

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD

AND

ASSOCIATION OF PORTSMOUTH TEACHERS

Effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028

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SECTION I - BOARD AND ASSOCIATION

Article 1

RECOGNITION

For the purposes of collective negotiations pursuant to RSA 273-A, the BOARD recognizes the ASSOCIATION as the exclusive representative of all professional employees of the Portsmouth School System whether under contract, on leave or employed. Professional employees shall include any individual employed by the Portsmouth School System, the qualifications for whose positions are such as to require them to hold an appropriate credential issued by the State Board of Education under its regulations governing the certification of professional school personnel, EXCEPT that the term does not include members of the Superintendent's Advisory Council. This council consists of Principals, Directors, Coordinators, and Central Office Administrators. The ASSOCIATION agrees to negotiate for all professional employees without discrimination and without regard to membership in the ASSOCIATION.

Article 2

DUES DEDUCTION

The BOARD agrees to deduct from the salaries of its employees dues for the ASSOCIATION OF PORTSMOUTH TEACHERS, NEA-NH, and the National Education Association as said teachers authorize the BOARD to deduct. A check will be written to the ASSOCIATION equal to the amount deducted on a month-to-month basis. Any member wishing to cease dues deduction will provide written notice to the Association by October 1, and once received, the Association will notify the district to cease dues deductions.

Article 3

LABOR AGREEMENT

The BOARD and ASSOCIATION agree that the District shall provide the President of the ASSOCIATION the following information electronically in EXCEL format for each bargaining unit member bi-annually: (on or before September 15th and again on or before January 15th of each year)

Employee name, Date of hire, Position, Work location, Salary schedule step, Full or part time status, Wage rate, Home mailing address (including street, city/town, state and zip code), Home Phone , Stipend, Work email address

Furthermore, the BOARD and ASSOCIATION agree that during negotiation years that the information provided shall include information pertaining to individual bargaining unit employees, elected insurance plans (e.g. Single, 2 person or Family), the total cost of each plan and the total amount each employee is responsible for monthly and annually for the plan elected.

The ASSOCIATION agrees that the School District will be held harmless for providing the information outlined above.

Article 4

PRESIDENT OF APT

The President of the ASSOCIATION OF PORTSMOUTH TEACHERS and/or his or her designee shall be released at full pay not to exceed the equivalent of three (3) days per year and the ASSOCIATION will reimburse substitute costs to the school system.

Article 5

EMERGENCY BOARD ACTION

The BOARD, subject only to the language of this AGREEMENT, reserves to itself full jurisdiction and authority over matters of policy and retains the right in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to direct and manage all activities of the school district. In an emergency affecting the health, safety, or welfare of the students of the schools, the BOARD may take whatever actions it deems necessary.

However, the Board does recognize its obligations to negotiate with the Association per RSA 273-A over changes to employee working conditions, health and safety, benefits and protections during the period of emergency/pandemic/crisis etc., if so requested by the Association.

Article 6

ASSOCIATION MEETING

The first semi-annual meeting of the Teachers' Association will be between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on a workshop day that precedes the opening of school. This meeting will be approximately one (1) hour in length.

Article 7

USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The ASSOCIATION and its representatives shall have the right to use school buildings at all reasonable hours for meetings. This use must be within the hours when custodians are regularly employed and within accepted school policy.

Article 8

ASSOCIATION - USE OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

8.1 Representatives of the ASSOCIATION and their affiliates shall be permitted to transact ASSOCIATION business on school property at all reasonable times, provided that this shall not disrupt normal school operations.

8.2 The ASSOCIATION and its representatives shall have the right to use school facilities and office equipment. The ASSOCIATION shall pay for the costs of all materials and supplies incidental to such use.

Article 9

BULLETIN BOARDS AND MAILBOXES

9.1 The ASSOCIATION and its representatives shall have the right to put notices and matters of ASSOCIATION concern on teacher's bulletin boards; at least one shall be provided in each building.

9.2 The Executive Board of the ASSOCIATION shall have the right to place notices, circulars, and other material in the teachers' mailboxes, provided that such materials shall not relate to any State, local or national political matter of a non-educational nature, or any partisan political electioneering material. The ASSOCIATION shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the material is not slanderous, libelous, or in any way flagrantly harmful to the school, its staff, or any other individual or group.

Article 10

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Designated representatives of the ASSOCIATION shall be allowed to receive telephone calls and other communications concerning ASSOCIATION business at any time during school hours providing it does not disrupt the teacher's classroom assignment or interfere with the daily operation of the school.

Article 11

TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR MEETINGS

The BOARD recognizes the right of all teachers to receive advice if they so desire. If a teacher meets with an administrator, the teacher, upon hearing the topic to be discussed, may request a representative from the ASSOCIATION to attend the meeting.

Article 12

NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE

12.1 The parties agree to enter into collective negotiations over a successor AGREEMENT in accordance with RSA 273-A Statutes of New Hampshire. Not later than October 4th of the year preceding the expiration of this AGREEMENT, the parties agree to enter into negotiations, in accordance with procedures set forth herein, in a good faith effort to reach agreement on all matters raised by either party concerning salaries and fringe benefits and other conditions of employment. Any agreement reached shall be reduced to writing and signed by the BOARD and ASSOCIATION. The BOARD shall make a good-faith effort to secure the funds necessary to implement said AGREEMENT. If such funds are not forthcoming, the BOARD and the ASSOCIATION shall resume negotiations regarding the matters affected thereby, in accordance with the provisions of the AGREEMENT.

12.2 The BOARD and the ASSOCIATION may, if they so desire, utilize the services of outside consultants, and may call upon professional representatives to assist in negotiations.

12.3 The BOARD and ASSOCIATION will find a mutually agreed upon mediator. The mediator shall meet with the parties or their representatives, or both, as soon as possible, either jointly or separately, and shall take such other steps, as he/she may deem appropriate in order to persuade the parties to resolve their differences and effect a mutually acceptable agreement. If the dispute is not resolved

prior to the thirty (30) days after the impasse is declared and the parties agree in advance, the mediator shall recommend terms of settlement regarding the disputed matters submitted. Said recommendations shall be made within thirty (30) days of his/her appointment. Either the BOARD or the ASSOCIATION may make such findings and recommendations public if no agreement is reached within ten (10) days after their receipt from the mediator.

12.4 The costs for the services of the mediator including per diem expenses, if any, and actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses, will be shared equally by the BOARD and the ASSOCIATION.

Article 13

AGREEMENT PROVISIONS

13.1 This AGREEMENT shall be construed as a BOARD policy for the terms of said AGREEMENT, and the BOARD shall carry out the commitments contained herein and give them full force and effect as though they were BOARD policy.

13.2 The BOARD agrees not to negotiate with any teachers' group or association, other than the designated unit in regard to any matter subject to negotiations under Article 13, Section 1 of this AGREEMENT. This shall not prevent the BOARD from communicating or consulting with any individual teacher or group of teachers for any purpose the BOARD shall deem desirable in the discharge of responsibilities, nor shall it preclude any teacher from appearing before the BOARD in his/her own behalf on matters relating to employment by the BOARD.

13.3 This AGREEMENT may not be modified, in whole or in part, by the parties, except by an instrument in writing, duly executed by both parties.

13.4 Whenever any notice is required to be given by either party to this AGREEMENT to the other, pursuant to the provisions of this AGREEMENT, either party must do so by confirmed receipt email, at the following email addresses:

If by ASSOCIATION, to: School Administrative Unit 52

If by BOARD, to: President of the Association, or
their designee.

13.5 Except as this AGREEMENT shall hereinafter otherwise provide, all terms, conditions, of employment, and benefits in effect at the time this AGREEMENT is signed shall continue to be so applicable. Unless otherwise provided in this AGREEMENT, nothing contained herein shall be interpreted and/or applied so as to eliminate, reduce, or otherwise detract from any terms, conditions of employment, and benefits existing prior to its effective date.

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

13.7 If any article or part of this AGREEMENT is held to be invalid by operation of law, or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any article or part should be

restrained by such tribunal, the remainder of the AGREEMENT shall not be affected thereby and the parties shall enter into immediate negotiations for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such article or part.

Article 14

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

14.1 Both parties recognize the desirability of continuous and uninterrupted operation of the instructional program during the school year, and the avoidance of disputes, which threaten to interfere with such operation. The ASSOCIATION accordingly agrees, during the period of this AGREEMENT, that it will not, nor will any of its members acting in its behalf cause, authorize, or support, nor will any of its members take part in, a strike against the Portsmouth School System.

14.2 In the event that negotiations do not bring about an agreement by July 1 or a revised agreement by September 1, this contract remains in effect until an agreement is reached.

14.3 If negotiations are resumed due to a budget reduction and no revised agreement is reached by September 1, neither party shall take any action to impair the operation of the schools.

