

# **AGREEMENT**

**between**

**West Branch-Rose City Area Schools  
Board of Education**

**and**

**United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO-CLC  
on behalf of Local Union 15095-01**

**July 1, 2024  
to  
June 30, 2026**

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## AGREEMENT

### Agreement

This Agreement is entered into effective July 1, 2024, by and between the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "School Board" or "Board") and the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO/CLC, on behalf of the Local Union No. 15095-01 (hereinafter referred to as the "Union").

## ARTICLE I RECOGNITION

### Article I - Recognition

The School Board recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the purpose of collective bargaining in regard to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for the following employees:

1. Clerk
2. Secretary
3. Mechanic
4. Bus Service Person
5. Bus Driver
6. Maintenance
7. Paraprofessional working twenty (20) hours or more a week.
  - a) All Paraprofessionals not receiving health insurance benefits prior to December 1, 2010, must work thirty (30) hours to be eligible.
  - b) Paraprofessionals who were receiving benefits i.e. health, dental, and life insurance prior to December 1, 2010, will continue to do so.
  - c) Paraprofessionals currently employed by District will establish seniority rights based on date of entry into bargaining unit.
8. Dispatcher
9. Parking Lot Attendant
10. Maintenance and Transportation Support Staff Crew Leader
11. GSRP Caregiver working 20 hours or more a week
12. Maintenance Coordinator

Employees will be able to combine union jobs to equal up to an 8-hour position.  
Central Office personnel and all supervisory and executive personnel are excluded.

**ARTICLE II  
UNION MEMBERSHIP AND FEES**

**Article II - Union Membership, Fees, and Payroll Deductions**

Current members and newly hired employees will have the option to remain/become members of Local Union 15095. They will be responsible for payment of their dues to the Local Union.

**ARTICLE III  
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

**Article III - Management Rights**

The Board, on its own behalf and on behalf of the electors of the School District, hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and of the United States, except as are limited by specific and express provisions of this Agreement. Such rights include:

- A. To the executive management and administrative control of the school system and its properties and facilities, and the activities of its employees.
- B. To hire all employees and subject to the provisions of law; to determine their qualifications and the conditions for their continued employment, or their dismissal or demotion; and to promote and transfer all such employees.
- C. The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority and responsibilities by the Board, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices in furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement, and then to the extent such specific and express terms hereof are in conformance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Michigan, and the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- D. The parties agree that this Agreement incorporates their full and complete understanding and that any prior oral agreements or practices are superseded by the terms of this Agreement. The parties further agree that no such oral understandings or practices will be recognized in the future unless committed to writing and signed by the parties as a supplement to this Agreement.
- E. An Emergency Financial Manager appointed under the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act shall have the authority to reject, modify, or terminate the collective bargaining agreement as provided in the Local Government and School District Accountability Act.

In the event that Emergency Financial Manager provision is declared unlawful, it will be stricken from this agreement.

<b>ARTICLE IV SENIORITY</b>
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## Article IV – Seniority

### Section 1. Definitions

Seniority shall be by non-interchangeable occupation groups as designated by the employees' classification. Seniority is hereby defined as a length of continuous employment in the service of the Board by non-interchangeable group after completion of a probationary period. If more than one employee is hired on the same day, in the same occupational group, seniority will be determined by a lottery draw after completion of 60-day probationary period.

The agreed-upon occupational groups are:

1. Clerk
2. Secretary
3. Mechanic
4. Bus Service Person
5. Bus Driver
6. Maintenance
7. Paraprofessional
8. Dispatcher
9. Parking Lot Attendant
10. Maintenance and Transportation Support Staff Crew Leader
11. GSRP Caregiver
12. Maintenance Coordinator

### Section 2. Job Postings

- A. The Board of Education will determine whether and when a job opening exists. All job openings in the bargaining unit shall be posted for seven (7) working days on bulletin boards at West Branch, Rose City, Ogemaw Heights and the Bus Garage, and shall be awarded within ten (10) working days after the closing date of the posting, based on seniority, qualifications, and physical ability. All postings shall state the range of hours in accordance with student schedules, hourly wage rate, the specific description of the job and the building. Employees may be assigned to other areas within a building due to a vacancy or other circumstances on a temporary basis. No employee should sign a job posting unless he/she is physically and mentally able to assume the duties of the job within thirty working days.
- B. Employees wishing to apply for a position shall follow the directions outlined within the posting. The Union shall receive a copy of all postings and awards.
- C. After December 1st, any Para Pro position that increases by thirty (30) minutes per day will be filled by current Para Pro for the remainder of that school year and put out for bid at the beginning of the next school year.
- D. Summer Positions: Summer positions shall be posted and awarded to bargaining unit personnel in accordance with Article IV, Section 2, Paragraph A.

E. Probation

New employees hired in the unit shall be considered as probationary employees for the first sixty (60) working days of their employment. The sixty (60) days probationary period shall be accumulated within not more than one (1) year. A substitute working continuously for one (1) year or more is entitled to waive the sixty (60) day probationary period and receive full wages if management decides to hire him/her. When an employee finishes the probationary period, he/she shall be entered on the seniority list of the unit and shall rank for seniority from the day sixty (60) days prior to the day he/she completed the probationary period. There shall be no seniority among probationary employees.

**PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ENTITLED TO PAID TIME OFF OR INSURANCE BENEFITS.**

F. Representation of Probationary Employees

The Union shall represent probationary employees for the purpose of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment as set forth in Article I of this Agreement. The Board shall have the right to discharge and discipline probationary employees and the action is not subject to appeal or grievance.

