

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Between

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31

and

BEMIDJI EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Bemidji, Minnesota

For the Years

Beginning July 1, ~~2023~~2025, through June 30, ~~2025~~2027

~~NOTE: SBR 200-20-1 dated January 27, 2025, supercedes SBR 200-20-1 dated March 21, 2022~~

~~SBR 200-20-1
ISD #31
January 27, 2025~~

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ARTICLE I PURPOSE

Section 1. Parties: THIS AGREEMENT, entered into between the School Board of Independent School District No. 31, Bemidji, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the District; and the Bemidji Education Support Professionals (BESP) hereinafter referred to as Exclusive Representative, pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Employment Labor Relations Act, hereinafter referred to as P.E.L.R.A., to provide the terms and conditions of employment for secretary-clerical workers and paraprofessionals, excluding the secretary to the superintendent, secretary to the assistant superintendent and secretary to the Business Director, and substitute employees during the duration of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II RECOGNITIONS OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Section 1. Recognition: In accordance, with P.E.L.R.A., the District recognizes the Bemidji Education Support Professionals (BESP) as the Exclusive Representatives for secretary-clerical workers and paraprofessionals employed by the District, which exclusive representative, shall have those rights and duties as prescribed by P.E.L.R.A. and as described in the provisions of this Agreement.

Section 2. Appropriate Unit: The Exclusive Representative shall represent all such employees of the District contained in the appropriate unit as defined in Article III, Section 2 of this Agreement and P.E.L.R.A. and in certification by the Director of Mediation Services, if any.

ARTICLE III DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Terms and Conditions of Employment: Shall mean the hours of employment, the compensation therefore including fringe benefits and the District's personnel policies affecting the working conditions of the employees.

Section 2. Description of Appropriate Unit: For purposes of this Agreement, the term secretarial-clerical workers and paraprofessionals shall mean all persons in the appropriate unit employed by the District in such classification excluding the following: confidential employees, supervisory employees, essential employees, substitute employees and part-time employees whose services do not exceed the lesser of 14 hours per week or 35 percent of the normal work week in the employee's bargaining unit or employees who hold position of a basically temporary or seasonal character for a period not in excess of 67 working days in any calendar year. Not included in the bargaining unit are public employees who are substitute employees who are employed for not more than 67 working days in a calendar year in an assignment in the same classification. The normal work week for secretaries shall be defined as forty (40) hours and the normal work week for paraprofessionals shall be defined as thirty-five (35) hours for the sole purpose of determining unit inclusion.

Section 3. Other Terms: Terms not defined in this Agreement shall have those meanings as defined by P.E.L.R.A.

Section 4. Substitute Employees: For purposes of this Agreement, the term substitute employees shall mean all persons who are employed for not more than 67 working days in a calendar year in the same assignment. "Assignment" is defined as a particular classroom, a particular student or group of students, or a particular office.

Section 5. Standard Work Day: An employee's standard work day shall be the number of hours specified in the most recent notice of assignment.

Section 6. New Hires: Upon initial employment by the District, each employee will be provided a copy of the current Master Agreement.

Section 7. Notification of Tentative Assignment: The District shall notify "school term" members of the bargaining unit by August 1st of each year of their tentative assignment for the next school year.

ARTICLE IV DISTRICT RIGHTS

Section 1. Inherent Managerial Rights: The Exclusive Representative recognizes that the District is not required to meet and negotiate on matters of inherent managerial policy, which include, but are not limited to, such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the District, its overall budget, utilization of technology, the organizational structure and selection and direction and number of personnel.

Section 2. Management Responsibilities: The Exclusive representative recognizes the right and obligation of the District to efficiently manage and conduct the operation of the District within its legal limitations and with its primary obligation to provide education opportunity for the students of the District.

Section 3. Effect of Laws, Rules and Regulations: The Exclusive Representative recognizes that all employees covered by this Agreement shall perform the services and duties prescribed by the District insofar as such services and duties are consistent with but not limited to the terms of this contract and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota, and by District rules, regulations, directives and orders, issued by properly designated officials of the District. The Exclusive Representative also recognizes the right, obligation and duty of the District and its duly designated officials to promulgate rules, regulations, directives and orders from time to time as deemed necessary by the District insofar as such rules, regulations, directives and orders are not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement and recognizes that the District, all employees covered by this Agreement, and all provisions of this Agreement are subject to the laws of the state. Any provision of this Agreement found to be in violation of any such laws, rules, regulations, directives or orders shall be null and void without force and effect.

Section 4. Reservation of Managerial Rights: The foregoing enumeration of District rights and duties shall not be deemed to exclude other inherent management rights and management functions not expressly reserved herein, and all management rights and management functions not expressly delegated in the Agreement are reserved to the District.

ARTICLE V EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

Section 1. Right to Views: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit, impair or affect the right of any employee or ~~his~~their representative to the expression or communication of a view, grievance, complaint or opinion on any matter related to the conditions or compensation of public employment or their betterment, so long as the same is not designated to and does not interfere with the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment or circumvent the rights of the Exclusive Representative.

Section 2. Right to Join: Employees shall have the right to form and join labor or employee organizations, and shall have the right not to form and join such organizations. Employees in an appropriate unit shall have the right by secret ballot to designate an Exclusive Representative for the purpose of negotiating grievance procedures and terms and conditions of employment for employees of such unit with the District.

Section 3. Request for Dues Checkoff: Pursuant to PELRA, employees shall be allowed payroll deduction for the exclusive representative registered pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Section ~~10A.12~~ 179A.06. Upon notification by the exclusive representative, the District shall deduct from the employee's paycheck the deductions that the employee has agreed to pay in ~~twelve (12)~~sixteen (16) equal installments, beginning the first pay period on or after October 15. For bargaining unit members employed after the commencement of each school year, deductions of dues shall be made by the school district. The dues will be deducted equally between existing pay periods between the date of the bargaining unit members first pay date and May ~~15~~ 30. The District will also remit the deductions to the exclusive representative within thirty (30) days of the deduction.

The exclusive representative hereby warrants and covenants that it will defend, indemnify, and save the School District harmless from any and all actions, suits, claims, damages, judgements, and executions or other form of liability, liquidated or unliquidated, including any reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs, that any person may have or claim to have, now or in the future, arising out of or by reason of the payroll deduction, authorization, and remittance specified by the exclusive representative as provided in this Agreement.

Section 4. Exclusive Representative Time Off: The District shall afford reasonable time off, with salary deduction, to elected officers or representatives of the BESP for the purpose of conducting the duties of the BESP.

Section 5. Access to Membership Lists: By October 1 of each school year and every 120 days thereafter, the District shall provide in electronic form to the Union the names, home and work addresses, home and work telephone numbers, home and work e-mail address, worksite location and job title of all bargaining unit members employed. Within twenty (20) calendar days after a bargaining unit employee is hired, the District shall provide in electronic form to the Union the name, home and work addresses, home and work telephone numbers, home and work e-mail address, worksite location and job title of the new employee. If a bargaining unit employee separates from employment or transfers out of the bargaining unit, the District shall notify the exclusive representative within twenty (20) calendar days after separation or transfer.

Section 6. New Employee Meeting: The District shall provide the exclusive representative access to meet with new employees within the first thirty (30) calendar days of employment, during new employee orientations, or at individual or group meeting as required by state or federal law or any other state rule or statute.

