5. An employee on jury duty or serving as a witness shall keep mileage and meal reimbursements.

D. BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

1. Bereavement time of up to five (5) days will be granted for each death, ~~to be~~ deducted from sick leave, for deaths in the immediate family which shall be interpreted as mother, step-mother, father, step-father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, husband, wife, children, step-children, brother, step-brother, or sister, or step-sister. This leave is separate from sick days and will be granted on an as-needed, non-cumulative basis from year to year.
2. Bereavement time of up to two (2) days will be granted for each for the following deaths; aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandchildren, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandfather or grandmother, and grandparents-in-law. If travel is involved in excess of 200 miles one-way, the teacher shall be granted up to two (2) additional days. This leave is separate from sick days and will be granted on an as-needed, non-cumulative basis from year to year.
 1. An employee may take one bereavement day to be deducted from sick leave, for attendance at the funeral of a person outside the immediate or extended family, with the approval of the Superintendent.

If an employee uses up his or her sick leave allotted bereavement leave, additional days related to the death can be used from sick leave, or, that teacher will be granted an unpaid leave of absence for that death or deaths if their sick days have been depleted. Sick days, and bereavement time, may be used for a death in the family only at the time of death in all of the above situations.

E. SICK LEAVE

1. Sick leave shall be granted to employees on the basis of eleven (11) days (bus driver, 22 units) per year credited at the start of the work year. A sick leave day equals the normal work day of the employee at the time the leave is taken. Employees hired after the start of the regular work year will be granted a prorated number of sick days based on the remainder of the work year, rounded up to the nearest half day. Any employee hired on the 1st through the 15th day of the month shall be credited with one (1) sick day for the month. Employees hired thereafter will not be granted a sick leave day for that month.
2. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to a maximum of one hundred sixty-five (165) days (bus drivers, 330 units).

Employees in split positions shall be granted sick leave credit for time worked in each position. Such time shall be separated to represent the accumulation of sick leave for each position and reported to the employee at the beginning of the school year and thereafter on his/her paycheck. It is understood that only one accumulated balance of sick leave is reportable on the paycheck. Employees earning more than one form of sick leave credit (units and days) shall receive notice with his/her paycheck whenever a change in the accumulated balance occurs for the sick leave credit which is not regularly reported on the paycheck.

3. (Bus drivers only) Where bus drivers have three (3) runs regularly assigned, the driver shall be awarded three (3) units per regular sick day with a maximum accumulation [during any time when the driver has three (3) runs regularly assigned] of 435 units.
4. Sick leave may be used for illness in the immediate family as defined below and for illness/disability of the employee.
 - a. The immediate family shall be defined as spouse, children, stepchildren, Life partner, and anyone living in the employee's home who is dependent upon the employee for care.
 - b. An employee whose parents, parents-in-law, or siblings are ill shall be permitted to use sick days in order that the employee may be present during critical periods.
5. For any employee with ten (10) or more years of continuous uninterrupted service, as defined in this Agreement, in the District, the employee shall be paid for unused leave time at retirement based on the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Amount/Day</u>
10-14	\$13.00
15-19	\$14.00
20-24	\$15.00
25-29	\$16.00
30 or more	\$17.00

- a. Payments under Section 5 will be made to employees who retire or resign. Payment shall be made within four (4) weeks of the effective date of the employee's retirement or resignation. No special payroll will be run.
 - b. In the event the employee becomes deceased, payment of this benefit shall be made to the employee's designated beneficiary.
6. The Board may adopt reasonable policies and procedures relative to deadlines for calling in sick. Employees are required to record absences in the designated employee data system as determined by the District.
 7. Sick leave may be used for medical or dental appointments or examinations which cannot be reasonably scheduled outside duty time.
 8. Sick leave may be used in increments of one-half (1/2) work days or in the case of bus drivers, one (1) unit. In the case of employees regularly scheduled to work more than six (6) hours per day, other arrangements for partial day use in two (2) hour increments may be made with the employee's immediate supervisor. If school is not in session on a requested leave day, such time will not be charged against the employee's sick leave. An employee taking leave on an abbreviated day shall be charged a half day or a whole day of leave based upon amount of leave taken on that day; leave taken that is greater than a half day shall be charged as a whole day.
 9. Employees will not routinely be required to arrange for a substitute when calling in sick.
 10. An employee, who has not used any sick days during a semester of the school year, except for days taken for bereavement of an immediate family member, will be compensated with one (1) day of the employee's daily wage. Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, stepchildren, Life partner, and anyone living in the employee's home who is dependent upon the employee for care. An employee, who does not use any sick days during the first semester and second semester will be compensated with one (1) additional day of the employee's daily wage for a total of three (3) days.
 11. Sick Bank - Employees may donate days from their accumulated sick leave to another employee who has exhausted his/her accumulated sick leave due to a previous or current long-term illness. The donation of days shall be for the express purpose of sustaining the employee's sick leave until such time as he/she can qualify for disability under Social Security, Workers Compensation, or as provided in Article 32, Section A-4. A written authorization signed by the donating employee shall be sent to the Superintendent and a copy to the Association. Employees donating sick days shall not be eligible to receive perfect attendance compensation for that semester. The Association shall be responsible for keeping track of the donated sick days.