Section 3. Accrued Seniority

An employee awarded a job in another group shall have the date he/she begins working in the new group as his/her seniority date in that new group. His/her accrued length of service (seniority) in his/her old group shall remain, but no further accrual in the group shall be earned. An employee displaced from his/her group may use his/her accrued length of service (seniority) in any other group to secure a job according to the provisions of this labor agreement.

Employees transferring from one group to another must meet the minimum requirements and serve a four (4) week trial period. If the employee is unsatisfactory in the new position, notice and reasons shall be submitted in writing to the employee and the employee shall be returned to his/her previous position.

Section 4. Layoff / Recall

Seniority shall be the primary basis for determining the order of layoff and recall within the non-interchangeable occupational group. Any employee laid off may exercise seniority within the occupational group to be placed in any position within that group for which he/she is qualified.

Any laid off employee will be recalled to work at full pay and appropriate contractual benefits within his/her non-interchangeable occupational group when another employee within the same group is on an approved unpaid leave of absence or Workers' Compensation which exceeds two (2) weeks if the employer decides to fill the position. At the expiration of such leave, the low senior employee will again be returned to lay-off status. Seniority adjustments will occur for both employees involved (the employee on an approved unpaid leave and the employee being recalled into the position).

Section 5. Termination

An employee shall lose his/her seniority for the following reasons:

1. He/she quits.
2. He/she is discharged and the discharge is not reversed through the Grievance Procedure.
3. He/she fails to return to work within ten (10) working days after the issuance by the Administration of notice of recall by registered or certified mail to the last known address of such employee as shown on the Administration's records.
4. He/she is absent from work more than three (3) consecutive days without advising the Administration and giving satisfactory reasons to the Administration for such absence.
5. He/she overstays a granted leave of absence, including vacation, unless there are extenuating circumstances and the supervisor is so notified.
6. He/she retires.
7. Employee is laid off for a continuous period of two (2) years.

Section 6. Accumulation of Seniority

Seniority shall not accrue to employees on a personal leave of absence after the first thirty (30) days of such leave.

<b>ARTICLE V GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE</b>
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**Article V - Grievance Procedure**

**A. Definition**

1. A grievance shall mean a complaint by an employee in the bargaining unit that there has been as to him/her a violation, misinterpretation, or inequitable application of a specific provision of this Agreement.
2. Grievances of the employees of the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools shall be presented and adjusted in accordance with the following procedures covered in the Agreement.

B. The following steps will not prevent any individual employee from presenting a grievance to the Supervisor and having the grievance adjusted, without intervention of the bargaining representative. A copy of all grievances must be given to the President of the Local Union. If the adjustment is not consistent with the terms of the collective bargaining contract or agreement then in effect, provided that the bargaining representative has been given opportunity to be present at such adjustment.

C. Failure to institute a grievance or to appeal a decision within the specified time limit shall be deemed an acceptance of the decision. Failure to answer a grievance within the specified time limit shall result in automatic appeal to the next step. In exceptional circumstances, extensions in time may be granted when so requested in writing and by mutual agreement. Time limits shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and days considered as holidays per Article XIV. A working day shall be defined as a day in which Central Office is open.



Step 1: The employee with a grievance shall discuss the grievance informally with the immediate supervisor within five (5) working days of the alleged violation, with the assistance of a Committee person at the employee's option. If the matter is not resolved within five (5) working days after the discussion, the following step may be taken by the employee.

Step 2: In the event that the matter is not resolved informally, the employee shall present the grievance in writing, within five (5) working days, with the assistance of a committee person, at the employee's option, to his/her immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor shall file a written decision with the Union within five (5) working days after he/she receives the written grievance as herein before specified.

Step 3: If the above answer is not satisfactory, the Union may appeal the grievance to the Personnel Committee to be heard within five (5) working days of receipt of such answer. The Personnel Committee may consist of two (2) members of the Board of Education, as appointed by Board President, the School Superintendent, the appropriate administrator and two (2) members of the Local Union being the President and Vice President accompanied by the International Staff Representative. The grievant shall also be present. Both sides may call witnesses upon request. The Superintendent of Schools will render a decision on the grievance within five (5) working days.

Step 4: If the grievance is not settled at Step 3, the Union may file a demand for binding arbitration with the American Arbitration Association not later than fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the Superintendent's answer in Step 3. The Union must also serve the Employer with a copy of this demand within the 15-day time period. The American Arbitration Association will be used in the selection of the arbitrator, and the rules of the American Arbitration Association shall likewise govern the conduct of the arbitration proceeding.

- D. The conference, discussions and/or meetings in the Grievance Procedure shall be scheduled at a time when there is no disruption of normal scheduled routines and duties.
- E. The Agreement constitutes a contract between the parties which shall be interpreted and applied by the parties and by the Arbitrator in the same manner as other collective bargaining agreements. The function and purpose of the Arbitrator is to determine disputed interpretations of terms actually found in the Agreement or to determine disputed facts upon which the application of the Agreement depends. The Arbitrator shall, therefore, not have authority, nor shall he/she consider his/her function to include the decision of any issues not submitted or to so interpret or apply the Agreement as to change what can fairly be said to have been the intent of the parties as determined by generally accepted rules of contract construction. The Arbitrator shall not give any decision which in practical or actual effect modified, revises, detracts from or adds to any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement. Past practice of the parties in interpreting or applying terms of the Agreement can be relevant evidence, but may not be used so as to justify or result in what is, in effect, a modification (whether by addition or subtraction) of written terms of this Agreement. The arbitrator has no obligation or function to render a decision or not to render a decision merely because in his/her opinion, such decision is fair or equitable or because in his/her opinion, it is unfair or inequitable.