Article 15A

NON-DISCRIMINATION/JUST CAUSE/EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

15A.1 The BOARD and the ASSOCIATION agree that they will not discriminate against employees on the basis of race, creed, color, gender (including transgender), sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, Association activity, marital status, age, national origin, military service, religion, pregnancy, protective hairstyle, or any other status or characteristic protected by Federal, State or local law.

The Board and the Association also agree that unlawful harassment based on any status or characteristic protected by Federal, State or local law is unacceptable conduct that will not be condoned by the Board or the Association.

15A.2 Teachers under a continuing contract who are not to be re-employed in the district shall be notified in writing no later than April 1.

No teacher shall be non-renewed, suspended, disciplined, reprimanded, adversely evaluated, reduced in rank or compensation, or deprived of any professional advantage without just cause, except that the non-renewal or dismissal of teachers during their probationary period in the district will be dealt with according to RSA 189:13 and 14 and shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

Discipline shall be progressive in nature, recognizing however that the severity of an infraction may justify the decision by administration to accelerate or skip to a higher level of discipline.

15A.3 Additional principles of progressive discipline shall be:

- i. Any employee discharged must be paid in full for all wages and benefits owed to the employee *up to date of discharge* by the BOARD.

- ii. The BOARD agrees to notify each employee in the bargaining unit and the ASSOCIATION of all changes to existing work rules on the school staff resource page. New employees shall be provided with a copy of the work rules at the time of hire. Such rules shall be reasonably related to the duties and responsibilities of employees in the bargaining unit, shall not conflict with the terms of this Agreement, and shall be uniformly applied and enforced.
- iii. Whenever an employee is called before an administrator, the Superintendent, or the BOARD concerning any disciplinary matter or potential disciplinary matter. Employees will be notified that they are entitled to have an ASSOCIATION representative and/or NEA-NH Uniserv Director present for advice and representation during such meeting.
- iv. Any certified professional employee who is disciplined including but not limited to suspension and/or discharge and believes the discipline is without just cause may grieve the discipline and any loss of pay. Any certified professional employee whose discipline is reduced or revoked shall receive all pay for any loss of compensation that is reduced or restored through the grievance process.

Article 15 B

RE-EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

15B.1 It is understood by both parties, that a teacher who is re-employed off the RIF list and has never taught in that certified area, in a contracted capacity, will be placed in that position on a one-year trial basis. That teacher will demonstrate competency in that new position. The teacher will devote 40 of the next 50 professional development hours to the new teaching assignment. Further, it is expected that 15 of those 40 hours will be accumulated during that first year.

Said teacher's status for employment in other certified areas will NOT be affected by Article 15B.1.

Teachers so re-employed will be observed at least two (2) times resulting in an evaluation prior to January 1. If as a result of evaluations, the teacher is not renewed, he/she will be notified in writing with reasons stated no later than April 1. He/she will return to RIF list in that certification and will not be rehired in that certification until he/she has demonstrated competence in a position in that certification.

Article 16

RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES

There shall be no reprisals taken against any teacher by reason of membership in the ASSOCIATION or participation in its lawful activities, nor shall action be taken against a teacher for processing a grievance.

Article 17

HEALTH AND SAFETY

17.1 The BOARD shall provide a safe and healthy classroom and campus environment.

17.2 The ASSOCIATION and The BOARD agree that any issue regarding health and safety, including unhealthy working temperatures, will be brought to the building Administration and Superintendent in an attempt to resolve the issue prior to any formal action being taken. Resolution may include portable A/C or heating units, additional fans, or cooling stations.

SECTION II - RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

Article 18

WORK YEAR

18.1 The teacher work year shall be no more than 187 days except that teachers initially entering the Portsmouth School System will be expected to appear one additional day prior to the opening of school.

18.2 The Superintendent, with input from all relevant constituencies including the Association, will be responsible for the development of the school calendar. The Association will submit a recommended schedule to the Superintendent no later than December 1st of the prior school year.

18.3 Any member required by the School Department to work beyond his/her contracted days will be paid on a per diem based on position and current step for the fiscal year in which the extra work is performed, with the exceptions noted in 19.1.

18.4 Some teachers, specialists or librarians, may have work situations that require one (1) or more days in-school time at the beginning and/or at the end of the school year without normal student contact. These professionals shall have the number of student free days equal to the number of buildings in which they teach. This Section shall apply to elementary school teachers in Physical Education, Art, Music, English Second Language, Speech, Occupational Therapy, and Computer.

Article 19

TIME REQUIREMENT

19.1 An eight (8) hour "on-site" workday will be established with a duty-free, uninterrupted lunch period of 25 minutes or the student lunchtime, whichever is greater. Teachers are expected to be available to:

- A. Aid students on an after-school basis as needed.
- B. Attend department or other professional staff meetings designed to provide meaningful professional growth or to clarify school business in general.
- C. Conduct parent conferences.
- D. Participate in Student Evaluation/Placement Team meetings as necessary.

E. Participate in other school-related activities as scheduled by the administration, such as the distribution of report cards and parent-teacher group meetings. Participation and attendance assignments will be distributed among all staff as equitably as possible.

F. Participate in meetings programmed and attended by those teachers and administrators involved. These meetings will not exceed two (2) hours per week, except in rare circumstances, and shall not be held during teacher planning time unless mutually agreed upon between the teachers and the administrators involved.

19.2 The eight (8) hour day shall be spent on school site and may include classes, study halls, student contact, planning, peer coaching, training, meeting in collegial groups, or other activities. As professionals, teachers need time in their schedule for other activities related to the educational process.

19.3 Teachers will have at least a 45-minute planning period daily within the confines of the student day (with the exception of PEEP teachers, who may have their planning time after the student day). In rare circumstances, Administration may require teachers to participate in a meeting during this time.

19.4 All part-time teachers will share classroom and duty assignments and responsibilities in proportion to their percentage of salary.

19.5 No more than two (2) periods per semester per subject certification may be filled with part-time employees unless special circumstances arise.

19.6 All teachers are expected to be in school a reasonable amount of time before and after school.

19.7 Before leaving the building during the eight (8) hour on-site workday, the teacher must inform the principal or supervisor of his/her destination, purpose and expected time of return.

19.8 The SAU will make every effort that is practical and possible to provide teachers with access to a telephone or district issued device, which allows for confidential communications with parents.

19.9 Daily Schedules - Teachers will work eight (8) hours but teachers in the same school may work different hours. For example, a school could be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and with some teachers working from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and others working from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Teachers with less than full-time contracts will have on-site workdays (or work weeks) proportionally reduced.

Article 20

RELATIONSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL AND PARA-EDUCATOR STAFF

20.1 A professional is defined as any person hired for a position for which professional certification is required and who bears the primary responsibility for the educational process in his/her area.

20.2 Professional and para-educators staff shall work together to provide quality education to the students in the Portsmouth Schools.

20.3 Professional staff shall participate in the selection of materials and preparation of the program to be implemented by the para-educators to plan lessons, implement lessons, diagnose, and/or evaluate.

Article 21

TEACHERS' HANDBOOK AND BOARD POLICIES

21.1 District and School Employee handbooks shall be made electronically accessible to all staff.

21.2 The contract will be available at all times to all employees on the city website for Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Article 22

CLASS SIZE

22.1 The School Board recognizes the importance of establishing appropriate class size in order to meet the needs of all learners in the classroom. The school board will make every effort to keep class size at 20:1 or lower in grades K-5. Similarly, the school board is cognizant of class size at the middle and high school levels and desires appropriate class size in order to learn in small groups, have one on one interactions and permit teachers to craft different strategies for children in their classes and therefore will make every effort to keep class size at a 24-27:1 or lower in grades 6-12. The district will, by law, not exceed the standards set forth in Ed 306.17, Class Size:

- a. K-2, 25 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school strives to achieve the class size of 20 students or fewer per educator
- b. Grades 3-5, 30 students or fewer per educator, provided that each school strives to achieve the class size of 25 students or fewer per educator
- c. Middle and High School, 30 students or fewer per block/period per educator
- d. Class size requirements may be exceeded in study halls, band or chorus
- e. In the interest of safety, the maximum number of students in laboratory classes such as science or career and technical education shall be determined by the number of workstations designed for the area and in no case shall exceed 24 students.

22.2 The District recognizes that certain students require more attention from the classroom teacher than do others. Therefore, in determining class sizes, the varied needs of all students will be considered, whenever possible.

Article 23

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

23.1 It is the responsibility of the employee to continually participate in Professional Development and other training, both within and outside the district, for the purpose of professional growth and re-certification requirements. Employees are responsible for obtaining the required number of professional development hours in their area(s) of certification to fulfill the three-year timelines as outlined by the Department of Education.

It is the responsibility of the employer to provide during the school year in-service training to all employees whose assignments require them to teach students who have individual educational programs. Such in-service training shall focus on Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA),

other relevant laws, regulations, and standards of a like nature, and shall address especially the technical aspects involved in developing individualized educational programs and satisfying the requirements of the law.