F. VACATION

1. All full-time year-round employees, after one (1) year of employment, shall be granted vacation with pay on the basis of the following schedule:

Seniority

Vacation Allowance

After 1 year	5 days total
After 2 years	10 days total
After 5 years	13 days total
After 10 years	15 days total
After 15 years	20 days total
After 20 years	25 days total

2. Eligible employees scheduled to work less than fifty-two (52) weeks, will receive a prorated portion of the vacation allowance based upon his/her scheduled days of work in relationship to a 260 day work schedule. For example, an employee working 240 days would receive ninety-two percent (92%) of the allowance.
3. All part-time, year-round employees, after 1 year of employment, shall be granted vacation with pay on the basis of the schedule below. The employee must submit the vacation day schedule for the districts' fiscal year by July 1, and the schedule is subject to approval by the employee's supervisor. Vacation days must be taken in full or half day increments, based on the employee's assigned work schedule during the school year.

After 1 year	5 days total
After 2 years	10 days total
After 5 years	13 days total
After 10 years	15 days total

4. Vacation shall be computed at the employee's regular straight time rate.
5. In the event of death of an employee, an allowance for earned vacation prorated to the nearest month of service will be added to any pay due the employee at the time of death and disbursed to the employee's estate.
6. Upon separation of employment, the employee shall be paid for all earned but unused vacation time at the employee's current rate of pay.
7. If an employee becomes ill while on vacation or prior to, his/her vacation shall be rescheduled to the extent of days of illness and those days of illness shall be deducted from accumulated sick leave.
8. If a holiday occurs during the vacation period of the employee, such employee shall, at the employee's option; either receive an additional day's vacation with pay or shall be paid for that holiday in addition to his/her vacation pay.
9. Vacation days normally will be taken between July 1 of the year credited and August 31 of the following year. They shall not be carried over beyond August 31 of the following year unless specifically approved by the Superintendent. Dates of vacations must be approved by the Supervisor, but such approval will not be arbitrarily withheld. To the extent possible, all vacations will be scheduled so as not to conflict with the normal operations of the District.

G. PERSONAL BUSINESS DAYS

1. Each employee shall be entitled to three (3) non-accumulative personal business days. All part-time employees shall be entitled to personal business days at the same rate as provided above in proportion to time actually worked.

Full time eleven and twelve (12) month employees shall be entitled to four (4) non-accumulative personal business days.
2. Personal business days may be used in one-half day increments, and in the case of Bus Drivers, one (1) unit.
3. The employee shall make arrangements for personal business days with his/her supervisor as far in advance as possible, but in any event no less than twenty four (24) hours in advance , unless in case of an emergency.
4. Personal business days shall not be accumulative, but unused days will be added to sick days or to vacation days if the employee is at the maximum accumulation of sick days.
5. Personal business leave shall be granted upon request when it is not possible to arrange such business for non-duty hours. Personal business days shall not be granted the scheduled work day prior to or following a vacation, recess, holiday or break period, nor the first or last week of the school year, unless otherwise approved.

ARTICLE 19 - UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. An unpaid leave of absence shall be time off from the job of up to twelve (12) months without pay and with the right to reinstatement to the employee's former position and classification, if it exists, or to the first available position in the classification to which the employee's seniority and qualifications would entitle him/her.

The Board, upon written request of the employee, may grant an extension past the one year. The request shall include the reason for the extension and the anticipated date of return.

B. MILITARY LEAVE

To the extent provided by law, military leaves of absence shall be granted to any employee in the Fowler Public Schools who shall be inducted or who enlists for military duty to any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States. Employees on military leave shall be given the benefit of any increments, seniority and sick leave allowance which would have been credited to them had they remained in active service to the school system during the period of their military service.

Provisions of this leave are also applicable to the obligations of the National Guard-Reserve Component which would demand time away from a teaching position. Employees fulfilling their obligations to the National Guard-Reserve Component on an intermittent basis shall be allowed to take sick and/or business leave days and be compensated for such time away from their position. The employee will be required to submit documentation of his/her required attendance at such duties. The employee shall reimburse the District for the substitute cost on such days, provided the employee will not be required to reimburse the District for more than the military pay he/she received for that day.

Nothing in this provision is intended to confer upon an employee any rights in excess of those provided under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA) or its successor legislation.

C. EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

1. The employee, upon written application, may be granted an educational leave of absence without pay to pursue an education in their area or a related field up to one (1) year.
2. Such leave may be extended upon application to the Superintendent.

D. HEALTH LEAVE

1. An employee who is unable to work because of personal illness/injury , and has exhausted all his/her sick pay under Article XIX shall be granted a leave of absence without pay upon written request and furnishing the Employer with a statement from a physician of the necessity for such absence.
2. The health leave of absence shall be for the period of disability, but not to exceed twelve (12) months, unless extended by mutual written agreement between the employee and the Superintendent. The Employer may require a statement from a physician of the necessity for the continuation of such absence.
3. An employee returning from health leave must give two (2) week notice of his/her intention to return to work.
4. Health leave will run concurrently for those eligible for FMLA leave.