ARTICLE VI RATES OF PAY - WORK DAY - WORK YEAR

Section 1. Rates of Pay:

Subd. 1. The wages and salaries reflected in Appendix B & C attached hereto, shall be a part of the Agreement for the period commencing July 1, ~~2023~~2025, through to June 30, ~~2025~~2027.

Subd. 2. Initial Placement on the Wage Scale: The Superintendent or designee will determine a new employee's initial step placement within the position's designated Job Level. Such placement determination shall be based on the new employee's verified relevant work experience. Experience will be credited as years of paid experience up to step three of the applicable Job Level.

Experience credit granted in determining initial placement on the wage scale shall not be used in determining years of service for Longevity pay under Subd. 9 of this Section.

Step placement determinations made by the Superintendent or designee will not be considered precedent setting and are not subject to the grievance procedure.

Subd. 3. Advancement on Wage Scale: A salary increase is not automatic and is effective only upon affirmative approval of the school board or designated administrative officer.

Step increases within each Job Level will be effective July 1st each year, an employee must have begun employment six months (January 1) prior to July 1, to advance to the next step.

Subd. 4. Mandatory Meetings, Workshops and In-Services. Employees shall be paid their regular hourly rate for attendance at any required meeting, workshop, training or in-service in accordance with this Agreement.

Subd. 5. Summer Pay. Employees who work summer school will be paid the regular hourly rate for that job level.

Subd. 6. Overtime. Time and one-half shall be paid for all hours over forty (40) hours per week. All overtime must be approved, by an administrator, superintendent or designee. A paid holiday, sick leave and vacation shall be considered hours worked for purposes of calculating overtime.

Subd. 7. Compensatory Time: In lieu of such overtime payment, ~~an Twelve-Month~~ employee may request compensatory time for overtime worked at the rate of one and one-half hours of compensatory time for each hour of overtime worked. Compensatory time, whether earned or used, will be recorded on the employee's timesheet and payroll record. ~~All compensatory time will be used within the fiscal year that it was incurred.~~
~~Any unused time will be paid out at the end of the fiscal year.~~

Subd. 8. Pay Dates: At the beginning of the school year, all employees shall be provided with a copy of the payroll schedule.

Subd. 9. Longevity:

Employees who have been continuously employed for the number of years specified shall receive an additional hourly amount as indicated, over their base salary:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>	<u>2024-</u>
<u>20252026-2027</u>			
5 years continuous employment - per hour	90¢ \$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
10 years continuous employment - per hour	\$1.00 \$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
15 years continuous employment - per hour	\$1.10 \$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
20 years continuous employment - per hour	\$1.40 \$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
25 years continuous employment - per hour	\$1.50 \$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
30 years continuous employment - per hour	\$1.60 \$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

Subd. 10. Mileage: Employees who are required to drive their personal vehicles for employment purposes will be reimbursed in accordance with District policy.

Subd. 11. Minimum Callback Pay: All employees who have completed their daily shift and have left the premises and are called back to return to work before the beginning of the next daily shift shall be termed as an emergency call-back and shall be paid at the minimum rate of two (2) hours at time and one-half (1 1/2) the employee's basic hourly rate of pay for each such call-back. Call back hours shall not be credited as "hours worked" in the calculation of total work week hours for overtime computation.

Subd. 12. Eye Glass/Contacts/Hearing Aids and Clothing Reimbursement: The District will reimburse up to \$400.00 for replacement of eye glasses, contacts or hearing aids of comparable value lost, broken or damaged when caused by student contact and reported to the supervisor at the time of the incident. The District will reimburse up to \$250.00 for replacement of clothing of comparable value that has been torn or damaged when caused by student contact and reported to the supervisor at the time of the incident.

Subd. 13. Temporary Absence of BESP Member: When an employee is asked, and does assume the duties of another employee and if the position is at a higher compensation level, such employee, will be paid at the higher level rate for each hour worked in the position classified at a higher pay level.

Subd. 14. Bus Monitor Premium. Any employee who works Bus Monitor Duty shall receive an additional ~~\$3.30 per hour for 2023-2024 and~~ \$4.50 per hour ~~for 2024-2025~~ in addition to their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked or scheduled in an employee's workday. This premium pay shall be paid to any employee who works as a Bus Monitor whether assigned or substituting in the position and shall be paid on any benefit leave used by an employee. All hours worked as Bus Monitor shall be added to an employees' regular workday for the purpose of calculating benefits.

Subd. 15. Late Start/Early Dismissal: If school starts late, and/or is dismissed early because of inclement weather or other emergencies, unit employees will also be called to work late (late start) and/or dismissed early (early out) at no loss of pay. The District may designate one secretary at each work site to remain at work and assist the building administrator. The designated secretary will be dismissed at the discretion of the superintendent or designee. If the designated secretary is unable to report safely due to inclement weather, they will not be harmed with loss of pay.

Subd 16. Interpreters: Certified Interpreters will be paid an additional \$2.00 per hour ~~for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025~~ for each work day they hold the certification. All expenses relating to the certification will be paid by the employee. It is the employee's responsibility to maintain a current certification on file with the Human Resources office.

Subd 17. Emergency Closings: In the event of a student day lost for any emergency, school term employees shall perform duties on the make-up day as the District shall determine.

Subd 18. E-learning Days: When students engage in e-learning in accordance with a school board adopted e-learning day plan under Minnesota law, employees will be paid full wages for scheduled work hours for the duration of the e-learning period. During the e-learning period, employees may work from home to the extent practicable, be assigned to work in an alternative location, or be retained for any potential need.

An employee who is unable to work as outlined above due to personal illness or illness of an immediate family member as defined by state or federal law may be authorized to use accrued sick leave.

Subd 19. Additional Hours: When an employee works beyond their normally scheduled work day or through a scheduled lunch break, compensation will be provided at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay for the additional time worked upon submission of an approved timesheet. All additional time must be approved, by an administrator, superintendent or designee. Advance approval is required unless there is an emergency and/or critical student need for which advance approval cannot be obtained.

Subd. 20. Subbing for Licensed Staff: ~~Effective July 1, 2024; a~~Any employees who are appropriately licensed and agree to be assigned short-call substitute teacher work may do so while also retaining all rights, seniority, and benefits that they have accrued or possess in the BESP bargaining unit. Time spent as a short-call substitute teacher will count towards any and all accrual of benefits as a BESP member, including but not limited to leave, seniority and pay.

Employees working as short-call substitutes will be compensated the higher of \$260 per day or their regular daily rate. Assignments of less than a full day shall be pro-rated. Should the assignment as a short-call substitute be cancelled within the 24 hours immediately prior to the start of the student day, the employee shall be provided one hour of compensation at the short-call substitute rate per this section. Should the assignment as a short-call substitute be cancelled after the start of the student day, the employee shall be paid for an additional hour at the short-call substitute rate on top of the pro-ration, per this section.

Any employee who is appropriately licensed and accepts a Long Term Substitute (LTS) teaching assignment will be granted a temporary leave of absence from their position within the BESP bargaining unit. Such employee shall return to their prior position within the BESP union upon completion of the LTS assignment. If such position no longer exists, they will be returned to a position with equivalent hours and pay.