- F. If either party shall claim before the Arbitrator that a particular grievance fails to meet the tests of arbitrability, as the same are set forth in this Article (Grievance Procedure), the Arbitrator shall proceed to decide such issue before proceeding to hear the case upon the merits. The Arbitrator shall have the authority to determine whether he/she will hear the case on its merits at the same hearing in which the jurisdictional question is presented. In any case where the arbitrator determines that such grievance fails to meet said test of arbitrability, he/she shall refer the case back to the parties without a recommendation of the merits.
- G. Unless expressly agreed to by the parties in writing, the Arbitrator is limited to hearing one issue or grievance upon its merits at any one hearing. Separate arbitrations shall be constituted for each grievance appealed to binding arbitration.
- H. The Arbitrator may make such investigation as he/she may deem proper and may, with the joint consent of the Union and the Board, hold a hearing and examine the witnesses of each party, and each party shall have the right to cross-examine all such witnesses and to make a record of all such proceedings. Within thirty (30) days after the close of the hearings, or the date established for filing post hearing briefs if so desired by either party. The Arbitrator shall issue the decision, which shall be final and binding.

I. Cost of Arbitration.

The fees and expenses of the Arbitrator, the cost of transcripts (if such may be requested by the Arbitrator), and the cost of the room shall be borne equally by the Union and the Board. All other expenses incurred shall be paid by the party incurring them.

J. Discharge and Discipline Cases.

In the event a member of the unit shall be discharged from his/her employment, the Union will be immediately notified, in writing, of such discharge. In all cases of discharge, a grievance, if any, must be filed in writing within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the notice of discharge provided in the above paragraph.

Any employee or group of employees who are called into any office for the purpose of discipline may request the presence of the Chairman of the Grievance Committee or other Committee person and such requests shall not be denied by the Board. Normally employees will not be disciplined or given any reprimand in the presence of students or employees (excluding grievance committee members).

Should the need for discipline arise, the Board agrees that the intent of the discipline will be to correct the employee. In determining discipline, the Board shall not consider verbal or written warnings which were issued more than twelve (12) months prior to the current penalty.

<b>ARTICLE VI LEAVES</b>
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## Article VI - Leaves

### Section 1. Maternity Leave

Maternity leave shall be treated as paid time off, making the doctor in attendance the authority for leaving and returning to work.

### Section 2. Paid Time Off

- A. The paid time off herein described is to be used for the purposes agreed to. Misuse of paid time off shall be cause for disciplinary action. Throughout this section, paid time off will be referred to as PTO.
- B. New hires would receive ½ day PTO per month after probationary period through June 30 of first year; full PTO days given on July 1<sup>st</sup> for second school year; third school year PTO will be calculated in hours based on average hours worked the previous year.
  1. School year and extended school year employees (i.e., clerical, secretarial, bus service persons, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, dispatcher, and parking lot attendant,) shall be credited with fourteen and one-half (14 ½) PTO days on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Any new employee will have PTO days pro-rated from date of hire to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year after their probationary period. Upon exhaustion of PTO time due to long-term illness, an employee will not accrue a negative balance.
    - a) An additional half (½) day of PTO will be credited to each of these employees who work a minimum of two (2) weeks during the month of August. Anyone working over two (2) weeks during the month of August will be credited with a full day of PTO.
    - b) EXCEPTION: Employees on Workers' Compensation will be considered as working for the purpose of crediting PTO. In no event shall an employee receive more than eleven and one-half (11 ½) PTO days for the period of Workers' Compensation.
  2. Twelve-month (year-round) employees (not including 9. Maintenance and Mechanics) shall be credited with seventeen (17) PTO days on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year after their probationary period.. Upon exhaustion of PTO time due to long-term illness, an employee will not accrue a negative balance.
    - a) EXCEPTION: Employees on Workers' Compensation will be considered as working for the purpose of crediting PTO. In no event shall an employee receive more than fourteen (14) PTO days for the period of Workers' Compensation.
  3. Non-medical PTO days shall be arranged with the supervisor at least two (2) days in advance, unless an emergency situation arises and is approved by the supervisor. Reasonable restrictions may be imposed on PTO days immediately before or after a holiday, vacation period, or the first day of deer season.

4. Maximum PTO accumulation allowed is 832 hours. At the end of the fiscal year, any PTO hours above 832 hours will be paid at the employee's current rate of pay.
5. Any bargaining unit member who has completed fifteen (15) years of service to the District and whose employment with the District is severed due to retirement shall receive a payment equal to 20% of the individual's hourly rate multiplied by the total accumulated hours of PTO. Any bargaining unit member who has completed thirty (30) years of service to the District and whose employment with the District is severed due to retirement shall receive a payment equal to 50% of the individual's hourly rate multiplied by the total accumulated hours of PTO.
6. Any bargaining unit member, whose employment with the District is severed due to death, shall have a payment equal to 40% of their hourly rate for unused PTO days paid to their beneficiary.
7. PTO days shall not be used for vacation purposes with the exception that PTO days may be used during scheduled school breaks (Example; Christmas and Spring Breaks).
8. Employees who have exhausted their PTO time will not be allowed to take additional time off without initial approval from his/her supervisor/principal and final approval of the superintendent. Such requests must be submitted to supervisor/principal 48 hours in advance. Consideration for time off without pay will only be given to those with extenuating circumstances such as FMLA (or FMLA like situations for employees who do not qualify for FMLA because of hours worked). Those employees who exhaust PTO time and take additional time off without prior approval are subject to discipline, up to and including termination.
9. Maintenance and Mechanics shall be credited with fourteen (14) PTO days on July 1st.