E. LEAVE FOR ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Any member of the Association elected to an official Association position or selected by the Association to perform duties which require him/her to leave regular employment, may at the written request of the Association, be granted a leave of absence without pay not to exceed one (1) year or the term of office, whichever may be shorter.

F. EMERGENCY LEAVE

An employee shall be granted, upon application to the Superintendent, an emergency leave of not more than ten (10) work days to resolve personal matters for which there is not another specific unpaid leave, or when paid leave which would apply to the situation the employee faces has been exhausted.

G. PARENTAL LEAVE

1. An employee shall be granted an unpaid leave of absence for up to one (1) year for the purpose of bearing and care of a newborn or care of a newly adopted child.
2. Parental leave will run concurrently for those eligible for FMLA leave.

- H. All FMLA leaves shall be subject to and administered in accordance with the FMLA and its applicable regulations.

ARTICLE 20 - HOLIDAYS

- A. Full time employees within the bargaining unit shall be entitled to the day off with pay on the following holidays:

New Year's Day	Independence Day	Day after Thanksgiving Day
Good Friday*	Labor Day	Day before Christmas Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day
New Year's Eve Day		

*if school is not in session

- B. If a holiday falls on Saturday, it will be observed on Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on Monday.
- C. The employee required to work on a holiday shall be paid at the regular rate of pay for all hours worked in addition to his/her regular pay for the holiday. Each full-time employee not required to work, will be paid for his/her regular hours at his/her regular pay rate for each of the above enumerated holidays.
- D. If a holiday occurs within the employee's vacation period and he/she is absent from work because of vacation, the employee, at his/her discretion, shall be paid for that holiday in addition to his/her vacation pay or receive an additional day off with pay. Either option must be requested with at least two (2) weeks' advance notice before the time the holiday will occur. If no election is made the employee shall be paid regular pay for the holiday and no deduction from accumulated vacation leave shall be made for the holiday.
- E. In order to receive holiday pay, the employee must have worked his/her last scheduled work day before and his/her first scheduled work day after the holiday or have been on paid leave.

ARTICLE 21 - HEALTH PROGRAM

- A. Whenever the Employer shall require a physical examination of an employee, such examination shall be provided by the Employer without cost to the employee.
- B. The Employer shall make arrangements for employees to receive free health tests and/or immunizations (relevant to the employees' employment) which are given at the work site by health agencies. In the event that said free relevant health tests and/or immunizations are given away from the work site only during an employee's working hours, the employee may make arrangements, where possible, with the Employer in advance to leave work for the purpose of obtaining said tests and/or immunizations and make up the work time later.

- C. The Employer shall assist in procuring emergency treatment for any serious illness or job-related injury which manifests itself during work hours by notifying the appropriate emergency service.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the employee's physician, the employee shall be allowed to work a light duty or restricted assignment provided that job responsibilities can be completed by the temporary reassignment of some duties to other employees in the same classification. The Employer reserves the right to send the returning employee to the employer's physician to determine the employee's limitation. The Employer shall not be required to implement such light duty or restricted assignment unless there is reasonable assurance from the employee's physician that the employee will be able to return to full-load duty within four (4) weeks of the initiation of the light duty/restricted assignment. If the employee does not return to full-load duty with physician approval after four (4) weeks, the light duty or restricted assignment may be extended by the Employer. Nothing contained in this provision shall be construed to conflict with or supersede applicable state and/or federal laws and/or regulations.

ARTICLE 22 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION

All employees shall be covered by the applicable Workers' Compensation laws. An employee granted Workers' Compensation benefits shall, after receipt of such benefits, be paid the difference between the employee's regular compensation and the amount received from Workers' Compensation which shall be deducted from the employee's personal accumulated sick leave days until such days are exhausted. The sick day deduction shall be prorated at a fractional basis in proportion to the actual amount paid per day by the Board.

ARTICLE 23 - HOURS OF WORK

- A. Bargaining Unit members who work four (4) or more consecutive hours and are scheduled through meal time shall be entitled to receive a one-half (1/2) hour unpaid meal break to be scheduled with his/her supervisor. Each employee who works four (4) or more consecutive hours shall also be entitled to receive a fifteen (15) minute paid work break in addition to the one-half (1/2) hour unpaid meal break. Each employee who works four (4) or more consecutive hours but is not entitled to the above unpaid meal break shall be entitled to receive a fifteen (15) minute paid work break.
1. Paid work breaks may be taken in lieu of an unpaid lunch break by eligible custodians, secretaries, aides, and other bargaining unit members upon mutual agreement between the employee and his/her supervisor.
 2. A regular full a.m. and p.m. bus run typically consists of three (3) hours of work time. Bus drivers will not be expected to work more than fifteen (15) hours per week or three (3) hours per day as part of any regular full a.m. and p.m. run assignment.
- B. 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 the city, county or state health authorities, may be rescheduled as provided in the calendar to ensure that there are the state required

days of actual student instruction for the purpose of receipt of state aid.