Section 2. Employment Year: The employment year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Subd. 1. 12 Month Employees: Twelve month employees will work a regular forty (40) hour week during their employment period. Work stations with less hours will be posted when an opening is filled or as mutually agreed between the employer and employee.

Subd. 2. School Term Employees:

A. SECRETARIAL: Secretarial employees employed for the school term will work days scheduled as "student days" in the adopted school calendar and additional days as assigned preceding and following the regular school term. Other days shall be worked as mutually agreed between District and employee or as posted when filling the position. Secretarial employees may work on the professional development day designated by the District. Secretarial employees working on the designated staff development day shall be paid for hours worked based on the submission of approved timesheets.

B. PARAPROFESSIONALS: Paraprofessional employees employed for the school term will work days scheduled as "student days" in the adopted school calendar and up to three additional days within the school term as assigned. Other days shall be worked as mutually agreed between District and employee or as posted when filling the position. Paraprofessional employees may work on the professional development day designated by the District. Paraprofessional employees working on the designated

staff development day shall be paid for hours worked based on the submission of approved timesheets.

Section 3. School Term Employees, Hours of Work:

Subd. 1. Secretarial: Secretarial employees will work variable hours as specified when employed. Newly hired employees will work the number of hours as specified in the position's posting. Hours may be varied when mutually agreeable between the District and employee.

Subd. 2. Paraprofessionals: District paraprofessional employees will work variable hours as specified when employed. Newly hired employees will work the number of hours as specified in the positions' posting. Hours may be varied when mutually agreeable between the District and employee.

Section 4. Job Descriptions: Job descriptions shall be available to employees at the District Office during regular office hours.

Section 5. Library and Health Paraprofessionals:

Subd. 1. A library paraprofessional who works without direct supervision during more than half of their scheduled work hours shall be compensated at the instructional paraprofessional lane.

Subd. 2. Paraprofessionals who are one-half library paraprofessional and one-half health paraprofessional will be paid as health paraprofessionals.

Section 6. Summer or After School Program Employment: Summer School or after school program employment opportunities will first be offered, in order of seniority, to the staff working at the building or work location during the regular school term for Summer School or regular school day for after school programs. Positions not filled through this process will be offered first to those staff who worked the Summer School or after school program opportunity the previous school year if that staff member exhibited success in working with the program. Any remaining unfilled positions will be posted and the program/building supervisor may exercise discretion in selection of staff.

If the District, due to a student's IEP and/or medical recommendation, requests the same paraprofessional for the summer school session as the student had for the regular school year, the District shall meet and confer with the unit leadership. If the paraprofessional is willing to accept the summer assignment, the unit leadership shall have the authority to grant a waiver of the seniority provision for the summer assignments.

**ARTICLE VII
INSURANCE**

Section 1. Insurance: For employees in each category of this Agreement who have been employed continuously for a two month period and have regularly worked ~~four hours or more each duty day and~~ twenty (20) hours per week, the District will pay a monthly amount, subject to the proration schedule under Section 2, for group health insurance, dental

insurance, vision insurance, and/or optical reimbursement account benefits. Health insurance coverage for eligible employees will be effective the first of the month following two calendar months of employment. Dental insurance coverage for eligible employees will be effective the first of the month following ~~one calendar month~~date of employment.

The amount provided for in Section 2. shall be used at the discretion of the individual employee to pay premiums among the following options. This language shall be subject to the terms and conditions established by the coverage providers.

Benefit options available for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:

- a) Health Insurance (employee or dependent coverage).
- b) Dental Insurance (employee or dependent coverage).
- c) Optical Reimbursement Account
Eligible expenses for optical costs up to \$1,500 per plan year will be reimbursable under Section 105 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Available beginning with the election/open enrollment period with a September 8th deadline for a plan year of October 1st through September 30th. Amounts remaining unspent in the optical reimbursement account at the end of the plan year will be forfeited.

Benefit options available for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

- a) Health Insurance (employee or dependent coverage).
- b) Dental Insurance (employee or dependent coverage).
- c) Vision Insurance (employee or dependent coverage).

Any additional cost of the insurance selected over and above the amount paid by the District shall be paid by the employee through payroll deduction.

Section 2. Insurance Benefit Proration: Employees in each category of this agreement shall have all insurance premium contributions allowed by the District, prorated in accordance with the total number of hours they work on a regular daily basis during the course of the employment year. The same prorata amount of the District's contribution shall remain in effect during any uniform vacation shut down period when the employee is not required to be on duty. The following proration schedule shall be used.

HOURS OF QUALIFICATION	PERCENT PRORATION OF DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION	2023-2025-2025- <u>2026</u> MAXIMUM MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION	<u>2026-2027</u> MAXIMUM MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION
<u>Under 4 hours daily</u> <u>Less than 20 hours</u> <u>per week</u>	No Contribution	\$0.00	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>4 up to 5.99 hours</u> <u>daily</u> <u>20 up to 29.99</u> <u>hours per week</u>	75	\$633.75	<u>\$663.75</u>

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6 or more hours daily 30 or more hours per week	100	\$845.00	\$885.00
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Subd. 1. ~~A husband and wife~~Spouses who are both District employees shall be allowed to combine the District’s contribution for the purpose of premium payment.

Subd. 2. Employees covered under a qualifying “High Deductible” health insurance plan may elect to have any portion of the District insurance contribution that is in excess of the total monthly premiums, for all options selected as outlined in Section 1 of this Article, deposited into a Health Savings Account (HSA) within applicable state and federal rules and limitations. At no time shall the District’s total contribution to insurance premiums and HSA account contributions exceed the maximum monthly amounts contained herein.

Section 3. Dependent Coverage: Should any employee wish to have coverage for dependents they may do so by written authorization to deduct the additional premium amount through payroll deductions and by successfully completing the required insurance forms and qualifications.

~~Effective July 1, 2024, f~~For any employee enrolled in dependent/family health insurance coverage and working ~~six (6) or more hour per day~~30 or more hours per week, the District shall pay an additional \$165 per month ~~for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$200 per month for fiscal year 2026-2027~~ for the dependent/family health insurance premiums for each month during which they are enrolled in a dependent/family health insurance plan. Any employee enrolled in dependent/family health insurance coverage and working ~~four (4) or more hours per day, but less than six (6) hours per day~~20 hours or more per week, but less than 30 hours per week, the District shall pay an additional \$123.75 per month ~~for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$150 per month for fiscal year 2026-2027~~ for the dependent/family health insurance premiums for each month during which they are enrolled in a dependent/family health insurance plan. Any employee whose spouse is also covered by the terms of this agreement shall receive a combined maximum of \$165 additional per month ~~for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$200 additional per month for fiscal year 2026-2027~~ for dependent/family health insurance coverage. Any employee whose spouse is covered under another collective bargaining agreement that provides an additional District contribution for dependent/family health insurance coverage shall receive a contribution equal to the greater of the contribution outlined herein or the contribution provided for in the collective bargaining agreement covering their spouse.

Section 4. Term Life Insurance: For all employees in the unit who have been employed continuously for a period of two years, and regularly work four (4) hours or more each duty day, and no less than 170 days each year, the District will pay directly to the insurance carrier selected by the District the annual premium for \$50,000 maximum coverage term life insurance during the period the employee is employed with the District. This becomes effective upon written notification from the insurance company.