B. Unpaid Illness Leave

Upon exhaustion of PTO, an unpaid illness leave, for physical or mental condition(s), supported by a written statement which includes a projected return to work date from the employee's doctor may be granted. Such request shall be in writing to his/her supervisor / principal with final approval being determined by the Superintendent. The request may be granted. If granted, the unpaid leave shall not exceed one (1) year, although further extensions may be requested. An employee returning from an illness leave must notify the supervisor / principal as to the employee's availability as soon as practical, but no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the leave. An employee returning within twelve (12) months of the beginning of the leave shall return to the same position, otherwise the employee will return to the first available position in the occupational group(s) within which the employee has seniority. Only during the first year of an illness leave shall the employee continue to accrue seniority and have insurance benefits provided on the same basis as though the employee had been working his/her regular schedule. After one (1) year, the employee shall be responsible for all insurance expenses and shall have his/her seniority frozen. A vacant position that needs to be filled due to an employee's illness leave projected to be less than one (1) year, will be filled by a substitute employee during the first year of the leave, and will be filled on a permanent basis thereafter. A vacant position that needs to be filled due to an employee's illness leave projected to be more than one (1) year will be filled on a permanent basis. Bargaining unit members will be considered first for any long-term substitute and/or

Section 3. Family Illness Leave

In case of serious illness in the employee's immediate family, (as defined in Article VI, Section 4, Funeral Leave) up to ten (10) days per year to be deducted from PTO.

Section 4. Funeral Leave

Bereavement days are only granted for the purpose of making arrangements, attending funeral or memorial service and are not granted for non-work days. Employees shall be granted paid leave of up to three (3) days, not to be deducted from PTO, in case of a death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law, and grandparents. An Employee will be granted one (1) day, charged to the employee's PTO, to attend the funeral of other relatives or for someone other than family members. An Employee may take additional unpaid time for travel to and from a funeral or to attend to matters associated with the death in the immediate family, upon the approval of the Superintendent, or their designee in the absence of the Superintendent.

Section 5. Jury Duty and/or Subpoenaed Witness

The Board will pay the make-up pay difference between jury duty or subpoenaed witness pay and the employee's regular daily rate for a maximum of thirty (30) days per year for those days when the employee serves on jury duty or as a subpoenaed witness and is, therefore, absent from work.

Section 6. Unpaid Leaves

- A. Leaves of absence without pay may be granted for a period not to exceed one (1) year upon written request to the Superintendent without loss of seniority for:
  - 1. Education Leave to any regular employee working at least seven (7) hours per day. Notification shall be at least one (1) month before leave is to begin.
  - 2. General Leave to any regular employee working at least seven (7) hours per day. Notification shall include purpose of leave, when the requested leave is to begin, and the date of return. When a position needs to be filled due to an employee on general leave, the position shall be filled on a permanent basis.
- B. Employees returning from a leave of absence must notify the Superintendent no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the leave. Failure to act in accordance with the above shall be considered as a voluntary quit.
- C. The employee will return to the first available position in the occupational group(s) within which the employee has seniority.

Section 7. Written Request for Leave

Written requests for leaves will be either approved or denied in writing to the employee with a copy sent to the Union.

<b>ARTICLE VII OVERTIME</b>
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### Article VII - Overtime

- A. Employees who actually work in excess of forty (40) hours in one week will be paid at a rate that is one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular hourly earnings for those hours in excess of forty (40). Holiday and vacation time will count as part of the forty (40) hours worked during a particular week.
- B. Employees who are required to work on Sundays or holidays shall receive double their normal rate for all hours worked on such days.
- C. There shall be no pyramiding of overtime or premium pay.
- D. There shall be no split shifts worked by any group except bus drivers and dispatchers.
- E. Shifts which start no earlier than 12:00 p.m. on Sunday evening shall be paid at straight time.
- F. Employees working a seven (7) to eight (8) hour shift shall not have their shift adjusted to avoid the payment of overtime if the employee works one-half (½) hour or more either prior to the start of their shift or past the end of their shift.
- G.
  - 1. Overtime/extra time will first be offered to employees within the affected occupational group and building. (Extra time is defined as time above and beyond regular work schedule.) Extra time is not to exceed forty (40) hours and shall be offered to occupational group within building and then to said group outside building.
  - 2. Employees within the affected occupational group who have signed up for overtime consideration will be called next in rotating order by seniority.
  - 3. Overtime/extra time will next be offered to bargaining unit members, who are on the pre-approved sub list, outside of said classification with the approval of management.
  - 4. Employees desiring to be considered for overtime/extra time within their occupational group both within and outside of their building will sign up at the beginning of each school year. Separate lists will be maintained for employees within the building and those outside of the building. When no employee is available to fulfill overtime/extra time opportunities within a building, the list of employees outside of the building will be used. Employees will be offered overtime/extra time on the basis of seniority.
- H. There will be a Sunday overtime list for the purpose of maintaining equalization of hours principle for double time.

Overtime for bargaining unit employees will be recorded in hours on a weekly basis with the initial rotation based upon seniority (most senior person first). Each week, the rotation will be established based upon the previous week's earning of overtime.

**ARTICLE VIII  
HOURS OF WORK**

## Article VIII – Hours of Work

### Section 1. Work Schedule

The parties agree that employees who work a regular forty (40) hour week shall be scheduled so that such work shall be completed in four (4) or five (5) consecutive days for the purpose of receiving straight time or overtime pay. A four-day work week may be implemented by the District between the last teacher report day in June and the first teacher report day in August/September. Before any reduction in hours of work, the Union shall be notified and meetings will be arranged to discuss the matter.

Employees working a scheduled six (6) hour shift and less than seven (7) hours, shall receive a paid relief period of fifteen (15) minutes midway through their shift. Employees, working a seven (7) to eight (8) hour shift, shall have a paid relief period of fifteen (15) minutes in the first half of the shift and fifteen (15) minutes in the second half of the shift.

### Section 2. Lunch Period

Employees on seven (7) to eight (8) hour-per-day work schedules will have a one-half (½) hour unpaid, uninterrupted lunch period approximately midway through their work day.