Employees, except custodians, maintenance employees and secretaries will not be required to report for work and will receive their regular pay for any days which do not have to be rescheduled. If a day must be rescheduled, the employee will receive his/her regular pay and will not be required to report for work on the cancelled days, but will be required to report for work on the rescheduled day without additional compensation.

Custodians, maintenance employees and secretaries will be required to report to work, but may leave their post early without loss of pay on such cancelled days if, in view of their supervisor, the custodians', maintenance employees', and secretaries' duties are completed. Secretaries, custodians, and maintenance employees who work the accumulative equivalent of a full scheduled inclement weather day will receive one inclement weather leave day with the approval of the supervisor. Such days will not accumulate. The days may be used in one-half day increments. If the inclement weather day is not used, then the employee shall receive the equivalent of one day's pay.

Bus drivers are expected to respond to calls for emergency school closing. However, no bus driver shall be penalized by being required to pay a substitute if the driver cannot be reached or informed of a school closing. On scheduled days of student instruction which start late because of inclement weather, fires, etc., aides are required to report fifteen (15) minutes before the students.

Employees shall be paid their regular hours on late start and early release days, which are due to conditions as described in this Section.

- C. Each employee will, at the beginning of each school year (not later than the third week of school) be informed of his/her daily "regular work hours." Employees shall, thereafter, be paid on the weekly total of such daily regular work hours as reflected on a timesheet which will record actual time worked. All such time beyond the daily regular work hours shall be paid at regular rates unless the total of time worked for the week exceeds forty (40) hours. If the employee is temporarily assigned for, or is substituting for, another employee, the employee shall be paid his/her regular hourly rate or the starting rate of the substituted position, whichever is higher. However, bus drivers subbing outside their classification shall be paid the sub-rate of the classification they are subbing in. The sub rate for all bargaining unit positions shall be the step one (1) rate for that classification.
- D. Employees, when requested to drive their automobile in the discharge of their duties, or when requested to do so by the appropriate supervision, shall be reimbursed for the actual miles driven at the IRS rate.
- E. The parties agree that it is not the normal expectation that members of this bargaining unit will have available a private automobile or vehicle to use as part of the fulfillment of the employee's duties. No penalty or discipline may be imposed on any employee who does not have such private transportation available for use in their employment.

- F. All time worked over forty (40) hours in one (1) work week (defined as 12:01 a.m. Monday - Midnight Sunday) shall be considered as overtime and shall be paid to employees at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) times (x) the employee's regular hourly rate. All overtime

compensation whether paid in hourly rates or in compensatory time must be completed in payment to the employee within the two (2) week pay period in which it was earned.

G. SPECIAL TRIPS - BUS DRIVERS ONLY

Special trips shall be defined as either Athletic or Non-Athletic.

1. Athletic trip assignments will be filled using seniority as the primary criterion. Assignments shall be made on an annual basis. A driver may elect an athletic run for more than one (1) season if the opportunity exists. The runs shall be offered prior to the beginning of the school year.

FALL RUNS

Cross Country - Varsity and Middle School
 Football - Varsity and Junior Varsity
 Quiz Bowl
 Volleyball - Varsity, Junior Varsity, 9th Grade, and Middle School

WINTER RUNS

Boys Basketball - Varsity and Junior Varsity*
 Boys Basketball - 9th Grade
 Boys Basketball - Middle School
 Girls Basketball - Varsity and Junior Varsity*
 Girls Basketball - 9th Grade
 Girls Basketball - Middle School

*Seniority choice of either Boys and Girls Varsity or Boys and Girls JV

SPRING RUNS

Baseball/Softball – Varsity
 Baseball/Softball - Junior Varsity
 Track - High School and Middle School
 Golf

2. Non-athletic trips (fan busses, band trips, school field trips, etc.) shall be offered at least with five (5) days advance notice whenever possible and assigned on a rotational-seniority basis. Any trip that comes up will be offered to the driver with high seniority. The driver may elect or decline (pass) on that trip. In either case, the next available trip will be offered to the driver second on the seniority list. This will continue for all non-athletic runs until each regular driver has been offered a special trip. Then the

choice will again go to the high seniority driver. Clarification: If a driver passes on a run, he/she then loses his/her turn.