Employees may, when available, purchase additional life insurance on a voluntary basis, with all premiums paid by the employee through payroll deduction, where otherwise not prohibited by state or federal regulations. The voluntary life insurance is subject to provider

availability and all provider requirements; including, but not limited to: minimum participation, pre-existing conditions limitations, etc.

Employees who have worked in the District for fifteen years and who have reached the age of 55 may continue in the group life insurance program upon retirement or resignation, if they pay their own premium in full at the District Business Office prior to the due date. Failure to make premium payments in a timely fashion will result in termination of the policy.

Section 5. Duration of Insurance Contribution: An employee is eligible for District contributions as provided in this article as long as the employee is employed by the school district. Upon termination of employment, all District participation and contribution shall cease, effective on the last working day.

Section 6. Claims Against the District: The District's only obligation is to purchase an insurance policy and pay such amounts as agreed herein and no claim shall be made against the District as a result of a denial of insurance benefits by an insurance carrier.

ARTICLE VIII LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Sick Leave:

Subd. 1. All employees in the group shall earn sick leave at the rate of one day for each month of service with the District. Employees who are employed for the school term shall earn no less than ten (10) days each year. A day shall be equivalent to an employee's standard workday in hours.

Subd. 2. Unused sick leave may accumulate to a maximum of 1,424 hours.

Subd. 3. Sick leave shall be granted whenever an employee's absence is found to have been due to a disease, disorder, or illness of the mind or body of the employee. The proper sick leave forms must be submitted by the employee.

Subd. 4. The District may require an employee to furnish a medical certificate from a physician or appropriate healthcare provider as evidence of illness, indicating such absence was due to illness, in order to qualify for sick leave. Failure to provide required medical certification or other reasonable documentation as defined by state or federal law within thirty (30) days of such request may result in the leave being recorded as an unauthorized absence without pay.

Subd. 5. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to notify the District office and/or their immediate supervisor to report sickness prior to the time the employee is scheduled to report to work.

Subd. 6. Sick leave may also be used for members of the immediate family to be defined as spouse, parent, child (includes adult child), parent-in-law, sibling, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparents, grandchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or any

member of the employee's household, or as defined by applicable state or federal law. Information on applicable state or federal law are posted on official bulletin boards at each work site. The District may require an employee to furnish a medical certificate or other reasonable evidence of such illness for leave under this subdivision.

Subd. 7. Employees who work during summer school shall earn and may use accumulated sick leave.

Section 2. Worker's Compensation:

Subd. 1. Upon the request of an employee who is absent from work as a result of a compensable injury under the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act, the District will pay the difference between the compensation received pursuant to the Worker's Compensation Act by the employee and the employee's earned accrual of sick leave and/or vacation pay. In such event a deduction shall be made from the employee's accumulated vacation or sick leave accrual time according to the pro-rata portions of days of sick leave or vacation time which is used to supplement worker's compensation.

Subd. 2. Such payment shall be paid by the District to the employee only during the period of disability.

Subd. 3. In no event shall the additional compensation paid to the employee by virtue of sick leave or vacation pay result in the payment of a total daily, weekly or monthly compensation that exceeds the normal compensation of the employee.

Section 3. Medical Leave:

Subd. 1. An employee who is unable to perform their employment duties because of medical disability, upon written request and subject to approval of the superintendent or designee, may be granted a medical leave of absence without pay not to exceed six months, during the continuance of such medical disability.

Subd. 2. A request for medical leave of absence under this section shall be accompanied by a doctor's statement in writing outlining the condition of health and the estimated time at which the employee is expected to be able to resume normal employment responsibilities.

Subd. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision thereof, the total medical leave provided for in this section shall not exceed a period of six months.

Subd. 4. All or any portion of leave taken under this section by an employee during which they have a medical disability may at the employee's option be charged to the employee's available sick leave. This option shall be exercised by the employee in writing prior to the commencement of the leave. If the employee elects to use available sick leave, they must notify the District in writing prior to the termination of

the leave of the number of days of such leave to be charged to the sick leave provisions of this agreement.

Section 4. Well Child Leave:

Subd. 1. A well child leave without pay of up to six (6) months may be granted by the District to an employee who is the biological, foster or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or placement for adoption or foster care of a child within the first year following birth or placement for adoption or foster care, subject to applicable state and federal laws.

Subd. 2. An employee making application for well child leave shall submit a written request to the District's designee of their intention to take leave under this section at least three (3) calendar months before commencement of the intended leave, unless a shorter notice is allowed by statute or the need for leave was not foreseeable.

Subd. 3. The District may adjust the proposed beginning or ending date of a well child leave so that the dates of the leave are coincident with some natural break in the school year; e.g. holiday break, term break, end of the school year, or the like.

Subd. 4. In making a determination concerning the commencement and duration of leave under this section, the District shall not be required to permit the employee to return to employment prior to the date designated in the request for well child leave.

Subd. 5. The employee returning from well child leave shall be re-employed in a position of comparable duties, number of hours, and pay if the leave is for a period of twelve work weeks or less. If the leave is for more than twelve work weeks, the District will return the employee to the first vacancy within the job level the employee previously held in the unit and for which the employee is qualified. If no position is available when the employee is requesting to return from leave, the employee shall be placed on layoff and on the applicable recall list for the remainder of that school year. Upon conclusion of that specific school year, the employee may elect to invoke their bumping rights to a position based on seniority. If, during the leave, the District experiences a layoff that would have resulted in the layoff of the employee on leave, the employee shall not be entitled to reinstatement in the former or comparable position and shall be subject to the layoff and recall provisions of this agreement.

Subd. 6. Failure of an employee to return from leave pursuant to this section shall constitute a voluntary resignation of employment unless the District and the employee have mutually agreed to an extension of the leave.

Subd. 7. The parties agree that periods of time for which the employee is on well child leave shall not be counted in determining the completion of the probationary period.

Subd. 8. The employee who returns from well child leave within the provisions of this section shall retain all previous experience credit for pay purposes and any unused leave time accumulated under the provisions of this agreement. The employee shall not accrue

additional experience credit for pay purposes or leave time during the period of absence for well child leave unless otherwise required by statute.

Subd. 9. Leave under this section shall be without pay or fringe benefits unless otherwise required by statute.

Subd. 10. When both parents are employed by the District, the total combined leave shall not exceed six months duration.

Section 5. Bereavement Leave: The Superintendent or designee may grant absences to the employees in the group, with pay, for up to three (3) days per bereavement of immediate family as defined below. Leave must be used in full day increments.

Subd. 1. Immediate family shall be defined as spouse, parent, child, parent-in-law, **sibling**, son-in law or daughter-in-law, grandparents, grandchild, brother-in law or sister-in-law.

Subd. 2. The Superintendent or designee may grant absences to the employees in the group, with pay, for one (1) day per bereavement of an aunt, uncle, grandparent in-law, niece or nephew. Pay for bereavement leave for either an aunt, uncle, grandparent in-law, niece or nephew shall be deducted from sick leave.

Subd. 3. If special circumstances arise the Superintendent or designee may grant the employee additional days of leave, with pay, but deductible from the sick leave accumulation. Action taken by the Superintendent or designee will not be considered precedent setting.