Article 24

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

24.1 Teachers are expected to attend team and parent conferences at mutually agreeable times.

24.2 Teachers' attendance at open house or visitation times scheduled for parent participation is vitally important. Teachers who are unable to attend may be asked to submit in writing their reasons to their principal.

Article 25

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROCESS AND TEACHER EVALUATIONS

25.1 It is understood that a key component to professional growth will involve a requirement that each teacher establish annual goals, which are measurable and ensure continuous improvement and achievement of student outcomes. These goals and their attainment shall be part of the evaluation process, hereby known as the Plan for Teacher Effectiveness

Staff input into future staff evaluation changes is recognized as being highly desirable and the administration will continue to consult the staff and the ASSOCIATION President, or his/her designee, in preparing and reviewing changes or additions. Final acceptance of any change will be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the BOARD.

[Plan For Teacher Effectiveness](#) The educational process is an extremely complex one and professional staff striving for excellence is the most important element in a sound educational program. Thus, evaluation of the educational process is essential and ongoing in order to ensure the retention of highly effective professionals.

Professional Staff Evaluations should serve the following purposes:

1. To aid the individuals to grow professionally.
2. To encourage high standards in the field of education.
3. To enhance the quality of educational services to the students' community.

Staff evaluations are designed to be positive in nature and to promote professional growth. There may be cause, as a result of the evaluation process which dictates that the BOARD dismiss, non-renew, or direct other appropriate action be taken in individual cases.

25.2 Employees are required to submit a PLC SMART goal, and a professional goal focused on growth in a component or domain in Danielson's framework. PLC work will not be dependent on a particular result in learning, but rather, submitting SMART goals and collecting evidence of student learning must suggest authentic implementation of PLC practice. If any goal(s) are not approved the employee will meet with their Administrator to revise the goal(s) in order to meet the district

standards. Employees are also required to complete a self-evaluation of their progress towards their goals.

25.3 Since evaluations are designed to provide accurate feedback to staff on performance against set standards, Danielson's framework or other mutually agreed upon evaluation tool, for effective teaching will serve as the basis of an evidence-driven process of evaluation. Staff may choose evidence beyond the administrator's observations to contribute to the evaluation according to Danielson's rubrics.

25.4 All evaluations shall include appropriate observations by Administration. Additional evidence may include, but is not limited to, lesson or unit plans, videos of instruction, student assessments, and other professional contributions.

The evaluation, over time, should evidence a teacher's growth in performance toward distinguished according to Danielson's rubrics, or other mutually agreed upon evaluation tool.

25.5 For the purpose of evaluations, the year will be considered from April 1 through March 31, except that first-year teachers will be evaluated from September through June, unless stated otherwise in their growth plan.

25.6

Evaluation

When an Administrator writes an evaluation of a teacher, a copy will be routed to the teacher who will acknowledge receipt. Teachers will have the opportunity to discuss the evaluation with the administrator prior to signing and submitting to the Superintendent. Such signatures indicate only that the evaluation has been completed and read by the staff member and not that he/she agrees with it. One copy will be filed in their personnel file in the Superintendent's office. If the teacher wishes to comment on any or all parts of the evaluation, the teacher may file written comments in the teacher's personnel file which is housed in the Superintendent's office within ten (10) school days.

Observation

When an Administrator conducts a formal observation of a teacher, the teacher will acknowledge receipt. The teacher will be presented a copy of the formal observation no later than ten (10) school days after the formal observation. Teachers will have the opportunity to discuss the formal observation with the administrator and may add their own written comments to the observation document.

25.7 [The Plan for Teacher Effectiveness](#) will address providing supports for teachers in need of a Directed or Monitored growth plan of improvement. Assistance shall be provided as soon as possible to teachers who are experiencing difficulties meeting professional responsibilities. The parties agree that any Professional plan of improvement be reasonable, achievable and measurable to ensure an employee's best chance of success.

25.8 If the Directed Growth plan is not achieved, it may result in a BOARD dismissal, non-renewal, and/or other appropriate action.

25.9 The administration shall make every effort to maximize class instruction time and minimize interruptions of the academic process due to non-academic activities.

25.10 In conformity with the intent of regulations and standards adopted for the implementation of P.L. 94-142, no employee shall be held accountable if a child does not achieve the growth projected in the Goals and Objectives of the child's Individualized Educational Plan.

Article 26

PERSONNEL FILES

26.1 Each teacher shall be entitled to knowledge of and access to supervisory records and reports of competence, personal character, and efficiency maintained in his/her personnel file with reference to evaluations of his/her performance in the Portsmouth School District. Any documents to be placed in a teacher's folder shall be photocopied and sent to the teacher at the same time they are placed in the folder. No document may be used against an individual if a copy has not been given to the individual.

26.2 Upon mutual agreement between the employee, supervisor and/or Superintendent, material may be removed from an employee's record.

26.3 No information contained in the files of an employee will be released to an outside person or agency without prior approval of the employee, except to verify employment, duration of employment and confirmation of pay step.

26.4 Upon notice, each teacher shall have the right to review and reproduce material in his/her personnel file, and to have inserted his/her own written comments regarding the material.

26.5 The district agrees to protect the confidentiality of personal references, academic credentials, and other similar documents. No separate file, which is not available for the teacher's inspection, will be established.

Article 27

SENIORITY

27.1 Seniority shall be based on latest date of hire with continuous years of employment as members of the teachers' bargaining unit in the Portsmouth School System with the exception of part-time employees and employees who have taken LOAs or sabbaticals. The date of hire is defined as the meeting date that the BOARD approved the teacher's nomination. If the meeting date cannot be confirmed the date of hire would be September 1 of that year.

The following criteria will be used:

A. Part-time teachers will receive the same seniority percentage as their salary percentage. Teachers who work less than a full year will receive seniority for each month worked and they will be placed on the seniority list consistent with years worked. If date of hire is earlier than placement on the list then the part-time teacher would be deemed to be more senior.

B. Required military service will in no way prevent accumulation of seniority.

C. When two members have the same date of hire, the one that has taken fewer leaves of absence LOA or sabbaticals is senior. A teacher who has more than one LOA or sabbatical will be moved a seniority year down for each LOA or sabbatical with this teacher being more senior of that group.

- D. When two members are equal, the one with the greater number of years in the system is senior.
- E. There is NO break in service for any teacher on the RIF list.
- F. Professional employees in the system may maintain seniority in the bargaining unit by annually joining and paying dues to NEA and NEA-NH or by contributing the same amount to the APT Scholarship Fund.
- G. A full-time employee is defined as any employee working 187 days. For purposes of seniority, anyone working more than 187 days will not accrue additional seniority for that school year. For purposes of this article only, approved leave for medical reasons will not be counted against an employee's full-time status.
- 27.2 The BOARD will maintain a current seniority list based on seniority and areas of certification. This list will be updated and posted in every school by March 1st of each school year. A copy of this list shall be e-mailed to the APT President.

Article 28

ASSIGNMENT CHANGE

- 28.1 When either school administration or an employee desires a change in assignment, the party desiring such a change must notify the other in writing. If the transfer of assignment is at the request of the administration, then those teachers with five (5) years or less seniority may be transferred without regard to seniority. When teachers with more than five (5) year's seniority are involved then the least senior may be transferred first. When the transfer request is at the request of the teacher, the decision will be based on sound educational reasons.
- 28.2 Teachers transferred to another building at the request of the administration in Article 28.1 will be given two (2) days of non-school time with per diem pay to make the move.
- 28.3 No more than three percent (3%) of the staff may be transferred after August 1st.
- 28.4 Transfers, assignments or re-assignments within the same school building will be excluded from this article except that all transfers will be for sound educational reasons and the person being transferred will be so notified in writing, and the person being transferred will be given eight (8) hours of non-school time with per diem pay to make the move.
- 28.5 When enrollments necessitate the closing of a school, the administration will meet with the teachers involved to discuss the options available to them. A timeline and procedures (including procedures for the appropriate distribution of materials and equipment) will be developed as far in advance as possible. The administration will attempt to make placements that are compatible with the teachers' areas of strength, experience and preference.
- 28.6 Any teacher transferring into another teaching certification against his/her will shall be entitled to:
- A. Written reasons for the transfer.
- B. The right to a hearing before the Superintendent within ten (10) school days of the notice of the transfer.

- C. A program with material and guidance to assist the teacher in his/her new area of certification.

Article 29

REDUCTION IN FORCE

29.1 In the event the BOARD decides it is necessary to reduce the number of teachers

due to reasons of financial exigency, declining enrollment, program elimination or reduction, or the consolidation or elimination of positions, such reduction in force will be made in accordance with the following procedures.