3. An attempt will be made to equalize the opportunity for special trip hours for all regular drivers with a system using Opportunity Hours.
 - a. The hours generated on special trips will be counted towards the total Opportunity Hours whether the driver drives or refuses to drive the extra trip offered.
 - b. All athletic and non-athletic special trips will count. Substitute hours for regular runs will not be counted toward the Opportunity Hours.
 - i. If a more senior driver has more Opportunity Hours than a less senior driver, the more senior driver will be passed over (at no penalty) until Opportunity Hours are nearly equal.
 - ii. Example 1:
A driver refuses a three-hour (3) special trip during his rotation. These three (3) hours will be added to his Opportunity Hours.
 - iii. Example 2:
Driver A is more senior than Driver B. Driver A has 35 Opportunity Hours; Driver B, 30. A four-hour (4) trip comes up. Driver A is passed over and retains 35 Opportunity Hours. Driver B is asked to drive because four (4) additional hours will still leave him/her with fewer Opportunity Hours than more senior driver.
 - c. All special trips shall be authorized by a Request for Special Trip Form, signed by the person requesting the special trip and the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
 - d. Drivers who drive special trips shall clean the bus after the trip. The bus must be cleaned before the next regular run if time permits.
 - e. Only drivers assigned special trip authorizations shall drive the bus to and from the destination stated.
 - f. Drivers assigned to special trips shall fill out the "Special Trip Form" upon returning from the special trip.
- H. Bus drivers are encouraged to bring forward suggestions and recommendations for improving cost effectiveness, efficiency and run equalization of the bus system. Such suggestions and recommendations will be submitted in writing to the Transportation Supervisor and, at the driver's option, may be subsequently forwarded to the Superintendent.
- I. Employees shall not be required to participate in meetings with a supervisor during break periods or during unpaid time.
- J. When attending conferences, employees shall be paid their regular rate of pay for the actual

hours of the conference, excluding lunch, and shall be reimbursed for actual miles driven at the IRS rate which will be established on the first day of the school year and the first day of the second semester. Multiple staff members attending the same conference will make an effort to arrange carpooling with their supervisor before the event.

- K. Employees shall be reimbursed for a one-time testing fee resulting from state or federal regulations, which require the employee to obtain or retain any licensure and/or certification. The employee must provide verification of successful test completion and a receipt for the testing fee. If such tests are only offered during working hours, the employee shall be excused with pay and with prior approval of the supervisor for those hours needed to attend and complete the testing. The employee shall be at work for any other portion of the day when he/she is not engaged in the testing.
- L. The District shall reimburse a newly hired employee for half the cost of any State and Federal required criminal background check including finger-printing.
- M. If a bargaining unit member is asked to substitute in a different classification, they shall receive the entry rate for the substituted position or their regular hourly rate, whichever is greater for the classification in which they are substituting.
- N. When any paraprofessional performing health care responsibilities such as: tube feeding, suctioning, assisted toileting, diapering, catheterization, the exposure to bodily fluids of an individual student, etc., the paraprofessional shall have an additional adult present during the administration of any and all of these responsibilities for liability purposes. A log shall be kept indicating who was present and what procedure or procedures were administered. The log shall be kept in the office of each building, and will be available for the paraprofessional to complete for each procedure.

Any paraprofessional who has to work with a student with a disease or medical condition that requires medication or recognition of symptoms that require medical attention will be given training prior to working with that student. If someone is required to witness administration of any medication or medical attention, they will receive appropriate training also.

ARTICLE 24 - BARGAINING UNIT MEMBER EVALUATIONS

- A. All observation of the work of each bargaining unit member shall be conducted in person and with the full knowledge of the bargaining unit member.
- B. Each employee shall be evaluated on the criteria established in the job description for each position and those listed in the evaluation tool. Job descriptions will be provided upon request.
- C. All evaluations shall be in writing, with a copy provided to the employee.
- D. If a supervisor believes that an employee is doing unacceptable work, the reasons shall be included in the evaluation and specific ways in which the employee can improve will be included in the written evaluation. Assistance to be provided to the employee in making such improvements will also be in the written evaluation.

- E. Employees may submit written comments to be attached to any employee evaluation which is performed by the Employer.
- F. A written evaluation shall be completed on each employee at the conclusion of the employee's probationary period. Failure to complete such an evaluation shall be deemed as evidence that the employee's work is satisfactory.
- G. The evaluation shall be on the approved form (Appendix A).
- H. Failure of the Administration to conduct an evaluation for a given fiscal year shall equate to a satisfactory evaluation for the employee.

ARTICLE 25 - TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Discharge of a non-probationary employee by the Employer shall be for just cause only and the employee shall have recourse to the Grievance Procedure as set forth in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 26 - RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall, upon request, provide the Association with a copy of all work rules and regulations, which are issued in writing to employees.
- B. No work rules or regulations may violate any of the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.
- C. Each employee shall be generally responsible to one (1) supervisor. Said supervisor will be assigned by the employer.

ARTICLE 27 - SUBCONTRACTING

- A. During the life of this Agreement, the Employer shall have the right to subcontract bargaining unit work in cases where there are no bargaining unit employees available to perform the work.
- B. Subcontracting shall not, however, be used to permanently displace any bargaining unit member, or to avoid recall of a laid off bargaining unit member.

ARTICLE 28 - SUCCESSORS CLAUSE

In the event that there is consideration of annexation, consolidation, or other reorganization with one (1) or more districts in whole or in part, the Board shall notify the Association in writing immediately. Upon request by the Association, the Board will meet with the Association to discuss the plans, and to receive input from the Association. Areas of discussion shall include, but not be limited to: seniority, wage scale, placement, transfers and employment by the successor Board. The Board will make reasonable efforts to assure the continued employment of all employees. Both the Board and the Association recognize that the Board may not have any legal authority or responsibility to assure the continued employment of Board employees in the event of annexation/consolidation, or other reorganization of the Employer.