Subd. 4. Employees shall be granted one paid day, per bereavement, to be deducted from sick leave, to participate as a pallbearer (honorary or active) for a funeral. The Superintendent has the discretion to extend this subdivision for the funeral of a person who had a close personal relationship to the employee, but who was not a member of the person's immediate family. The Superintendent's discretion is not subject to the grievance procedure and will not be considered as precedent in other cases. This leave shall be prorated for employees who work less than full-time.

Section 6. Dependent Care Leave: An employee may be granted a noneconomic dependent care leave, at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or designee, for the purpose of providing home medical care or care to a hospitalized critically ill son, daughter, spouse or parent. Such leave shall not exceed a period of six months. During an approved leave period should the ill son, daughter, spouse or parent no longer require home medical care, the employee would be required to report back to work.

A written leave request must be submitted and shall include:

1. A description of the need for the leave.
2. Expected length of time needed for the leave.

3. Physician's statement attesting to the need and level of care required or to be provided.

An employee shall provide the District with sufficient notice of their intent to return to work prior to the expiration date of the leave.

Section 7. Educational Leave: An employee who has completed their probationary period may request an unpaid leave of absence of up to two (2) years as mutually agreed upon between the Superintendent and employee and approved by the School Board for the purposes of pursuing additional education which is determined in the best interest of the District.

Section 8. Flexible Leave: A school term employee who has completed the probationary period shall be eligible for one day of flexible leave per school year deductible from accumulated sick leave.

Requests for use of leave under this section shall be made no later than three (3) days prior to the requested leave. The three day advance notification may be waived by the Superintendent or designee in cases where the need for leave is not foreseeable. Requests shall be subject to approval by the Superintendent or designee.

This leave shall not carry over from year to year and shall not be granted on the day immediately preceding or following holidays or school breaks, or on the first or last student days of the school year.

This section of the agreement will sunset on June 30, 2026

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Section 9. Personal Leave: Effective July 1, 2026; an employee shall earn one (1) personal leave day per year, to be used for the support staff's personal business on the following conditions:

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- a) The support staff must give written notice to the Superintendent or designee of their intention to take this leave at least three (3) working days prior to the start of the leave except in the case of an emergency. The Superintendent or designee shall determine what constitutes an emergency under this subdivision. The Superintendent or designee's decision will not be considered as precedent in other situations.
- b) No more than 10% of support staff but at least one (1) in any school building may take this leave on any particular day.
- c) This leave may be taken in hourly increments.
- d) Up to one (1) day of unused personal leave may be carried forward for a maximum of two (2) days.

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ARTICLE IX HOLIDAYS AND VACATIONS

Section 1. Holidays:

Subd. 1. All employees in the unit who are employed on a basis of 12 months per year shall be entitled to the following paid holidays. If school is in session any of these days, an alternate day will be granted. Part-time employees shall be eligible for holidays on a pro-rata basis.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. New Year's Eve Day | 5. Independence Day | 8. Day After Thanksgiving |
| 2. New Year's Day | 6. Labor Day | 9. Christmas Eve Day |
| 3. President's Day | 7. Thanksgiving Day | 10. Christmas Day |
| 4. Memorial Day | | 11. Juneteenth |

The following days will be considered a paid holiday if school is not in session. Staff required to work on either Good Friday and/or Martin Luther King Day shall be paid time and one-half for all hours worked on that day.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Good Friday* | 2. Martin Luther King Day* |
|-----------------|----------------------------|

Subd. 2. School Term Employees: All employees who are employed on a school term basis shall be entitled to seven (7) paid holidays each year. They are: ~~Labor Day~~, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Memorial Day.

If school is in session and employees are required to work on Good Friday and/or Martin Luther king day, employees will be paid time and one-half for all hours worked on that day.

Subd. 3. When a holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday will be observed. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the Friday before will be observed. If any of the allowable holidays fall on a day when school is in session, an alternate day will be named by the superintendent or authorized representative.

Section 2. Vacations:

Subd. 1. Secretarial-Clerical and Paraprofessional employees who are employed on the basis of twelve (12) months a year and work twenty (20) hours or more a week shall earn paid vacation time according to the following schedule.

- 10 days - will be earned upon employment including probationary period.
- 15 days - will be earned after six (6) years of continuous employment including the probationary period.
- 20 days - will be earned after twelve (12) years of continuous employment including the probationary period.
- 25 days - will be earned after twenty-four (24) years of continuous employment including the probationary period.

Subd. 2. All vacation time is prorated to July 1, therefore, an employee must be employed a minimum of 66 months, including the probationary period, to qualify for the 15 days vacation time. The appropriate District official will certify allowable vacation time.

Subd. 3. An employee may use earned vacation time during the year provided it is first approved by their immediate supervisor and/or building principal and then submitted to the appropriate District administrative official for final approval. Accrued vacation time must be taken within 14 months after the work year in which it was earned. Proper planning for the use of accumulated vacation time and any loss of such time through nonuse will be the responsibility of the employee.

Subd. 4. An employee who is employed for a period less than 12 months will be considered on a uniform vacation shut down when school is not in session and they are not on duty. Such employee will not earn paid vacation time.

Subd. 5. School term employees accepting a twelve (12) month position shall be granted 0.70 years of credit for each year of employment as a school term employee in determining the appropriate vacation accrual level.

Eligibility for the 25-day vacation accrual level shall be determined by years of continuous employment with one year of credit for each year of employment.

Section 3. Other Absence:

Subd. 1. Where it does not seriously disrupt operations or create a vacancy for which the District cannot secure an adequate replacement, an employee may take a maximum of ten (10) days per year for other absence at full salary deduction. These days shall be noncumulative.

Subd. 2. Ten days is the maximum any employee may be away from their work station at full salary deduction. The only exception to this policy is for unusual circumstances that would be approved on a one-time basis and only by the authorization of the Superintendent or designee.

Subd. 3. An employee must submit a written request for leave to the Superintendent or designee at least three working days prior to the start of the leave.

ARTICLE X GENERAL MATTERS

Section 1. Vacancies: When a position within this unit becomes vacant, it shall be ~~posted on the official building bulletin board and by letter to the chief steward~~communicated via email to all staff. Current employees may apply for internal transfer consideration. Seniority, experience, training, and other qualifications will be considered when filling the position. Final determination for filling the vacancy shall be the responsibility of the administrative official involved. If the initial posting results in an internal transfer, the first resultant position opening will also be posted. Any further notifications or postings will be as determined by the appropriate administrative official.

Subd. 1. Title I paraprofessionals may move from one position at one school to a position at another school at the discretion of the L.E.A. based upon the needs of the school without regard to posting.

Section 2. Probationary Period: An employee under the provisions of this Agreement shall serve a probationary period of nine (9) calendar months of continuous service in the District during which time the District shall have the unqualified right to suspend without pay, discharge or otherwise discipline such employee; and during this probationary period, the employee shall have no recourse to the grievance procedure, insofar as suspension, discharge or other discipline is concerned. Uniform shutdown periods in which the employee is not working shall not count towards the probationary period.

Section 3. Completion of Probationary Period: An employee who has completed the probationary period may be suspended without pay or discharged only for cause. An employee who has completed the probationary period and is suspended without pay or discharged shall have access to the grievance procedure.

Section 4. Seniority:

Subd. 1. Secretaries who work fourteen (14) or more hours per week and paraprofessionals who work twelve (12) hours or more per week during the employment period shall be granted seniority standing after successfully completing the probationary period.