29.2 The Board will make every reasonable effort to minimize the effect of reduction in force. The Board will first examine if it can be accomplished through attrition (retirements, resignations.) The Superintendent shall send written notification to the President of the Association and all teachers whose positions are being reduced or eliminated.

29.3 The decision to implement a reduction in force in a certification area will be made at the discretion of the School Board after all information is received and carefully reviewed. The School Board wishes to retain those teacher who not only have proper certification, but who have relevant teaching experience as well as evidence of involvement in the district and shall consider the following factors (points) in total:

1. Experience, teaching in Portsmouth, in certified area; (1-4 years, 1 point; 5-9 years, 2 points; 10-14 years, 3 points; 15-19 years, 4 points; 20-24 years, 5 points, 25 or more, 6 points)
2. Track / Degree Status (Track A, 1 point; Track B, 1 .5 points; Track C, 2 points; Track D, 2.5 points; Track E, 3 points; Track F, 3.5 points; and Track G, 4 points)
3. Professional Responsibility: Each year teachers complete a narrative reflection highlighting their contributions to the district. Teachers will be awarded up three points, a point for every activity where they evidence service to children (co and extra-curricular activities) or participation in school or district committees or projects.
4. Seniority in district (1-4 years, 1 point; 5-9 years, 2 points, 10-14 years, 3 points; 15-19 years, 4 points; 20-24 years, 5 points, 25 or more, 6 points)

Relevant Teaching Experience						Points	
1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25+years	Maximum of 6 points	
1	2	3	4	5	6		
Track / Degree Status						Points	
Track A	Track B	Track C	Track D	Track E	Track F	Track G	Maximum of 4 points
1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	
Professional Responsibility						Points	

1 point per activity / committee / stipended or non-stipended co and extra-curricular activities during the prior three years	<i>Maximum of 3 points</i>
Seniority	Points
1-4 years 5-9 years 10-14 years 15-19 years 20-24 years 25+years	
1 2 3 4 5 6	<i>Maximum of 6 points</i>
TOTAL	19 Points

Bumping Rights: The right to bump a less senior teacher in another academic area may only occur if the teacher has taught within the endorsement for a period equal to the least senior teacher in the certified area.

If the Board determines all factors are equal, then seniority will prevail in making the final determination.

29.4 Any substitute work that is likely to result in employment as a permanent substitute will be offered to qualified and certified teachers on the re-employment list whenever possible.

29.5 Teachers so reduced will be re-employed in the inverse order in which they were reduced. Teachers hired before July 1, 1993 will be placed on a re-employment list for five (5) years. New teachers hired on or after July 1, 1993 will be placed on a re-employment list for three (3) years. This list will be updated and posted quarterly. If a re-called teacher accepts or refuses a part-time position, that teacher maintains his/her seniority in reduction in- force recall for any appropriate full-time position. However, if a teacher refuses an offer of full-time contracted re-employment, that teacher's name will be removed from the reemployment list, unless the opening occurs during the school year and/or if the teacher is under contract to another school district for that year.

29.6 Teachers under a continuing contract who are not to be re-employed in the District

shall be notified in writing no later than April 1. However, if the individual's position is included in the BOARD'S proposed budget, said individual will be notified of such and that individual would not be subject to RIF recall provisions until August 10, however they would be subject to Article 29 (Assignment Change) and in the case of said teachers, Article 29.3 will be waived.

Article 30

IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

30.1 The parties agree there will be educational, instructional, and organizational changes implemented in the future through the improvement planning process.

The ASSOCIATION and the BOARD will work cooperatively to implement improvement planning. Neither party will utilize the collective bargaining agreement to impede the implementation of improvement planning goals.

It is understood that the flexibility envisioned by this section does not include changes in seniority, wages, insurance, leave benefits, or length of work year unless specifically negotiated and approved by all appropriate parties.

30.2 Instructional/Duty Time - Daily instructional/duty time shall not exceed six hours. Daily instructional/duty time shall include time assigned to study halls, skill centers, and other assigned student related duties.

30.3 Career Ladder: Interval is a term used to describe movement on the pay scale. Achievement Units (AUs) describe the knowledge and skill necessary for an educator to evidence to move up on the new pay scale. When educators accumulate 3 AUs as a result of setting goals, reflection of progress towards goals, and completing an annual self-evaluation, they move one interval along the pay scale. All staff must attain 3 AU's each year regardless of their interval standing.

30.4 Teacher Quality Panel (TQP). In 2015-2016, a joint panel composed of three teachers representing the three grade spans (PK-5; 6-8 and 9-12) and three administrators representing the three levels appointed by the union and the school board was created. The TQP will 1) Establish criteria for evidence used in self-evaluations on Danielson's framework; 2) establish staff training to strengthen peer feedback. TQP appointments will be for a three (3) year term. No employee shall serve more than one (1) consecutive term, unless in the event that no other candidate expresses interest.

SECTION III - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Article 31

CONTRACT CLARIFICATION

31.1 Where a teacher or the ASSOCIATION disputes an interpretation and/or application of the contract or conditions of employment implied but not necessarily stated in the written contract, the employee, or the ASSOCIATION may initiate a grievance, except that non-renewal or dismissal of probationary teachers will be dealt with according to State law.

A grievance to be considered under this procedure must be initiated by the employee or the ASSOCIATION within twenty (20) school days of when the employee should have reasonably known of its occurrence.

31.2 Failure at any step of this procedure to communicate the decision on a grievance within the specified time limits shall permit the aggrieved employee to proceed to the next step, except at the BOARD level. Failure at any step of this procedure to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specific time limits shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at that step. A decision on the grievance at the BOARD level shall be rendered within the time limit set forth or the grievance shall be deemed favorable to the grievant.

However, it is agreed that the summer period is handled differently than the school year, when it comes to moving grievances. The parties agree that the parties may elect to move a grievance forward during the summer period only if mutual agreement is reached on the timeline to move to the next step during the summer. Processing grievances during the summer period will be visited on a case-by-case basis.

31.3 Any employee who has a grievance shall discuss it first with their immediate supervisor, if applicable, in an attempt to resolve the matter informally at that level. If the action or inaction being grieved originated with the Superintendent or the BOARD, the grievance may be initiated at the Superintendent's level of the grievance procedure.

31.4 If, as a result of the discussion, the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the employee within seven (7) school days, the employee and/or the Association shall set forth the grievance in writing to the employee's immediate supervisor or Superintendent, if appropriate, specifying: (a) The nature of the grievance and date occurred; (b) the nature and extent of the injury, loss, or inconvenience; (c) the results of previous discussions if any; (d) the employee's dissatisfaction with decisions previously rendered; and (e) the remedy requested. The immediate supervisor or the Superintendent shall communicate his/her decision to the employee and ASSOCIATION within five (5) school days of receipt of the written grievance.

31.5 No later than ten (10) school days after receipt of the immediate supervisor's or Superintendent's decision, the employee and ASSOCIATION may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools or BOARD, if appropriate.

The appeal must be made in writing, reciting the matter submitted to the immediate supervisor, as specified above, and their dissatisfaction with decisions previously rendered. The Superintendent shall meet with the employee and the ASSOCIATION to attempt to resolve the matter as quickly as possible, but within a period not to exceed ten (10) school days, and the Superintendent shall communicate their decision in writing to the employee and the ASSOCIATION, and the immediate supervisor within ten (10) school days.

31.6 If the grievance is not resolved to the grievant's satisfaction, the employee and/or the ASSOCIATION, no later than five (5) school days after receipt of the Superintendent's decision, may request a review by the BOARD. The request shall be submitted in writing through the Superintendent of Schools, who shall attach all related papers and forward the request to the BOARD. The BOARD, or committee thereof, shall review the grievance and shall hold a hearing within thirty (30) school days. A decision in writing shall be communicated within thirty (30) calendar days of the hearing.

31.7 If the decision of the BOARD does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the grievant and he/she wishes a review by a third party, the employee shall so notify the ASSOCIATION within five (5) school days of receipt of the BOARD'S decision. If the ASSOCIATION determines that the matter should be reviewed further, it shall, in writing and/or via email, so advise the BOARD through the Superintendent within ten (10) school days of receipt of the BOARD'S decision. The parties shall then initiate a request for arbitration under the procedure set forth herein.

31.8 The parties shall attempt to reach mutual agreement on an arbitrator. If the parties are unable to reach mutual agreement on an arbitrator within five (5) working days, a request shall be made to the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board, the Labor Relations Connection, or other similar entity on which the parties agree to submit a roster of persons qualified to function as arbitrators in the dispute in question.

31.9 If the parties are unable to determine a mutually satisfactory arbitrator from the submitted list, they shall request the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board, the Labor Relations Connection, or other similar entity on which the parties agree to submit a second roster of names.