**ARTICLE IX  
NON-EROSION**

## Article IX – Non-Erosion

It is agreed that non-unit personnel will not be used to erode the bargaining unit.

**ARTICLE X  
TEMPORARY TRANSFERS**

## Article X – Temporary Transfers

- A. When it is necessary for an employee to be temporarily transferred for a period of ten (10) days or less to a classification paying a higher rate for a full shift or more, the employee shall receive that rate provided he is essentially performing the duties of the job.
- B. If a regular employee is pulled off his/her regular job to substitute for another regular employee (such as, a paraprofessional is pulled off his/her aide job and substitutes as a secretary), he/she will be paid the higher of the two rates, not including longevity pay of person who is replaced.
- C. If a regular employee is not scheduled to work and substitutes for another employee (such as, a bus driver between runs substitutes for a paraprofessional), he/she will be paid the rate of the position/group subbing in, not including longevity pay of person who is replaced.
- D. Once an employee has been transferred to a temporary position, has worked for thirty (30) days in that temporary position, the employee is entitled to PTO and holiday benefits that are appropriate to the temporary position.

**ARTICLE XI  
CALL-IN PAY**

**Article XI – Call In Pay**

Any employee who arrives at work without having been properly notified or without the employer's Designee making a reasonable effort to properly notify the employee that there will be no work shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours pay at the regular hourly rate, except in cases of labor disputes or other conditions beyond the control of the Administration.

EXCEPTION: Bus Drivers shall receive pay for the regularly scheduled time of their first run of the day when impacted by this Article, rather than for four (4) hours.

Urgent call in: When an employee is called by supervision to come to work in an urgent situation, if he/she accepts that call in, he/she will be credited two (2) hours plus any additional time needed to complete the task, with the exception of snow plowing. This does not include scheduled overtime or Article XI Call-in Pay.

Extra hours at the end of the shift will not be considered as being eligible for call-in pay.

**ARTICLE XII  
VACATIONS**

**Article XII – Vacations**

Only Year Round Employees are eligible to receive vacation days.

- A. Vacation eligibility will be prorated based upon time spent in the classification and will be determined and calculated on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.
- B. Year Round Employees who are employed for fifty-two (52) weeks per year and have completed at least one (1) full year of service as of July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be allowed ten (10) days vacation with pay prior to June 30 of the following year.
- C. Year Round Employees who are employed for fifty-two (52) weeks per year and have completed at least five (5) full years of service as of July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be allowed fifteen (15) days vacation with pay prior to June 30 of the following year.
- D. Year Round Employees who are employed for fifty-two (52) weeks per year and have completed at least ten (10) full years of service as of July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be allowed twenty (20) days vacation with pay prior to June 30 of the following year.
- E. Year Round Employees within the Maintenance and Mechanic occupational groups will be allowed three (3) days of vacation in addition to the above amounts to compensate for the fact that those occupational groups are required to report for work on closed or cancelled student days.
- F. Vacations must be applied for in writing seven (7) days in advance of the requested time off and must be approved in writing within three (3) working days by the Administration.



**ARTICLE XIII  
UNIFORMS**

**Article XIII - Uniforms**

Mechanics and maintenance employees will be furnished uniforms for their use after they have been employed sixty (60) working days in the School District. Maintenance employees will be provided with five (5) uniforms per year. Mechanics will be furnished six (6) uniforms per week. Employees will be required to wear uniforms while on duty. Maintenance uniforms refer to shirts only.

Bus service persons, maintenance employees and mechanics shall be allowed up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) annually for shoes and/or protective clothing, i.e. coats, hats, gloves, rain gear, etc.

**ARTICLE XIV  
HOLIDAYS**

**Article XIV - Holidays**

- A. All employees who have worked sixty (60) working days or more shall receive the following holidays with pay provided they meet all eligibility rules:
1. New Year's Day, Good Friday, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.
  2. Employees who request and are granted a day off without pay, a vacation day, or PTO immediately preceding or following a holiday and who work the other day either immediately following or preceding the holiday shall receive pay for the holiday. Employees who work the day immediately preceding or following the holiday shall receive pay for the holiday.
- B. Should a holiday fall on Saturday, Friday shall be considered as a holiday; and should the holiday fall on Sunday, Monday shall be considered as the holiday, provided there is no school in session.
- C. When a holiday falls during an employee's regular vacation period, they shall receive an additional day of vacation.
- D. Employees may use available PTO or Vacation time for Memorial Day.

**ARTICLE XV- INSURANCE**

**Article XV – Insurance**

Section 1. Hospitalization Benefits

The Board provides eligible employees health and vision benefits as contained in either the MESSA Choices or MESSA ABC as agreed upon. The deductible insurance plan is determined by the federal government each calendar year.

Section 2. Payment Guidelines

- A. Employees hired prior to June 30, 2007, who regularly work less than three (3) hours per day, are eligible for health benefits at no cost to the district.
- B. All benefits in the contract will be based upon a seven (7) hour work day. Employees scheduled to work less than seven (7) hours will have their benefits prorated.
- C. Employees hired after July 1, 2007, must work a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week to qualify for health benefits
- D. For the monthly health care premiums employees working 35 hours and above are responsible for any portion of the premium payment which exceeds the 80/20 or hard cap guidelines.
- E. Employees hired after July 1, 2007, who work less than 35 hours per week but more than thirty (30) hours per week will have their premium prorated. Employees are responsible for any portion of the premium payment which exceeds the 80/20 or hard cap guidelines as well as the prorated amount.
- F. In calculating the number of hours worked, only those hours that are earned by employees recognized by this agreement as listed in Article I shall count toward being eligible for health benefits. Hours accrued by recognized Steelworker members in Article I from other non-Steelworker positions may not be counted. Only those employees receiving benefits as of June 30, 2012, by combining hours in this manner will be allowed to continue this practice and will be grandfathered in.