Subd. 2. Classification: Categories for seniority purposes shall be as follows:

1. Secretarial-Clerical
2. Paraprofessionals
3. Health Paraprofessional – Licensed and Health Paraprofessional - Unlicensed

Subd. 3. Seniority Date: Upon the satisfactory completion of the probationary period, an employee's seniority shall relate back to their first day of actual service in the District. If more than one (1) employee begins work on the same day, seniority ranking for such employee shall be determined by the last four digits of the employee's social security number and whichever is higher shall be deemed more senior.

Subd. 4. In the event it is necessary to eliminate a position(s) the employee(s) affected will be given no less than two weeks notice.

Subd. 5. In the event of a layoff, a reduction in days or hours, or the elimination of a position in any classification of employment, employees shall be laid off according to seniority in the inverse order of classification seniority.

Subd. 6. Seniority Bumping: In the event of a layoff, reduction in days or hours (reduction must be equal to or greater than 1 hour per day or 5 hours per week for the purpose of this subdivision), or the elimination of a position in a job level classification, a senior employee in that job level classification may exert employment rights over other employees in the same job level classification with less seniority, as follows:

First, the senior employee may exert the right to employment over the most junior employee in the same job level classification as the senior employee.

Secondly, if there is no junior employee in that job level classification, then the senior employee may exert the right to employment over the most junior employee in the next lower job level classification in which there is a junior employee.

The District will make reasonable attempts to maintain similar number of hours worked when processing seniority bumping.

Subd. 7. Indian Education Program. The seniority "bumping" rights provided for in this contract may be exercised only by Native American employees with respect to the District's Indian Education Program, subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

Subd. 8. Recall: When a position needs to be filled, it shall be posted and possibly occupied by an employee within the employment category, in accordance with Article X, Section 1, Vacancies. The parties may mutually agree to waive the posting requirement under Article X, Section 1, on a case-by-case basis. If a vacant position is not filled by internal transfer or the posting requirement has been waived, qualified employees on layoff shall be reemployed in inverse order of layoff prior to filling the initial position or any resultant positions from a general public applicant. Where possible such reemployment shall be substantially equal to the previous position occupied by the person and in all instances they must be qualified to fill the vacant position. Failure of the person to respond within ten (10) business days, of notice of reemployment shall eliminate any claim to reinstatement. Reinstatement rights shall cease one year from date of layoff or upon rejection of re-employment to a position that is within one hour per day of the previous position occupied by the person; whichever occurs first. An employee who has been laid off shall have the responsibility of filing their latest address with the business office.

Subd. 9. An employee shall lose seniority standing upon voluntary resignation from the District or for dismissal for cause.

Subd. 10. Instances of involuntary transfer from one employment category to another, as set forth in Subd. 2 of this section, an employee shall not lose seniority standing.

Subd. 11. A seniority list containing all employees of the bargaining unit shall be provided to the BESP on or before November 1 of each year.

Subd. 12. When Moving Between the Classifications of Secretary-Clerical and Paraprofessionals: Any employee who works 4 hours or more may move between the classifications and retain their seniority date providing they are no longer probationary employees.

Section 5. Use of Equipment: With the permission of the building principal or appropriate District administrator, the BESP may use school equipment. Only qualified personnel shall operate the equipment. BESP will pay for all materials and supplies used. The BESP will

provide their own paper supply for use in the various machines. Equipment shall be used at reasonable times and when not otherwise in use.

Section 6. Employee Dismissal: An employee may be dismissed for cause. Employees who have successfully completed the probationary period will be provided in writing, the reasons for a contemplated dismissal, and will be provided an opportunity for a formal hearing on the charges. The employee shall request such a hearing within five (5) days of receipt of the written charges, or forfeit the right to the hearing. Employees are entitled to representation of their choice at the hearing.

Section 7. Employee Reprimand: An employee ~~who has successfully completed the probationary period shall be entitled to request to have~~ a representative of BESP be present when being reprimanded, warned, or disciplined for any infraction of policies, rules, regulations, or delinquencies in job performance. ~~The District will provide the exclusive representative a reasonable amount of time for a representative to be secured; should such a meeting occur during the duty day, the District shall release the representative from their duties with no loss of pay, whenever such action will result in a record being placed in the employee's personnel file.~~ Copies of any materials placed in an employee's personnel file shall be provided the employee by the supervisor or other appropriate administrative officer. An employee shall be entitled to have a written response included therein. ~~When an employee makes a request for representation, no official action shall be taken until such a representative is present. If the employee's representative fails to initiate a contact with the appropriate supervisor within five days of such request, the supervisor or other administrative official may proceed with the necessary action.~~

Section 8. Association Business: Officers and authorized representatives of BESP shall be permitted to conduct routine association business on District property at reasonable times after working hours. Such business matters shall not interfere with or interrupt District operations. Matters pertaining to the master contract and involve joint management and association efforts may be conducted during regular working hours

Section 9. Retirement Benefits:

Subd. 1. Health Insurance-Retirement: Employees who qualify for and receive retirement benefits under the rules and regulations of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) or other appropriate State of Minnesota sponsored retirement fund and participate in the current District sponsored health insurance plan(s) as of the date of retirement and are otherwise eligible to continue coverage under Minn. Stat. §471.61, may elect to remain in the existing health insurance group upon retirement. The employee will also be required to notify the District in writing of this option and pay the full premium in advance installments.

Subd. 2. Sick Leave Buy Back: An employee, hired before July 1, 2022; who has fifteen (15) or more years of continuous employment with the district and qualifies for and receives retirement benefits under the rules and regulations of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), other appropriate State of Minnesota sponsored retirement fund, or Social Security; or has twenty (20) years of service to school district shall be entitled to sick leave buy back upon retirement. Such sick leave

buy back shall be equal to the number of full time equivalent eight hour days (accrued sick leave hours divided by 8) of accumulated sick leave multiplied by fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each day.

Subd. 3. Post Employment Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP): Employees are eligible to participate in the Minnesota Post Employment Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) established under Minnesota Statutes, §352.98 and as outlined in the Minnesota State Retirement System's Trust and Plan Documents. All funds collected by the employer on behalf of the employee will be deposited into the employee's post employment health care savings plan account.

All employees eligible for the severance payment outlined in ARTICLE X., Section 9. Subd. 2., will contribute 100% of the severance payment to the Post Employment Health Care Savings Plan.

Section 10. Professional Development/Training:

Subd. 1. All members of the unit shall receive professional development and training in accordance with Minnesota statute.

Subd. 2. An employee who is deemed as having a legitimate educational interest in a student's records, based on their position, shall have access to all pertinent records. These records will include IEP's, BIP's or any other records deemed appropriate under FERPA.

ARTICLE XI GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Section 1. In the absence of any other agreement by the two parties, the parties hereto shall be subject to the grievance procedure in effect at the inception of any grievance proceedings as promulgated by the Commissioner of Mediation Services pursuant to P.E.L.R.A. 179A.04, Subd. 3(h) and 179A.20 as amended from time to time. The present grievance procedure of the Commissioner is attached to this Agreement as Appendix A as defined in Minnesota Rules 5510.5110 through 5510.5190 as amended.