31.10 If the parties are unable to determine, within ten (10) school days of the initial request for arbitration, a mutually satisfactory arbitrator from the second submitted list, the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board, the Labor Relations Connection, or other similar entity on which the parties agree may be requested by either party to designate an arbitrator.

31.11 Neither the BOARD nor the ASSOCIATION will be permitted to assert any grounds or evidence before the arbitrator, which were not previously disclosed to the other party. The findings of the arbitrator shall be binding on the BOARD, ASSOCIATION, and grievant. Any of the parties may appeal to the courts the decision of the arbitrator, in accordance with RSA 542 upon the condition that the appealing party pays the reasonable attorneys' fees of both parties relating to the appeal.

31.12 The BOARD, the aggrieved, and the ASSOCIATION shall receive copies of the arbitrator's report. This shall be accomplished within thirty (30) calendar days of the completion of the arbitrator's hearing or within thirty (30) days of the submission of closing briefs by the parties representatives.

31.13 Should the grievant so elect, the aggrieved person shall be represented at all stages of the grievance procedure by themselves, or by a representative selected or approved by the ASSOCIATION. The ASSOCIATION shall be notified at all levels and has the right to be present at all levels.

31.14 The parties participating in this involvement are guaranteed individual freedom from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal in presenting an appeal with respect to a personal grievance.

31.15 The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared by the two parties equally.

31.16 If the parties disagree as to the meaning or interpretation of any of the provisions of this AGREEMENT, either party may utilize the clarification procedure set forth in Article 31 in order to resolve said dispute.

31.17 Judgment to process a grievance under this provision shall not indicate agreement as to the validity of the grievance, but only that the parties view the grievance procedure as an expeditious means of resolving grievances.

31.18 All documents, communication, and records dealing with the process of a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the parties of the participants and shall not be forwarded to any prospective employer of the grievant, nor shall such documents be revealed or the grievance(s) be alluded to in any communication between the administration and said prospective employer. A copy of all documents shall be given to the grievant.

SECTION IV - LEAVES AND BENEFITS

Article 32

SHORT TERM LEAVES AND ABSENCES

32.1 At the start of each contract year, each teacher will be granted seventeen (17) days per year for personal illness or illness in the immediate family. A maximum of four (4) days per year for personal business or emergency leave may be used from sick leave. For all employees hired prior to July 1, 2014, there is unlimited accumulation of such leave; all employees hired after July 1, 2014, will accumulate sick leave as set forth in this article to a maximum of one hundred and fifty (150) days. No more than fifteen (15) days per year of paid leave may be used for illness in the immediate family. Personal leave may not exceed four (4) days per year, nor more than two (2) days on consecutive workdays, unless approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

The teacher will provide at least twenty-four (24) hours of advance notice of their intent to take any personal leave, unless an emergency arises. Taking a personal day immediately before or immediately after any school holiday or vacation shall require prior approval from the Superintendent.

Personal, Professional, and Sick days will be taken in full day increments, unless a shorter time period is approved by the building administration.

The BOARD will provide one (1) day of additional pay, at the teacher's current pay rate, to any employee who has used no personal days in a school year.

32.2 For employees hired on or before June 30, 1996, The BOARD agrees to pay 85% of the accumulated short term leaves of absence days to a maximum of 190 days, in a cash payment at the per diem rate which the teacher last earned to any teacher who retires from the system under N.H. State Retirement Laws or upon a teachers voluntary resignation so long as the teacher has worked ten (10) or more years in the system. (The exception to this voluntary resignation provision is that a teacher resigning in the face of dismissal or non-renewal based upon charges of serious criminal misconduct will not be paid for accumulated sick leave under this contract even if the employee voluntarily resigns). All employees hired after July 1, 1996, will earn and accumulate sick leave in accordance with the other provisions set forth in this article but shall receive no payout for accumulated short term leave of absent days either upon retirement or voluntary resignation.

32.3 In the event of prolonged absence as a result of accident or illness, the SCHOOL BOARD will consider circumstances that might warrant extension of full or partial sick pay.

32.4 A Personal Employee Leave Bank is hereby established which entitles an individual for reasons of personal illness or maternity leave to borrow, in advance, sick leave not yet accumulated, not to exceed thirty (30) days. Upon implementation of this contract any employee who is in negative days shall be expected to work with the business office to establish a re-payment plan to address negative days in a reasonable and timely manner. These days must be repaid before the employee resigns or retires from the district. Such repayment will be waived in cases where an employee's separation from employment with the District is due to death or permanent disability. It may also be waived on a case-by-case basis.

32.5 Any teacher receiving sick bank benefits or income protection benefits shall be entitled to life insurance, retirement, disability insurance and health insurance for a period of one (1) year, on the same terms as an active employee. After one (1) years, the teacher will have the option of continuing these benefits at their own expense. While the teacher is receiving sick bank benefits or income protection benefits, they will be deemed to be under contract to the school system.

32.6 Parental Leave

Any person covered under this agreement shall be granted available sick leave for the purpose of adopting or giving birth to a child. The duration of continuous working days of sick leave may be six (6) weeks, or longer when determined medically necessary by a doctor, within the first year of the child's arrival.

A leave of absence shall be granted to a permanent, full-time employee, who has been employed for at least one (1) year before said application. Such leave will commence at the time recommended by the employee's standing physician and/or initial placement of the child occurs. Such leave shall not exceed the conclusion of the school year during which the request is made.

Employees shall be entitled to use six (6) weeks of paid sick leave, or longer when determined medically necessary by a doctor. While on such leave, insurance benefits as contractually agreed shall be continued for such leave beyond the period in which the employee is utilizing paid sick leave if the employee is approved on FMLA.

If the employee is out of work for such leave beyond their sick leave utilization and is no longer covered by FMLA, then the employee may keep health insurance benefits in force under the present carrier while on leave by paying the total premium costs for maintaining insurance to the School Department, on a schedule suggested by the Business Administrator, or, if the carrier requires, through COBRA, with the School District agreeing to pay the COBRA administrative fee.

If the district should employ both parents within the school district, it is understood that the total time for both employees collectively cannot exceed one (1) year period of leave set forth in this article.

If an employee who has been granted leave of absence in accordance with this provision shall fail to return to work upon expiration of such leave of absence, the employee shall be deemed to have voluntarily terminated their employment.

Leave for an additional school year shall be granted at the sole discretion of the School District. To be considered for such leave, there must be a written request to the Superintendent. This request must be submitted to the Superintendent no later than March 1st of the preceding year. In no case will a teacher be granted an extended leave that permits absence for more than two (2) school years. Re-employment after the leave will begin at the start of the school year following the expiration of the leave.

All benefits to which a teacher was entitled at the time his/her leave of absence commenced including unused accumulate sick leave, shall be restored to him/her upon his/her return.

Upon return, the Superintendent will assign the teacher to his/her former position or an appropriate certified alternate position.

32.7 Employee Sick Leave Bank:

A voluntary donated sick leave bank is established to provide additional paid leave for participating employees who have exhausted their accrued leave as a result of a catastrophic or extenuating illness or injury to self, or an immediate family member. The Bank serves as a depository to which participating employees may voluntarily contribute leave for allocation to other participating employees. The purpose of the Bank is not to provide unlimited paid leave for any medical reason, but to alleviate the hardships outlined above.

Employees will be given an opportunity to donate to the Bank every year. Days will be donated between the first day of school and September 30th. When necessary, additional donations may be requested by the APT Executive Board.

Only employees who donate to the Bank are eligible to apply for benefits from the Bank.

At the time of submission, the APT Executive Board may require substantiating medical documents, and in all cases, the decision rendered by the committee shall be final and binding.

If approved by the APT Executive Board, these days will be presented without penalty or repayment. The decision of the APT Executive Board to approve use of the Employee Sick Leave Bank shall be communicated in writing to the Superintendent for record keeping purposes. Administration shall

provide the APT with a list of employees who have donated a day by September 30th of each school year.

Membership Eligibility, Obligations, and Limitations:

1. Eligibility is discontinued upon termination of employment, retirement, or death. No payment of benefits will be made to survivors.
2. Members must waive all claims to leave voluntarily donated to the Bank, including any monetary or retirement-related value the days may hold.
3. The maximum amount of donated leave bank benefits accessible to a recipient cannot exceed 91 days in a school calendar year.
4. If intermittent treatment is required, unused approved donated leave bank benefits will be provided on an as-needed basis until the employee recovers from the catastrophic illness or injury or the benefit ends, whichever is earlier.
5. Any balance of days approved but not required for the illness/injury will remain the property of the Bank.
6. Employees who are off work due to an on-the-job injury or illness may request time from the Bank until the determination of the workman's comp claim is issued.