ARTICLE 29 - SAVINGS CLAUSE

- A. The parties recognize that this Agreement is subject to the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Michigan.
- B. If any Article or Section of this Agreement or any supplement thereto should be held invalid by operation of law or any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any Article or Section should be restrained by such tribunal, the remainder of this Agreement and supplements shall not be affected thereby, and such Article, Section, compliance and/or enforcement shall be deemed null and void, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect; furthermore, the provisions of such shall supersede, to the extent of the conflict, the provisions of this Agreement and govern the relations of the parties hereunder.

ARTICLE 30 - WAGE SCALE

Bargaining Unit Member Longevity will be calculated as follows:

- Beginning with the 8th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.10 cents/hour
- Beginning with the 10th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.20 cents/hour (\$.30 Total)
- Beginning with the 15th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.30 cents/hour (\$.60 Total)
- Beginning with the 20th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.40 cents/hour (\$1.00 Total)
- Beginning with the 25th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.50 cents/hour (\$1.50 Total)
- Beginning with the 30th year of continuous service in Fowler Schools: +\$.60 cents/hour (\$2.10 Total)

~~2021-2022~~

~~All Classifications will advance the predetermined step for their classification (if eligible), an accompanying \$0.35 per hour on all salary steps, and a \$250.00 one-time payment/bonus (non-ORS reportable) to be made in December of 2021.~~

2024-2025

All Classifications will advance the predetermined step for their classification (if eligible), and there will be an accompanying 3.00% increase in salary schedule.

2025-2026

All Classifications will advance the predetermined step for their classification (if eligible), and there will be an accompanying 2.00% increase in salary schedule.

Transportation

*Regular Full Run a.m. and p.m. drivers employed after July 1, 1996

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$10,468	\$10,782	\$10,998

2	\$10,777	\$11,100	\$11,322
3	\$11,094	\$11,427	\$11,655
4	\$11,314	\$11,653	\$11,886
5	\$11,534	\$11,880	\$12,118
6	\$11,762	\$12,115	\$12,357
Extra	2023-24	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
runs	\$15.16	\$15.61	\$15.93

Secretarial

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$15.14	\$15.59	\$15.91
2	\$15.77	\$16.24	\$16.57
3	\$16.42	\$16.91	\$17.25
4	\$17.06	\$17.57	\$17.92
5	\$17.59	\$18.12	\$18.48
6	\$18.10	\$18.64	\$19.02
7	\$18.66	\$19.22	\$19.60

Food Service

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$12.12	\$12.48	\$12.73
2	\$12.49	\$12.86	\$13.12
3	\$12.83	\$13.21	\$13.48
4	\$13.22	\$13.62	\$13.89
5	\$13.48	\$13.88	\$14.16
6	\$13.76	\$14.17	\$14.46
7	\$14.01	\$14.43	\$14.72

Paraprofessionals

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$12.12	\$12.48	\$12.73

2	\$12.49	\$12.86	\$13.12
3	\$12.83	\$13.21	\$13.48
4	\$13.22	\$13.62	\$13.89
5	\$13.55	\$13.96	\$14.24
6	\$13.87	\$14.29	\$14.57
7	\$14.21	\$14.64	\$14.93

Custodial

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$13.80	\$14.21	\$14.50
2	\$14.20	\$14.63	\$14.92
3	\$14.59	\$15.03	\$15.33
4	\$15.04	\$15.49	\$15.80
5	\$15.31	\$15.77	\$16.08
6	\$15.61	\$16.08	\$16.40
7	\$15.92	\$16.40	\$16.73

Maintenance

<u>Step</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
1	\$18.23	\$18.78	\$19.15
2	\$18.76	\$19.32	\$19.71
3	\$19.32	\$19.90	\$20.30
4	\$19.89	\$20.49	\$20.90
5	\$20.27	\$20.88	\$21.30
6	\$20.68	\$21.30	\$21.73
7	\$21.08	\$21.71	\$22.15

***All staff covered by this contract will receive a 1% off-schedule payment, to be made by the first payment of October 2024-2025**

ARTICLE 31 - FRINGE BENEFITS

- A. The Board of Education agrees to provide and maintain without cost to the full-time bargaining unit member for a full twelve (12) month period adjusted annually per PA 152 the maximum

payment permitted under this section as governed by the state treasurer for the employee and his/her entire family and any other eligible dependents, the following health care benefits: care benefits:

MESSA Medical Plan containing:

Health - Essentials by MESSA, \$375/\$750 deductible, 20% coinsurance, \$10 online visit co-pay, \$25 office visit co-pay, \$50 urgent care/specialist visit co-pay, \$200 ER visit co-pay, with EbM Rx,

or

MESSA Choices, \$1000/\$2000 deductible, 0% coinsurance, \$20 online/office/specialist visit co-pay, \$25 Urgent care visit co-pay, \$50 ER visit co-pay, 3 Tier w/ Mandatory Mail Rx,

or

MESSA Balance+ (HSA) with \$1600/\$3200 deductible, 20% coinsurance, \$10 online visit co-pay, \$25 office visit co-pay, \$50 urgent care/specialist visit co-pay, \$200 ER visit co-pay, MESSA Balance+ Rx, HEQ Rider, Accident, Critical Illness and Hospital Indemnity supplemental plans

In the event the HSA deductibles are increased, the employer will continue to fund the full cost of the deductible, however, the monthly contribution of the employee shall be adjusted to compensate for the shift in the employer's contribution.