ARTICLE XII DEFERRED COMPENSATION MATCHING PLAN

Section 1. Eligibility: The District's match to an employee's qualified District approved 403(b) plan and/or the State 457 plan, subject to Minnesota Statute §352.965 and §356.24, become available to an employee when they have successfully completed one year of employment in the District.

Section 2. Amount: For each dollar (\$1) that an employee contributes via payroll deduction to a qualified 403(b) plan and/or the State 457 plan, the District shall contribute one dollar (\$1) to the same plan in equal semi-monthly installments, up to a maximum annual District contribution as indicated below.

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Years of Service	2023-2024 & 2024-2025- Maximum Annual Match
2-7	\$1,000
8-24	\$1,500
25+	\$2,500

Section 3. Limitation: Under no circumstances will the lifetime contribution for any one employee exceed \$25,000.

The amounts contributed by the district as the employer match will reduce benefits payable under ARTICLE X, Section 9 – Sick Leave Buy Back, in an amount equal to cumulative employer contributions under ARTICLE XII, Section 2.

ARTICLE XIII DURATION

Section 1. Term and Reopening Negotiations: This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period commencing on July 1, ~~2023~~2025, through June 30, ~~2025~~2027, and thereafter until modified. If either party desires to modify or amend this Agreement commencing at its expiration, it shall give written notice of such intent pursuant to PELRA. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the parties shall not commence negotiations more than 60 days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

Section 2. Effect: This Agreement constitutes the full and complete Agreement between the District and the Exclusive Representative representing the employees. The provisions herein relating to terms and conditions of employment supersede any and all prior Agreements, resolutions, practices, District policies, rules or regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment inconsistent with these provisions.

Section 3. Finality: Any matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment, whether or not referred to in this Agreement, shall not be open for negotiation during the term of this Agreement.

Section 4. Severability: The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable, and if any provisions thereof or the application of any such provisions under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provisions of this Agreement or the application of any provisions thereof.

APPENDIX A

BMS Grievance Procedure

APPLICATION.

This grievance procedure shall be applicable when a public employer and an exclusive representative of public employees have not reached agreement on or do not have access to a contract grievance procedure as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 179A.20, subdivision 4.

DEFINITIONS.

Bureau. “Bureau” means the Bureau of Mediation Services.

Days. “Days” means calendar days.

Employee. “Employee” means any public employee who is employed in a position that is part of an appropriate unit for which an exclusive representative has been certified under Minnesota Statutes, section 179A.12.

Grievance. “Grievance” means a dispute or disagreement regarding the application or interpretation of any term of a contract required under Minnesota Statutes, section 179A.20, subdivision 1.

Nonprobationary. “Nonprobationary” means an employee who has completed an initial probationary period required as a part of the public employer’s employment process.

Party. “Party” means either the exclusive representative and its authorized agent or the employer and its authorized representative.

Service. “Service” means personal delivery or service by the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid and addressed to the individual or organization at its last known mailing address. Service is effective upon deposit with the United States Postal Service, as evidenced by a postmark or dated receipt, or upon personal delivery.

COMPUTATION OF TIME.

In computing any period of time prescribed herein, the day or act or event upon which a period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the time period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday.

STEP ONE.

When an employee or group of employees represented by an exclusive representative has a grievance, the employee or an agent of the exclusive representative shall attempt to resolve the matter with the employee’s immediate supervisor within 21 days after the employee, through the use of reasonable diligence, should have had knowledge of the event or act giving rise to the grievance. The supervisor shall then attempt to resolve the matter and shall respond in writing to the grievant and the agent of the exclusive representative within five days after the grievance is presented.

STEP TWO.

If the supervisor has not been able to resolve the grievance or has not responded in writing within the time period provided in step one, a written grievance may be served on the next appropriate level of supervision by the exclusive representative. The written grievance shall provide a concise statement outlining the nature of the grievance, the provisions of the contract or the just cause situation in dispute, and a statement of the relief or remedy requested. The written grievance must be served on the employer's representative within 15 days after the immediate supervisor's response was due under step one. The employer's representative shall meet with the agent of the exclusive representative within five days after service of the written grievance and both parties shall attempt to resolve the grievance. The employer's representative shall serve a written response to the grievance on the agent of the exclusive representative within five days of the meeting. The response shall contain a concise statement of the employer's position on the grievance and the remedy or relief the employer is willing to provide, if any.

STEP THREE.

If the grievance is not resolved under step two, the exclusive representative may serve the written grievance upon the chief administrative agent of the employer or that person's designated representative within ten days after the written response required by step two was due. An agent of the exclusive representative shall meet with the chief administrative officer or designee within five days of service of the written grievance and they shall attempt to resolve the matter. The chief administrative officer or designee shall serve a written response to the grievance on the agent of the exclusive representative within five days of the meeting.

ARBITRATION.

Referral to arbitration. If the response of the chief administrative officer or designee is not received within the period provided in step three or is not satisfactory, the exclusive representative may serve written notice on the employer of its intent to refer the case to arbitration within ten days after the response required by step three is due.

Selection of arbitrator. Within ten days of the service of written notice of intent to arbitrate, the employer's chief administrative officer or designee shall consult with the agent of the exclusive representative and endeavor to mutually agree upon an arbitrator to hear and decide the grievance. If the parties do not agree upon the selection of an arbitrator, either party may request a list of impartial arbitrators from the bureau. The parties shall alternately strike names from a list of seven names to be provided by the bureau until only one name remains, and the remaining name shall be the designated arbitrator. The determination of which party will commence the striking process shall be made by mutual agreement or a flip of a coin. If one party refuses to strike names from the list provided by the bureau, the other party may serve written notice of this fact upon the bureau, with a copy to the offending party. Unless it is confirmed that the parties have otherwise selected or agreed upon an arbitrator within three days of service of the notice of refusal or failure to strike names, the bureau shall designate one name from the list previously provided to the parties and the person so designated by the bureau shall have full power to act as the arbitrator of the grievance.

Arbitrator's authority. The arbitrator shall have no authority to amend, modify, add to, or subtract from the terms of an existing contract. The decision and award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon both parties.

Arbitration expenses. The employer and the exclusive representative shall share equally the arbitrator's fees and necessary expenses. Cancellation fees shall be paid by the party requesting the cancellation and any fees incurred as the result of a request for clarification shall be paid by the party requesting the clarification. Each party shall be responsible for compensating its own representatives and witnesses.

Transcripts and briefs. Because arbitration is intended to provide a simple, speedy alternative to litigation processes, the use of transcripts and briefs should be considered only in exceptional circumstances. If a verbatim record is required, it may be prepared providing the party desiring the record pays the cost and makes a copy available to the other party and the arbitrator without charge. The arbitrator may maintain written notes of the hearing and may use an electronic recording device to supplement the note taking. These notes shall be considered the arbitrator's private and personal property and shall not be made available to the parties or another third party. If a recording device is used by the arbitrator to supplement the arbitrator's notes, the arbitrator shall retain the recording for a period of 90 days following the issuance of the award.

PROCESSING OF GRIEVANCES.

Release time. To the fullest extent feasible, the processing of grievances shall be conducted during the normal business hours of the employer. Employees designated by the exclusive representative shall be released from work without loss of regular nonovertime earnings as a result of their necessary participation in meetings or hearings held pursuant to this procedure, whenever such release is consistent with the ability of the employer to conduct safe and reasonable operations. No more than three employees shall be entitled to compensation for participation in a single meeting or hearing with respect to any one grievance.