Article 33

OTHER SHORT-TERM LEAVES OF ABSENCE

33.1 Members of the bargaining unit may be entitled to the following leaves of absence without loss of pay:

1. Professional days
 - a. Leave may be granted to a teacher for the purpose of school visitations, attending conferences, or professional meetings, subject to prior approval by their building administrator. If denied by the building administrator, such decision can be appealed to the Superintendent.
 - b. Professional days will not be charged against accumulated leave.
2. Bereavement leave
 - a. Bereavement leave will be granted as follows:

<u>Not to exceed 10 days</u>	<u>Not to exceed 5 days</u>
Spouse	Parent
Child	Sister
	Brother
	Parent-in-law

Not to exceed 3 days

Sibling-in-law

Grandparent

Aunt

Uncle

- b. Extensions may be granted by application to the Superintendent.
- c. Leave may also be granted by application to the Superintendent of Schools for the following:
 - Niece
 - Nephew
 - Close personal friend
 - Cousin
- d. Bereavement days will not be charged against accumulated leave.

3. Civil Leave for Jury Duty or Witness Service

- a. Upon application to the Superintendent, leave will be granted to the teacher who is subpoenaed as a witness in a civil or criminal case or is called for jury duty. Application will be made in advance with supporting documentation.
- b. The teacher shall forward to the BOARD all reimbursement for such service, except what is used for personal expenses, but not to exceed gross pay for the period of leave.

4. Religious Leave

Teachers may receive up to two (2) additional personal days each year for commonly accepted religious holidays, such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, where the tenets of the teacher's religion prohibit work on such days and require their attendance at religious services. Teachers must give the Superintendent five (5) days advance notice. These days will not be charged against short-term leave days.

Article 34

OTHER LEAVES

34.1 If any individual is requested by the Superintendent of Schools to attend a function on behalf of the BOARD, such time shall not be charged to an individual's personal time.

34.2 Extensions of Article 34 may be granted by the Superintendent.

Article 35

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

35.1 The School Department agrees to fill any temporary absence of a teacher with a certified teacher in the subject area or grade level where possible. It is recognized that extreme circumstances may arise whereby a substitute cannot be located. Such circumstances will be stated in writing to the ASSOCIATION by the Superintendent if the ASSOCIATION so requests.

35.2 Substitute teachers will be provided for all classroom teachers including art, music and physical education teachers.

35.3 Substitute teachers shall be informed of their duties and responsibilities including, but not limited to, following plans, grading and scoring written work.

35.4 Details concerning the duties and responsibilities will be supplied to all prospective substitutes by the administration.

35.5 In the event of an unscheduled absence, the teacher will notify the school administration as soon as possible prior to the absence. It will be the responsibility of the school administration to arrange for the substitute.

35.6 It is the teacher's responsibility to keep at least five (5) days of lesson plans available for a substitute. These plans will be kept current.

Article 36

EXTENDED LEAVES OF ABSENCE

36.1 With BOARD approval, a leave of absence for professional growth, without pay or any other benefits, up to two (2) years may be granted to any teacher who joins the Peace Corps, VISTA, or National Teacher Corps, or any other educational professional development. Upon return from such leave, a teacher who while on leave served in a teaching capacity, shall be placed on the salary scheduled at the level which he/she would have achieved had he/she remained actively employed in the system during the period of his/her absence. Teachers may work in other school systems on an exchange basis as long as a one-to-one exchange is maintained and there is prior approval by the Superintendent of Schools.

36.2 Each teacher will be granted leave for required annual military unit field training up to eleven (11) days duration when such required training falls within the school year, and when it cannot be scheduled during vacation periods.

Voluntary military activities will not be applicable under this section unless expressly approved by the BOARD.

36.3 Any teacher adopting or giving birth to a child shall be entitled to utilize paid sick leave as per the terms of Article 32.6. Once this contractually permitted sick leave is exhausted, any teacher adopting or giving birth may then be permitted an additional leave of absence, without pay or any

other benefits, provided that the total amount of leave (paid sick leave plus unpaid leave) granted for the adoption or birth does not exceed two (2) years.

36.4 A leave of absence without pay or any other benefits of up to one (1) year may be granted to any teacher for the purpose of caring for a sick member of the teacher's immediate family. Additional leave may be granted upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

36.5 Teachers who have been employed at least seven (7) years in the school department may be entitled to a LEAVE OF ABSENCE of up to one full year, without pay or other benefits. These leaves will be limited to three percent (3%) of those eligible, based on seniority. Requests for leaves of absences after July 15 will only be granted if a suitable replacement can be found. Any additional leave will be at the BOARD's discretion.

36.6 Other requests for leaves of absence for special reasons may be granted by the BOARD upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

36.7 All benefits to which a teacher was entitled at the time of leave, including accumulated sick leave, shall be restored upon return, and he/she will be assigned within the scope of certification. The teacher may keep insurances in force while on leave by paying the cost of the benefits to the school department, if the carrier allows. These payments shall be made thirty (30) days prior to the due date.

36.8 Upon return from leave granted pursuant to Article 37.1 and 37.2, the teacher shall be placed on the salary schedule at the level he/she would have achieved if he/she had not been absent.

36.9 All extension, renewals, or modifications of leaves shall be requested in writing and granted in writing.

36.10 All leave of absence requests shall be forwarded to the School Board through the Superintendent. Leaves of absences will be granted on the condition of a January 5 notification of intent to return.

36.11 Any teacher returning from a leave of absence shall return only at the beginning of a school year, unless otherwise provided by the BOARD.

Article 37

SABBATICAL LEAVE

37.1 Upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, sabbatical leaves may be granted to members of the bargaining unit by the BOARD. Should the Superintendent fail to recommend sabbatical leave(s), the teacher(s), involved may appeal the Superintendent's decision directly to the BOARD.

37.2 The BOARD will budget for three (3) sabbatical leaves annually. The BOARD may grant up to three (3) sabbaticals annually based on the merit of these requests. If denied, reasons in writing will be sent to the candidates.

37.3 No more than three (3) sabbatical leaves will be granted simultaneously.

37.4 The teacher must have completed five (5) consecutive years in the Portsmouth School System.

37.5 The teacher will be paid half salary with full benefits for a one-year leave or full pay and benefits for a half-year leave.

37.6 Requests for leave must be received by the Superintendent in writing no later than January 15, and action must be taken by the BOARD no later than March 31.

37.7 Teachers who have been granted a sabbatical in March recognize that the sabbatical may be delayed until a suitable teaching replacement can be found. A final determination will be made no less than three weeks before the sabbatical is scheduled to begin. Any determination to delay a sabbatical shall not be subject to the grievance procedure outlined in Article 32.

37.8 Requests for sabbatical leave may be granted by the BOARD for any reason; however, the leave must be of a significant nature and value.

37.9 Before leaving for sabbatical leave, the teacher will agree in writing to continue working in the system for at least two (2) years. Upon the teacher's return, he/she will be paid on the step he/she would have received if leave had not been taken. A report of the sabbatical will be made to the Superintendent and BOARD upon completion of the leave.

Article 38

INSURANCE

38.1a Effective July 1, 2019, Each employee will be offered the Yellow Open Access with Choice Fund Consumer Driven Health Plan offered through CIGNA SchoolCare ("the CDHP").

Effective July 1, 2025, the District will pay 93% of the premium cost for single, two person or family coverage and employees will pay 7% of the premium cost.

Effective July 1, 2026, the District will pay 92% of the premium cost for single, two person or family coverage and employees will pay 8% of the premium cost.

Effective July 1, 2027, the District will pay 91% of the premium cost for single, two person or family coverage and employees will pay 9% of the premium cost.

The Association agrees to participate in a City-wide committee to explore health insurance options.

38.1b Should the parties agree in writing to establish a cafeteria style plan dealing in insurance issues during the course of this three (3) year agreement - such plan would only become effective if ratified by the Association, approved by the School Board and approved by the City Council.

38.1c The BOARD will set up an IRS 125 Premium Conversion Plan which will allow each employee to choose to pay his/her portion of the health insurance premium with pretax dollars.

38.2 The District shall pay one hundred percent (100%), CIGNA Dental SchoolCare – Plan 2 1500 Max (DPO2C), with no deductible, plans.

38.3 The BOARD need not provide health insurance coverage if the employee is already covered under the same or a similar health plan. If an employee is found to have dual coverage, the

employee must pay back to the BOARD an amount equal to the premiums paid by the BOARD during this time.

Article 39

DISABILITY INSURANCE

The School Board will self-insure or purchase income protection insurance for each teacher who works at least fifteen (15) hours or more per week to begin no sooner than the 91st day of disability. Payments shall equal 66 2/3% of the monthly salary of the teacher at the date of disability. Said insurance will run until age 65 and shall be coordinated with social security benefits. If the employee has days available through accrued leave or through the APT Employee Sick Bank, they may apply these days to make themselves whole if approved for LTD, Long Term Disability, up to the maximum available per school calendar year.

The teacher and the school system shall be joint beneficiaries of this insurance. Should a disabled teacher owe days to the sick bank at the time he/she accepts payment under the income protection plan, it is agreed that these days will be repaid from the insurance proceeds, equally over five (5) years.