The Hard Cap amount shall be deducted from the total costs associated with health benefits in accordance with P.A. 152 and then the employee shall be responsible for paying the balance in equal monthly increments.

For the 2024 calendar year, the Employer will contribute the following to an employee's election of insurance coverage for a medical benefit plan:

Single person: \$ 641.90 per month
 Individual and spouse: \$ 1,342.42 per month;
 Individual and 1 nonspouse-dependent; or
 Family: \$ 1,750.65 per month

For the 2025 calendar year, the Employer will contribute the following to an employee's election of insurance coverage for a medical benefit plan:

Single person: \$ 643.18 per month
 Individual and spouse: \$ 1,345.10 per month;
 Individual and 1 nonspouse-dependent; or

Family: \$ 1,754.15 per month

For calendar year 2026: the Employer's contribution will increase to the maximum cap allowed by State law. If no statutory cap exists, the Employer's base dollar contribution is determined by the percentage increase in its insurance costs for this bargaining unit from the previous medical plan benefit year, not to exceed 0.5%.

MESSA Dental, Vision, LTD, and Life included

In response to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the District may choose to offer medical coverage and require monthly payment for said coverage. Both the coverage and the premium copayment will be determined by the District. This language applies only to employees that are not full time as defined in Article 3.

1. Dental - Delta Dental 100/100/50/50, \$1500 annual maximum, \$2000 lifetime orthodontic maximum, with two (2) cleanings per year.
2. A \$40,000 AD & D Life Insurance Policy for each employee.
3. Long-term disability insurance which will provide for disability pay at sixty-six (66) and two-thirds percent (2/3%) of the monthly pay, after a sixty (60) calendar day waiting period.
4. MESSA Vision Service Plan - 3 (VSP) PLUS 250CL

- B. For those Full Time employees, as defined by this contract, not selecting health insurance, the Board shall provide a cash option in lieu of health benefits. The cash option shall be an amount equal to the single subscriber rate of the MESSA health insurance program provided for in the Fowler Education Association contract and will be capped at the same amount

Upon the unit member's written request, the Board agrees to reinstate the employee back into the health insurance program, during the next open enrollment period, unless there has been a change in subscriber status. In that event, the change shall become effective commencing with the next calendar month.

- C. The Board shall provide for twelve months, seventy-five dollars (\$75) per month for each employee in the bargaining unit toward the purchase of tax deferred annuities. Employees with twenty (20) or more years of experience will receive an additional five dollars (\$5) per month for a total of, eighty dollars (\$80). Each employee shall be entitled to designate the carrier from the list provided by the Board.
- D. The Association has the right to request that the Employer implement plan changes in medical coverage one time per contract year. Said change would require a written mutual agreement between the employer and the association's executive board.
- E. If provided by the District, employees will wear uniforms in the performance of their work. Custodians and Food Service employees will receive up to \$75 for one pair of non-slip shoes per year required to be worn in the performance of their duties. Employees will not be required

to replace uniforms damaged in the course of carrying out work responsibilities.

- F. The Board's insurance contribution shall begin in September of each year and continue for twelve (12) full months. All claims submitted are subject to the terms set forth by the various insurance administrators and underwriters. As such any claims disputes are, therefore, not subject to the grievance procedure. The board by payment of the premium payments required to provide the insurance shall be relieved from all liability with respect to the benefits, eligibility, commencement and termination of coverage.
- G. Within thirty (30) days of the opening of each school year, the board shall notify each employee of the insurance coverage being provided by the school district for that employee. This notification must be done in writing not later than the thirtieth (30th) day of September of each year, or a meeting will be held with the representative of the various insurance carriers.
- H. Any member having a change in marital, family, and/or dependency status shall make the proper amendments to his/her coverage through the business office within thirty (30) working days of the time that a change in status occurs or from the time of receiving notice of coverage from the district. Provisions of the insurance carrier shall be in effect if their policies differ from this paragraph.
- I. A \$20,000 AD & D Life insurance policy for all less than full-time employees.
- J. All employees will be provided an all seasons individual sports pass for all district athletic events. Additional individual or family passes can be purchased at half price.

ARTICLE 32 - SEVERANCE

- A. Employees with at least fifteen (15) years of continuous uninterrupted service, as defined in the Agreement, in the District, shall receive a severance stipend based upon the following schedule:

15-19 years	\$20.00/per year of service
20-24 years	\$30.00/per year of service
25-29 years	\$40.00/per year of service
30 or more years	\$45.00/per year of service
- B. Payment shall be made within four (4) weeks of the last day worked. No special payroll will be run.
- C. No payment will be made unless the employee has at least fifty (50) days of sick leave time available at the point of time of severance.
- D. This provision shall not apply to an employee who is discharged.