Section 3. Life Insurance

The District will provide, at no cost to the employees, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) term life insurance with AD&D.

Section 4. Health Insurance

Employees with three (3) years or more of seniority shall have their health insurance premiums paid for by the District for three (3) months beyond the premium period in which the employee no longer draws PTO. Employees with less than three (3) years of seniority shall have their health insurance premium paid for by the Board of Education for one (1) month beyond the premium period in which the employee no longer has any PTO. Employees are responsible for any portion of the premium payment during this period which exceeds the 80/20 or hard cap guidelines.

Section 5. Dental Insurance/Vision VSP-2

The Board shall provide the MESSA Dental Care Program (Delta Dental Plan C) and the MESSA Vision VSP-2 for all employees of the bargaining unit and their eligible dependents, with internal/external Coordination of Benefits (COB). The Board will provide this benefit at no cost to the employee.

**ARTICLE XVI  
DAYS CLOSED / SNOW DAYS**

### Article XVI – Snow Days

#### School Year Employees:

On scheduled student days when school is closed for inclement weather or other reasons determined by the Superintendent, School Year Employees shall not report for work. School Year Employees will not be paid for the canceled day unless the employee chooses to use an available PTO day for up to a maximum of six (6) canceled days.

#### Extended School Year Employees:

On scheduled student days when school is closed for inclement weather or other reasons determined by the Superintendent, Extended School Year Employees shall not report for work. Extended School Year Employees will not be paid for the canceled day unless the employee chooses to use an available PTO day for up to a maximum of six (6) canceled days.

#### Year-Round Employees:

On scheduled student days when school is closed for inclement weather or other reasons determined by the Superintendent, Year Round Employees shall not report for work. Year-Round Employees will not be paid for the canceled day unless the employee chooses to use an available PTO day for up to a maximum of six (6) canceled days. In the event there are more than six (6) canceled days in the school year, Year-Round Employees may use available Vacation time to cover those excess days.

**EXCEPTION** – Year-Round Employees who are in the Maintenance and Mechanic occupational groups, SHALL report to work on canceled days, unless directed by the Superintendent otherwise, and will be paid like any other scheduled workday.

**ARTICLE XVII  
HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### Article XVII – Health and Safety

A Health and Safety Committee of six (6), consisting of the President of the Union and two (2) members of the Local Union, and three (3) members of the Administration or Supervisory Staff shall be established. The purpose and powers of this Committee shall be to make recommendations on matters affecting the Health and Safety of the employees to the Board of Education and to ensure proper handling of the School Board's equipment in all matters involving Health and Safety and advising the employees of the proper procedure.

It shall be the responsibility of all employees to report any and all known safety hazards in writing to their supervisor immediately.

**ARTICLE XVIII**  
**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

## Article XVIII – Miscellaneous Provisions

### Section 1. Posting of Union Activity Notices

The employees shall have a bulletin board for posting of Union activity notices at each work site.

### Section 2. Seniority Lists Posted

Up-to-date seniority lists furnished by the Board, revised annually, shall be posted on all bulletin boards by the Union.

### Section 3. Classes/Job Related Courses

1. Tuition and fees for job-related courses will be paid by the Board upon approval of the Supervisor. Mileage and lost time incurred as a result of the course also will be paid. Any employee attending approved classes outside of scheduled work hours, will be paid their hourly rate for time involved.
2. Michigan School Bus Driver Education Courses for Bus Drivers will be paid by the Board after the driver has been employed by the District for one (1) year.
3. The Board shall pay for CDL licenses for mechanics when the CDL license is required by the Board as well as any update classes for mechanics licenses, as required by the Board or for any mechanics license required by State or Federal law.
4. The Board shall pay for electrical and master plumber license renewals and update classes for maintenance employees who currently possess said license. The Board shall also pay for any additional license or certifications for maintenance employees that are required by State or Federal law.
5. The Board shall provide a copy of building, electrical, and plumbing code books to be housed in the Maintenance Office.
6. The Board shall pay for any required renewal fees / certification fees for GSRP Associate employees.

### Section 4. Annual Bus Drivers' Meeting

One scheduled Bus Drivers' meeting shall be held within ten (10) days of the beginning of school for the purpose of bidding all routes, orientation, filling of vacated and new routes, assignment of extra trips, and other business. Written notice of the date and time shall be sent to each driver three (3) weeks before the date of the meeting. St. Joseph bus run, mail run, food run, and any additional runs necessary will be bid at the Bid Meeting for at least one hour if exact time is not known.

#### Kirtland Run:

If a job becomes available through bidding process (Monday-Friday), this route shall be paid at current bus driver rate for established route time.

If a job becomes available through bidding process (Friday), this route shall be paid at current bus driver rate for established route time.

1. After the above-referenced bid meeting, should a route vacancy or route change of thirty (30) minutes per day or more occur, said opening shall be posted.
2. If no regular or probationary driver applies for a route, any driver assigned involuntarily shall suffer no reduction in pay for the period he/she is assigned to such route. Such route shall be assigned to the lowest seniority driver capable of performing the job.
3. Whenever a route is eliminated, the driver assigned to that route may elect to bump a lower seniority driver or elect to be assigned to substitute runs. If the employee elects one of these jobs, he/she must notify the Administration within ten (10) days. As long as he/she elects either of these options, his/her seniority shall accumulate.

#### Section 5. Driver Classification

1. Regular drivers are persons assigned to a regular bus route.
2. Probationary drivers are persons who have not completed the probationary period.
3. Substitute drivers are persons not in the bargaining unit.