Article 40

LIFE INSURANCE

The School Board will purchase term life insurance for each teacher who works at least fifteen (15) hours or more per week in an amount equal to two (2) times the annual income of the teacher. In the event that a teacher dies while under contract to the school system, any sick leave borrowed from the sick bank will be repaid to the school system from the proceeds of the insurance. The balance of the proceeds will be turned over to the beneficiary named by the teacher. Additional life insurance may be purchased by the teacher. The teachers will pay for this insurance on a monthly basis through payroll deduction. It is understood that employees age 70 and over will have their benefits reduced in accordance with the certificate schedule attached as Attachment #1 to this Contract.

Article 41

POLICIES

The BOARD will provide the ASSOCIATION with copies of all insurance policies under which employees are covered.

Article 42

RETIREMENT PROVISIONS

42.1 The BOARD agrees to pay 85% of all short term leave of absence days, not to exceed one hundred and ninety (190) days for employees hired on or before June 30, 1996, in a cash payment at the per diem rate which the teacher last earned, to any teacher who retires from the system under N.H. State Retirement Laws or voluntarily resigns his or her employment if the teacher has completed ten (10) or more years in the system. It is understood that employees hired after July 1, 1996 will earn and accumulate sick leave in accordance with the other provisions set forth in this contract but shall receive no payout for accumulated short-term leave of absence days either upon retirement or voluntary resignation.

42.2 If a teacher wishes early payout of accrued leave in accordance with paragraph 42.1, the retiring or resigning teacher may notify the Superintendent by December 15th prior to the year of the first payment of accumulated sick leave. This will enable the employee at his/her discretion to receive this payment of accumulated sick leave over a one (1), two (2), or three (3) year period. It is understood that once a teacher accepts the first payment under the single/multi-year payout plan that he/she may no longer withdraw his/her notice of retirement or resignation.

Article 43

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation benefits will be provided as specified in the New Hampshire Statutes. The BOARD will pay the difference between Workers' Compensation and regular salary (gross, less FICA, withholding and retirement at the time of the injury).

Article 44

Removed in 25-26 Collective Bargaining

SECTION V - SALARIES

Article 45

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCED DEGREE PAYMENT

45.1 The BOARD agrees to budget for professional growth each year. The amount will equal one-third (1/3) of the number of staff members times the cost of one four (4) credit graduate course in a matriculating program at the University of New Hampshire. These funds may be used for course reimbursement, conferences, workshops and enrichment programs that clearly and substantially support the teacher's specific job assignment, district-wide initiatives, or for re-training or cross-certification at the approval of the administration.

45.2 Staff with fifty (50) Professional Development hours beyond those necessary to achieve certification within the 3-year certification cycle will be counted towards the Advanced Degree Schedule, limited to five (5) credits with every recertification cycle, or for non-certified licensed employees, once every three (3) years. Such credit for advanced degree payments must be directly related to the improvement or accomplishment of the teaching assignment. Such credits must be requested through the Assistant Superintendent's office.

Teachers offering in-house courses will receive a \$50 per hour stipend.

Transfer requests must be made on or before September 1 in order to be credited to the current year's contract.

45.4 Course reimbursement will be paid within four (4) to six (6) weeks upon proof of payment with original receipts. If a teacher drops a course, he/she must notify Central Office immediately and must reimburse the District either through payroll deduction or cash payment within two (2) weeks of said

notification. The teacher must provide official evidence, within two (2) weeks of receiving notification, of a minimum grade B or better. If said grade(s) is not obtained, the teacher must reimburse the District either through payroll deduction or cash payment within two (2) weeks.

45.5 Adjustments will be made to contracts for any course work completed prior to September when a transcript of official documentation of a minimum grade of B or its equivalent is received in Central Office on or before September 1.

It is the employee's responsibility to notify Central Office that an adjustment should be made. No adjustments will be made after September 1.

Adjustments will be made only for credits that clearly and substantially support the teacher's specific job assignment.

Credits that substantially duplicate other units will not receive salary credit. A teacher who has completed course work, but whose documentation will not be completed until after September 1, will be entitled to an appropriate adjustment if an appropriate official of the School the teacher is attending certifies that the course work has been completed by letter to the Superintendent delivered prior to September 1, in many cases, a certification from the Professor will be acceptable.

Article 46

HIRING HELP

The BOARD agrees to make every effort to hire those teachers who are fully and appropriately certified or certifiable. The BOARD may hire certified or certifiable personnel on a lower step than their level of experience.

Article 47

ADVANCED DEGREES

Effective July 1, 2003, all teachers are required to have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution of higher education. The district will pay a stipend for teachers who have attained additional coursework as described in Appendix A.

Article 48

LONGEVITY

Teachers, after 13, 16, or 25 years in the Portsmouth School District, will continue to receive stipends of \$3,099, \$3,722, and \$4,544 respectively. It is further understood that a teacher receiving a longevity stipend is not precluded from achieving mentor teacher status; however, beginning July 1, 2015, no additional members of the bargaining unit will receive longevity.

Article 49`

LEADERSHIP

49.1 The BOARD shall employ Department Heads, Team Leaders and Coordinators all of whom shall be paid a stipend in addition to their teaching responsibilities. While these leadership positions include teaching responsibilities; assignments will be flexible based upon district needs and job

assignment. These leadership positions will be evaluated by the Principal or Administrator and will serve at the discretion of the Superintendent. These leadership positions may be required to work additional days as part of their overall responsibilities, but only upon prior approval of the Principal or Administrator.

49.2. Department Heads' duties will be instructional teaching, coaching, curriculum, budget, schedule supervision, and aiding the classroom teacher in any way possible within his/her area.

All Department Heads will be paid \$4,500 plus \$75.00 for each teacher under their supervision.

49.3 Team Leaders (Middle School) and will be paid \$4500.

49.4 Coordinators will be paid \$4,500 plus \$75.00 for each teacher under their supervision. Special Education and Performing Art will be included as Coordinators.

49.5 All Department Head and Team leadership positions shall be posted every three (3) years. An employee may not hold more than one leadership role at a time. All leadership positions may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. Exceptions will be granted if no viable replacement can be found, as mutually agreed upon by the Association Executive Board and the Superintendent.

Article 50

SALARY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Each teacher may choose to be paid in either twenty-one (21) or twenty-six (26) payments, biweekly, starting with the first School Department payday after the start of the school year in August/September. The Business Department must be notified by the end of the previous school year if the payment schedule for the following year is to change. Once a teacher requests either the twenty-one (21) or twenty-six (26) payments, no change may be made in this schedule until the following year. Teachers electing the 26 payment option, will receive the last 5 payments in their last check in the fiscal year in one lump sum.

Article 51

SALARY SCHEDULE

The Salary increases will be as follows:

2025-2026: COLA of 2.84% to all intervals and applied to tracks

2026-2027: 10 Year Rolling COLA with floor of 3% and no more than 5% to all intervals and applied to tracks

2027-2028: 10 Year Rolling COLA with floor of 3% and no more than 5% to all intervals and applied to tracks

From July 1 2026 to June 30 2028 COLA will be computed on the rolling 10-year average in the CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton, which shall not be less than 3% nor more than 5%. The COLA Adjustment percentage shall be determined by the rolling ten (10)-year average in the CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH all items index as computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor for the ten (10) most recent calendar years preceding the July 1

adjustment. BLS's calendar year for this index is November through November, it is not published on a December to December basis. The Salary Schedule shall be changed as indicated in Appendix A.

Both parties agree that teachers will advance in salary by attaining Achievement Units (AUs) which allow teachers to move up the Interval Scale as described below. The intent of the AUs is to ground the compensation system in clear measures of growth in teacher practice as well as strong contributions to a professional learning community.

51.1 Annual Achievement Units. Three (3) prescribed AUs are required to move to the next interval. Two AU's associated with our professional learning community process are earned when SMART goals are approved and when results are reported. Awarding AUs for effective PLC work will not be dependent on a particular result in learning, but rather, submitting SMART goals and collecting evidence of student learning must suggest authentic implementation of PLC practice. The third AU is attained when the teacher completes a self-evaluation addressing all of Danielson's domains.

51.2 Additional Achievement Units: It is understood that teachers may advance an additional interval (three intervals) every two years. The Teacher Quality Panel will determine the menu of AU's for educators in all content areas and grade levels including the following areas:

- Professional Development activities, in-district courses and additional coursework in one's content area or pedagogy provided such activities are not being used for credit under the provisions of Advance Degree in Article 48.
- Contributions to colleagues
- Overall contributions to students, the school and district.

51.3 Administrators will track completion of the three (3) prescribed AUs through Frontline or another electronic system. The teacher will be responsible for submitting all professional development and transcripts of a B or better for all external coursework.