ARTICLE 33 - CALENDAR

By February 1, the Association may provide written recommendations for the Board to consider

when developing the subsequent year's calendar.


During the normal school year any teacher days scheduled without students, the senior food service and senior paraprofessional staff members may remain on duty, with the approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.

ARTICLE 34 - DURATION

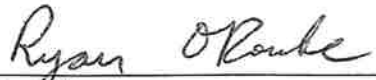
This Agreement shall become effective upon ratification by the Board and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2026. This Agreement shall expire on this date and may be extended by mutual consent in writing by both parties.

Signatures:


Patrick O'Rourke Fowler Public Schools
Superintendent


Allison Dollison MEA Uniserv Director

FOWLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY: 
President

BY: 
Vice-President

BY: 
Secretary

BY: 
Treasurer

DATE: 9/09/2024

DATE: 8/14/2024

APPENDIX A - Fowler Public Schools Employee Evaluation Form

Evaluator: _____ Employee: _____ Date: _____

Status: _____ Probationary _____ Non-probationary

The primary purpose of the evaluation form is to encourage positive interaction between the supervisor and employee in order to realize improvement. Whether the instrument and the process are productive depends upon the attitudes of the involved parties. To be most effective, it is assumed that the evaluation will occur in an atmosphere of sensitivity, understanding, support, candor, and trust by both the evaluator and the person being evaluated.

INSTRUCTIONS: Read carefully the description given for each of the qualifications below. Then place a circle around the number in the column which, in your opinion, most accurately describes the employee's standing. Evaluate each qualification without regard to the employee's rating on any other qualification. 1 being the LOW, 5 being the HIGH.

1. COOPERATION Ability to get along with others.	1 Is antagonistic, pulls against rather than works with others.	2 Is difficult to handle.	3 Usually gets along with others.	4 Cooperates willingly, gets along with others.	5 Gets along well with others, is friendly and helpful.
2. INITIATIVE Tendency to go ahead	1 Takes no initiative, has to be instructed repeatedly.	2 Takes very little initiative, requires urging.	3 Does routine work acceptably.	4 Is fairly resourceful, does well by himself.	5 Is resourceful, looks for things to learn and do.
3. COURTESY	1 Has been discourteous to the public and staff.	2 Is not particularly courteous in action or speech.	3 Usually is polite and is considerate of others.	4 Is considerate and courteous.	5 Is very courteous and very considerate of others.
4. ATTITUDE Toward constructive criticism.	1 Doesn't profit by criticism, resents it.	2 Doesn't pay much attention to criticism.	3 Accepts criticism and tries to do better.	4 Accepts criticism and improvement noted.	5 Accepts criticism and improves greatly.
5. KNOWLEDGE of the job.	1 Has not tried to learn.	2 Pays little attention to learning the job.	3 Has learned necessary routine but needs supervision.	4 Understands work, needs little supervision.	5 Knows job well and shows desire to learn more.
6. ACCURACY of work.	1 Is extremely careless.	2 Is frequently inaccurate and careless.	3 Makes errors; shows average care, thoroughness and neatness.	4 Makes few errors; is careful, thorough and neat.	5 Very seldom makes errors, does work of very good quality.

APPENDIX A (continued)

7.	WORK ACCOMPLISHED	1 Is very slow, output is unsatisfactory.	2 Is slower than average.	3 Works with ordinary speed; work is generally satisfactory.	4 Works rapidly; output is above average.	5 Is fast and efficient; production is well above average.
8.	WORK HABITS	1 Habitually wastes time, has to be watched and prodded along.	2 Frequently wastes time, needs close supervision.	3 Wastes time occasionally, is usually reliable.	4 Seldom wastes time, is reliable.	5 Is industrious, concentrates very well.
9.	ADAPTABILITY	1 Can't adjust to changing situations.	2 Is slow in grasping ideas, has difficulty adapting to new situations.	3 Makes necessary adjustments after considerable instruction.	4 Adjusts readily.	5 Learns quickly, is adept at meeting changing conditions.
10.	APPEARANCE Neatness in personal care.	1 Is extremely careless.	2 Often neglects appearance.	3 Is possible to appearance, but should make effort to improve.	4 Is very good in appearance; looks neat most of the time.	5 Is excellent in appearance; looks very well all of the time.
11.	ATTENDANCE	1 Too frequently absent for continued employment.	2 Not regular enough in attendance.	3 Usually dependable.	4 Dependable.	5 Never absent except for an unavoidable emergency.
12.	PUNCTUALITY	1 Too frequently tardy for continued employment.	2 Very often tardy.	3 Punctuality could be improved.	4 Seldom tardy.	5 Never tardy except for an unavoidable emergency.

Comments:

I understand that my signature is not intended to indicate my agreement with the appraisal, but indicates I have read the appraisal. I recognize my right to discuss this appraisal with my evaluator and attach comments concerning this appraisal.

Evaluator _____

Date _____

Employee _____

Date _____

Two copies of the evaluation will be signed and dated. One will be filed in the employee's personnel file. The other will be given to the employee.