#### Section 6. Special Trips

1. Drivers desiring to drive special trips will file an application with their Supervisor. Applications shall be made within the first ten (10) work days of the school year. An applicant for special trips who is not approved by the Supervisor may appeal his/her decision to a Committee composed of the President of the Local and the Superintendent. The decision of this Committee shall be final; however, an applicant who is not approved may reapply after thirty (30) working days from the date his/her application was turned down.
2. Unless buses are properly chaperoned by an adult on out-of-town trips, drivers will not drive.
3. A special trip board to be maintained by the Transportation Supervisor in the order of seniority shall be maintained at the Transportation Facility in West Branch. Postings shall be made weekly. Drivers who refuse two (2) consecutive calls without a reasonable excuse shall be removed from the special trip board for that semester.
4. The Board shall have the right to require employees to work a reasonable amount of special trips; however, any regular driver may refuse to work special trips. If a regular driver refuses to work special trips, the driver having the least seniority shall be required to take the trip. Substitute Drivers shall not be offered special trips unless all regular drivers who are signed on the special trip board have refused.
5. When a driver becomes eligible for special trips, he/she shall be charged with the highest number of hours appearing on the board for any driver.
6. All special trips worked or refused shall be recorded on the special trip board. Example:

“R” - Refused; “S” - Sick, “NA” - No Answer. Posting of special trip hours shall reflect the actual hours paid, including overtime.

7. Employees will be notified of special trips at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
8. A seniority list for regular drivers qualifying for special trips shall be maintained in order of seniority.
9. In the event a driver is needed to drive a regular run, that amount shall be deducted from the extra run.
10. The parties agree that whenever fourteen (14) or less students are being transported for special events or sports, non-unit personnel may drive students. The Union will be notified prior to such trips. In special cases, the Board may request an exclusion from this section. The exclusion must have prior approval from the Union.
11. The parties agree that special scheduled runs such as vocational education, band, 4 year old, nursing, etc., shall be scheduled for at least one (1) hour.
12. St. Joseph bus run will be bid at Bid Meeting for at least one (1) hour if exact time not known.
13. The parties agree that bus drivers shall be paid for all time worked at their applicable rate of pay to meet with parents at the direction of the Supervisor.
14. Drivers will be limited to a 15-hour on duty limit per day. If a driver is scheduled to return late from an event, there must be 8 hours of down time between the return time and the driver's morning run the next day; otherwise the driver will be prohibited from driving his/her morning run. Drivers will be compensated at his/her regular rate for a lost morning run; however the hours lost from missing a morning run will not be counted toward the 40 hours needed for overtime pay.
15. Trip drivers will be paid driver wage rather than trip wage when driving to an event that is a drop only.
16. Meal allowance will be reimbursed at district rate

#### Section 7. Tool Allowance

1. The mechanics and maintenance employees will be allowed up to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) tool allowance for each school year. Receipts are to be submitted twice a year verifying actual purchases. New employees will have their tool allowance pro-rated from their date of hire to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

#### Section 8. Working Height Limit

1. No employee recognized in the collective bargaining agreement shall be required to work above thirty-two (32) feet off the ground. Employees working off the ground must follow and use OSHA approved safety equipment for the task they are performing.

**ARTICLE XIX  
NO STRIKE OR LOCKOUT**

**Article XIX – No Strike or Lockout**

The Union and the Board recognize that strikes and lockouts and other forms of work stoppage by Board or employees are contrary to law and public policy. The Union and the Board subscribe to the principle that differences shall be resolved by peaceful and appropriate means without interruption of the school program. The parties, therefore, agree that their officers, representatives, and members shall not authorize, instigate, cause, aid, encourage, ratify, or condone; nor shall any of the Board or employees take part in any strike, slowdown, or stoppage of work, boycott, picketing, or other interruption of activities in the school system. Failure or refusal on the part of any of the parties or employees to comply with any provision of this Article shall be cause for disciplinary action.

**ARTICLE XX  
WAIVER CLAUSE**

**Article XX – Waiver Clause**

The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining, and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.

Therefore, Board and the Union, for the life of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain collectively with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement, even though such subjects or matters may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time that they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

**ARTICLE XXI  
PAC CHECK-OFF CLAUSE**

**Article XXI – Pac Check-off Clause**

The Employer agrees that it will check-off and transmit to the Treasurer of the United Steelworkers Political Action Fund (USW PAF) voluntary contributions to the USW PAF from the earnings of those employees who voluntarily authorize such contributions on forms provided for that purpose by the USW PAF. The amount and timing of such check-off deductions and the transmittal of such voluntary contributions shall be as specified in such forms and in conformance with any applicable state or federal statute.

The signing of such USW PAF check-off form and the making of such voluntary annual contributions are not conditions of membership in the Union or of employment with the Employer.

The Union shall indemnify and save the Employer harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken or not taken by the Employer for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of this section.

The United Steelworkers Political Action Fund (USW PAF) supports various candidates for federal and other elective office, is connected with the United Steelworkers, a labor organization, and solicits and accepts only volunteer contributions, which are deposited in an account separate and segregated from the dues fund of the Union, in its own fund-raising efforts and in joint fund-raising efforts with the AFL-CIOCLC and its Committee on Political Education.

**ARTICLE XXII  
CONFORMITY TO LAW**

**Article XXII – Conformity to Law**

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

**ARTICLE XXIII  
TERM OF AGREEMENT**

**Article XXIII – Term of Agreement**

This Agreement effectively entered into on July 1, 2024 shall be effective when it is ratified and signed by the Parties and shall remain in full force and effect without change, addition, or amendment from this date to June 30, 2026, and shall be renewed from year to year thereafter, provided that either party hereto may reopen the Agreement for changes or amendments or may terminate the Agreement by serving written notice on the other party of its desire to change, amend or terminate at least sixty (60) days prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> of any year.