Waiver of steps. The parties may by written mutual agreement waive participation in the grievance steps and may similarly agree to extend the time limits.

Time limits. A failure to raise a grievance within the time limits specified, or to initiate action at the next step of the procedure within the time limits in these parts shall result in forfeiture by the exclusive representative of the right to pursue the grievance. A failure of an employer representative to comply with the time periods and procedures shall require mandatory alleviation of the grievance as requested in the last statement by the exclusive representative.

APPENDIX B - SALARY GUIDE

JOB LEVEL	2023- 2024 <u>2025-</u> <u>2026</u>	2024- 2025 <u>2026-</u> <u>2027</u>
1	<u>\$19.36</u> <u>\$18.36</u> <u>\$19.54</u> <u>\$18.54</u> <u>\$19.76</u> <u>\$18.76</u>	<u>\$19.36</u> <u>\$19.89</u> <u>\$19.54</u> <u>\$20.07</u> <u>\$19.76</u> <u>\$20.30</u>
2	<u>\$20.02</u> <u>\$19.02</u> <u>\$20.22</u> <u>\$19.22</u> <u>\$20.42</u> <u>\$19.42</u>	<u>\$20.02</u> <u>\$20.56</u> <u>\$20.22</u> <u>\$20.77</u> <u>\$20.42</u> <u>\$20.98</u>
3	<u>\$20.69</u> <u>\$19.69</u> <u>\$20.88</u> <u>\$19.88</u> <u>\$21.09</u> <u>\$20.09</u>	<u>\$20.69</u> <u>\$21.25</u> <u>\$20.88</u> <u>\$21.45</u> <u>\$21.09</u> <u>\$21.66</u>
4	<u>\$21.50</u> <u>\$20.50</u> <u>\$21.68</u> <u>\$20.68</u> <u>\$21.88</u> <u>\$20.88</u>	<u>\$21.50</u> <u>\$22.08</u> <u>\$21.68</u> <u>\$22.27</u> <u>\$21.88</u> <u>\$22.48</u>
5	<u>\$22.30</u> <u>\$21.30</u> <u>\$22.49</u> <u>\$21.49</u> <u>\$22.68</u> <u>\$21.68</u>	<u>\$22.30</u> <u>\$22.91</u> <u>\$22.49</u> <u>\$23.10</u> <u>\$22.68</u> <u>\$23.30</u>
6	<u>\$23.32</u> <u>\$22.32</u> <u>\$23.52</u> <u>\$22.52</u> <u>\$23.72</u> <u>\$22.72</u>	<u>\$23.32</u> <u>\$23.95</u> <u>\$23.52</u> <u>\$24.16</u> <u>\$23.72</u> <u>\$24.37</u>
7	<u>\$24.34</u> <u>\$23.34</u> <u>\$24.53</u> <u>\$23.53</u> <u>\$24.73</u> <u>\$23.73</u>	<u>\$24.34</u> <u>\$25.00</u> <u>\$24.53</u> <u>\$25.20</u> <u>\$24.73</u> <u>\$25.40</u>
8	<u>\$25.36</u> <u>\$24.36</u> <u>\$25.55</u> <u>\$24.55</u> <u>\$25.74</u> <u>\$24.74</u>	<u>\$25.36</u> <u>\$26.05</u> <u>\$25.55</u> <u>\$26.24</u> <u>\$25.74</u> <u>\$26.44</u>
9	<u>\$26.39</u> <u>\$25.39</u> <u>\$26.57</u> <u>\$25.57</u> <u>\$26.76</u> <u>\$25.76</u>	<u>\$26.39</u> <u>\$27.11</u> <u>\$26.57</u> <u>\$27.29</u> <u>\$26.76</u> <u>\$27.49</u>
10	<u>\$27.40</u> <u>\$26.40</u> <u>\$27.59</u> <u>\$26.59</u> <u>\$27.78</u> <u>\$26.78</u>	<u>\$27.40</u> <u>\$28.15</u> <u>\$27.59</u> <u>\$28.34</u> <u>\$27.78</u> <u>\$28.54</u>
11	<u>\$28.42</u> <u>\$27.42</u> <u>\$28.61</u> <u>\$27.61</u> <u>\$28.80</u> <u>\$27.80</u>	<u>\$28.42</u> <u>\$29.19</u> <u>\$28.61</u> <u>\$29.39</u> <u>\$28.80</u> <u>\$29.58</u>

**Reflects an increase of 20% for ~~2023-2024~~2025-2026 and \$1.002.72% ~~per hour~~ for 2024-20252026-2027*

**For fiscal year 2025-2026 those employees who were still employed on the last student contact day shall be paid three (3) days of pay at the rate that was paid on the last student contact day. The number of hours per day for this payment will be calculated at the average number of hours worked in a week by the number of days worked per week.*

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APPENDIX C

Position/Classification	Job Level
Academic Advisor - Indian Education	4
Behavior Intervention Monitor	4
Behavior Management Paraprofessional	4
Building Monitor	1
Bus Monitor	1
Career Resource Advisor	6
Certified Interpreter	11
Certified Occupational Therapy Asst (COTA)	9
Computer Network Specialist	10
Elementary Attendance Monitor Home Liaison	5
Hall and Grounds Monitor	1
Health Para - Licensed	9
Health Para - NonLicensed	4
Home School Liaison	6
Instructional Paraprofessional	4
Language Facilitator	5
Library Paraprofessional	2
Severe/Profound Paraprofessional	4
Special Education Paraprofessional	4
Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)	9
Study Hall Monitor	1
Title I Paraprofessional	4

Position/Classification	Job Level
Accounts Payable / Receivable Clerk	4
Activities Secretary	3
AEC Secretary	3
Career Academy Secretary	3
Clerk / Typist	1
Community Education & Early Childhood Programs Secretary	5
Copy Room/Special Education Secretary	1
Middle School Copy Room Secretary	1
Curriculum & Instruction / Title I Secretary	5
District Purchasing & Business Office Secretary	34
Elementary Secretary	5
First City School Secretary	4
Food Service Secretary	3
High School Registrar	3
Human Resources Secretary	4
Indian Education Secretary	3
Middle School Attendance Secretary	2
Middle School Registrar	3
Payroll Secretary	4
Plant Operations Secretary	3
Registration / MARSS Reporting Secretary	5
Related Services & ECSE Secretary	3
School Age Care Secretary	3
Secretary to High School Principal	5
Secretary to Middle School Principal	5
Lakeside Learning Center Special Education Secretary	2
High School Secretary to the Assistant Principal	3
Secretary to Transportation Coordinator	4
Registration & Assistant MARSS Reporting Secretary	3
Middle School Special Education Secretary	1
High School Support Services Secretary	3
Transportation Dispatcher/Clerk	1
Transportation Secretary / Dispatcher	4
Transportation Secretary / Route Scheduler	3

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed the Agreement as follows:

Bemidji Education Support Professionals
Secretarial-Clerical/Educational
Paraprofessionals

Independent School District No. 31
Bemidji, Minnesota

President

Board Chair

Secretary

Board Clerk

Field Representative

Chief Negotiator

Date: _____, ~~2025~~2026
_____, ~~2025~~2026

Date: _____