**APPENDIX "A"  
 WAGE SCHEDULE**

Appendix "A" Wage Schedule

	<b>2% on schedule/ 1% off/on* 2024-2025</b>	<b>2% on schedule/ 1% off/on* 2025-2026</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>		
Secretary 1 - Extended Year/12 Month	16.68	17.01/17.18
<b>MECHANIC</b>		
Mechanic	19.86	20.26/20.46
Mechanic's Helper	15.33	15.64/15.79
Bus Service Person	15.30	15.60/15.76
<b>BUS DRIVER</b>		
Regular/Young 4-5/KCC/Special Trips/Mail Courier	17.90	18.26/18.44
Dispatcher	16.68	17.01/17.18
Maintenance Coordinator	23.31	23.77/24.01
Maintenance	19.72	20.12/20.31
Paraprofessionals	13.99	14.27/14.41
Clerk - Extended Year	14.70	15.00/15.14
Parking Lot Attendant	13.99	14.27/14.41
GSRP Caregiver	12.71	12.97/13.09

New employees shall receive twenty cents (\$0.20) less per hour than the classification rate for the first 60 days of employment.

## OFF SCHEDULE INCENTIVES

### Appendix "A" Wage Schedule (continued)

\* The 1% will be paid off schedule through normal payroll.

- a. 2024-2025: If the audited fall 2024 FTE is 35 or less than the audited fall 2023 student count and the 2024-25 foundation allowance is two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) or more, then the 1% will automatically move to on schedule and be reflected in an updated 2024-2025 salary schedule.
- b. 2025-2026: If the audited fall 2025 FTE is 35 or less than the audited fall 2024 student count and the 2025-26 foundation allowance is two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) or more, then the 1% will automatically move to on schedule and be reflected in an updated 2025-2026 salary schedule.

### Off Schedule Incentive

Off schedule payment will be made to employees in July based on gross wages for the school year. To receive payment, you must work through your last scheduled work day of the school year. Staff beginning during the school year are eligible for payment. Staff not completing their scheduled work year would not be eligible for payment.

- a. 2024-2025\* plus additional 1% off schedule raise if fall 2024 audited student count is 35 or less than audited fall 2023 student count.
  - i. Plus additional 0.5% off schedule raise if fall 2024 Audited Student count is 36 or more but less than 50 of Audited Fall 2023 Student Count.
  - ii. Plus additional 0% off schedule raise if fall 2024 Audited Student count is more than 50 less than Audited Fall 2023 Student Count.
- b. 2025-2026\* plus additional 1% off schedule raise if fall 2025 audited student is 35 or less than audited fall 2024 count.
  - i. Plus additional 0.5% OFF SCHEDULE RAISE if Fall 2025 Audited Student count is 36 or more but less than 50 of Audited Fall 2024 Student Count
  - ii. Plus additional 0% OFF SCHEDULE RAISE if Fall 2025 Audited Student count is more than 50 less than Audited Fall 2024 Student Count

<b>APPENDIX "B" - LONGEVITY PAY</b>
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### Appendix "B" – Longevity Pay

All employees shall receive longevity pay for accumulated years of service. This pay is separate from the wage schedule and based on the following:

1. After three (3) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
2. After six (6) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
3. After nine (9) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
4. After twelve (12) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
5. After fifteen (15) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
6. After eighteen (18) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
7. After twenty-one (21) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
8. After twenty-four (24) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.
9. After twenty-seven (27) years of service, an additional twenty cents (\$0.20) per hour.

Years of service shall be determined on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and shall not be adjusted until July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year regardless of actual hire date.

Signature Page

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their authorized representatives as of this 15th day of July, 2024.

**WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Heather C. Kearns  
Heather Kearns, President

Philip W. Stephens  
Philip W. Stephens, Secretary

Gail Hughey  
Gail Hughey, Superintendent

**UNITED STEELWORKERS,  
AFL-CIO-CLC**

David R. McCall  
David R. McCall, Int'l President

John E. Shinn  
John E. Shinn, Int'l Secretary-Treasurer

Emil Ramirez  
Emil Ramirez, Int'l Vice President (Admin.)

Kevin J. Mapp  
Kevin J. Mapp, Int'l Vice President (Human Affairs)

Donald E. Blatt  
Donald E. Blatt, District 1 Director

Michael E. Bilodeau  
Michael E. Bilodeau, Staff Representative

**USW LOCAL UNION 15095-01**

Dawn A. Johnson  
Dawn A. Johnson, Unit President

Christopher Epifanio, Committee

Leticia Butler, Committee

\_\_\_\_\_, Committee

Signature Page

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their authorized representatives as of this 15th day of July, 2024.

**WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Heather C. Kearns*

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*Gail Hughey*

Gail Hughey, Superintendent

**UNITED STEELWORKERS,  
AFL-CIO-CLC**

*David R. McCall*

David R. McCall, Int'l President

*John E. Shian*

John E. Shian, Int'l Secretary-Treasurer

*Emil Ramirez*

Emil Ramirez, Int'l Vice President (Admin.)

*Kevin J. Mapp*

Kevin J. Mapp, Int'l Vice President (Human Affairs)

*Donald E. Blatt*

Donald E. Blatt, District 1 Director

*Michael E. Bilodeau*

Michael E. Bilodeau, Staff Representative

**USW LOCAL UNION 15095-01**

*Dawn A. Johnson*

Dawn A. Johnson, Unit President

*Christopher E. ...*

Christopher E. ..., Committee

*Leticia ...*

Leticia ..., Committee

\_\_\_\_\_, Committee