51.4 Mentor Teacher. Any teacher with nine (9) or more years of successful teaching experience may provide evidence of highly effective teaching to the District's Teacher Quality Panel (TQP). The TQP will review evidence against Danielson's domains and make recommendations to Assistant Superintendent for any teacher judged "distinguished" in all of Danielson's domains will earn mentor teacher status. There is no limit to the number of teachers who may be achieve mentor teacher status. Mentor teachers will earn a stipend equal to 8% of their teacher interval salary. Mentor teachers must show evidence of their professional contributions to their school and/or district staff. The TQP will determine criteria for such evidence and review the status of Mentor Teachers every three (3) years as aligned with the teacher's recertification cycle. There shall be no limit on the number of teachers who achieve Mentor Teacher status.

Responsibilities for those who have achieved full mentor teacher status shall include:

- Support fellow teachers in developing skills in planning, instruction, and classroom management. Share your own experiences, ideas, beliefs, and management procedures to help the teachers to gain classroom confidence.
- Encourage fellow teachers to reflect on each lesson to gain further insights from his/her successes and challenges.

- Set up a specific time/day with fellow teachers to review future lesson plans. Make sure this gives the teacher ample time to modify accordingly.
- Mentor teachers will participate in district or school level committees, professional development planning, and help to review school policies and best practices.
- Mentor teacher classrooms will be open for observation for other teachers' growth.

51.5 Conditional Mentor Teacher- Any teacher who successfully demonstrates that they have successfully completed benchmarks in fifteen (15) out of the twenty-two (22) Danielson's components will earn a stipend equal to 4% of their teacher interval salary. At least six (6) of fifteen (15) domains must be priorities. The teacher must complete the remaining seven (7) components within two (2) years according to TQP application deadlines. Any teacher who has not attained the Mentor Teacher status within two years will no longer be eligible to receive the Conditional Mentor Teacher stipend.

Article 52

COACHING, EXTRA-CURRICULAR, AND STIPEND COMPENSATION

Any Portsmouth teacher will receive the following additional stipend (non-cumulative) for coaching a middle or high school sport:

1 st and 2 nd year of coaching	\$265 per year
3 rd through 7 th year of coaching	\$530 per year
8 th and more years of coaching	\$796 per year

Any Portsmouth teacher coaching an elementary school sport for three or more years will receive a stipend of \$255 per year.

A Joint Labor Management Committee will be established to oversee the disbursement of Extra-curricular stipends with the goal to have equity within the district. This committee will meet at least three times annually to review the viability of current or proposed stipends and will make recommendations to the Association President and Superintendent regarding stipend adjustments. The Joint Labor Management Committee shall be comprised of one (1) individual from Elementary, Middle, and High School teacher as appointed by the Association President and one (1) Administrator from each level as appointed by the Superintendent.

A flexible spending pool for new activities will be established from unused activity stipends. Monies from this pool will be reallocated as approved by the Joint Management Committee.

Any employee requesting more than one stipend for the same related activity must seek prior approval from the Superintendent with input from the Association President.

All coaching, extra-curricular, and stipend positions shall be re-posted every three (3) years, with exception of high school class advisors which will be posted every four (4) years.

HIGH SCHOOL	0 – 2 Years	3 –7 Years	Over 8 Years
Football			
Head Coach	5958	6241	6541
Assistants, 2	3515	3678	3849
Junior Varsity	3190	3335	3489
Freshman	2703	2823	2,836
Assistant	2215	2,309	2,413
Basketball (boys)			
Head Coach	5,958	6,241	6,541
Junior Varsity	3,109	3,335	3,489
Freshman	2,703	2,823	2,951
Basketball (girls)			
Head Coach	5,958	6,241	6,541
Junior Varsity	3,190	3,335	3,489
Freshman	2,703	2,823	2,951
Baseball (boys)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Softball (girls)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Soccer (boys)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Soccer (girls)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Ice Hockey (boys)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Field Hockey (girls)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Spring Track (boys)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209

Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Spring Track (girls)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Winter Track (boys)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Winter Track (girls)			
Head Coach	3,842	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Volleyball (girls)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Volleyball (boys)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Swimming (boys/girls)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	1,887	1,969	2,055
Fall Cheerleaders (girls)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Assistant	1,887	1,969	2,055
Winter Cheerleaders			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	1,887	1,969	2,055
Cross Country (boys)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	1,887	1,969	2,055
Cross Country (girls)			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Tennis (boys)			
Head Coach	2,702	2,822	2,951
Junior Varsity	1,887		2,055

Tennis (girls)			
Head Coach	2,702	2,822	2,951
Junior Varsity	1,887	1,969	2,055
Golf (boys)			
Head Coach	2,540	2,651	2,770
Junior Varsity	1,244	1,304	1,365
Lacrosse (boys)			
Head Coach	3,841	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Lacrosse (girls)			
Head Coach	3,841	4,021	4,209
Junior Varsity	2,540	2,651	2,770
Freshman	1,887	1,969	2,055
Ski Team (Coed)			
Head Coach	1,244	1,304	1,365
Unified Basketball(Coed)			
Head Coach	1,244	1,304	1,365
Unified Soccer (Coed)			
Head Coach	1,244	1,304	1,365
Unified Track (Coed)			
Head Coach	1,244	1,304	1,365
Wrestling			
Head Coach	3,190	3,335	3,489
Junior Varsity	1,887	1,969	2,055
Equipment Manager (fall)	2,377	2,484	2,594
Equipment Manager (winter)	2,377	2,484	2,594
Equipment Manager (spring)	2,377	2,484	2,594
MIDDLE SCHOOL	0 – 2 Years	3 –7 Years	Over 8 Years
Basketball (boys)			
Coach 2 @	1,724	1,797	1,874
Basketball (girls)			
Coach 2 @	1,724	1,797	1,874
Baseball (boys)			

Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,460
Lacrosse (boys and girls)			
Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,460
Softball			
Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Soccer (boys/girls)			
Coach 4 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Field Hockey (girls)			
Coach 1 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Cross Country (boys/girls)			
Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Track (boys and girls)			
Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Volleyball			
Coach 2 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
Tennis			
Coach 1 @	1,400	1,457	1,519
<u>ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>0 – 2 Years</u>	<u>3 –7 Years</u>	<u>Over 8 Years</u>
Basketball (boys and girls)			
Director 2 @	1,304	1,365	1,429
Coach 9 @	652	681	714
Soccer (boys/girls)			
Director	718	751	786
Coach 4 @	457	478	502
Track (boys/girls)			
Director	718	751	786
Coach 3 @	358	375	394
Cross Country (boys/girls)			
Director	718	751	786
Coach 3@	358	375	394

All extracurricular activities in tiers are subject to movement around the tier ranges as determined throughout the duration of the contract by the Joint Management Committee.

TIER 1: \$260-\$1040

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Tech x4 \$TBD 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th Grade E School \$520 for teacher organizer at each school; \$75/night for staff chaperoning overnight as approved by admin

TIER 2: \$ 1,244

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto Tech Advisor x1 Band Tech x2 Business Club Advisor x1 Chess Club x1 Culinary Club Advisor x1 Spring Cycling Club x1 Debate Club x2 Drama - Spring Festival x1 Ecology Club x1 Educators Rising Advisor x1 French Club x1 Granite State Challenge x1 History Club Advisor x1 Holiday Ensemble x1 Italy sister city ambassador x1 Japan sister city ambassador x1 Joint Management Committee x1 Literary Magazine Advisor x1 Model UN x1 National Honors Society Advisor x2 Newspaper Advisor x1 Peer Leadership x1 PHS Vocal x1 Sailing Club x1 Spanish Club x1 Spring Wind Ensembles (woods, brass, jazz, drum) x2 Ultimate Frisbee x1 Outing Club x2 Ski Club x1 HOSA Future Health Professionals x1 We Speak x1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Club x1 Bowling Club x1 Chamber Singers x1 Chess Club x1 Drama - Music Director x1 Electronics x1 Fall Instrumental Ensemble (woods, brass, jazz, percussion) x2 Gardening Club x1 Ice Skating Club x2 Joint Management Committee x1 Math Counts x1 Mountain Biking Club x1 Newspaper Advisor x1 Spring Instrumental Ensemble (woods, brass, jazz, percussion) x2 Student Council Advisor x2 Wordsmith Club x1 Gay-Straight Alliance x1 Clippercast x2 Justice League x1 CPI Trainers x3 districtwide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Conductor x3 Chess Club x3 Drama x3 Enrichment x6 (need clarity) Joint Management Committee x1 Safety Patrol x3 School Store x3 Student council x3 Yearbook Advisor x3 Dodgeball X1 LHS Gay Straight Alliance x3 Community Club x2 LHS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Club x1 Gay-Straight Alliance x1 CPR Trainer X1 districtwide K-12 		
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TIER 3 \$1894

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Band Director (level 3) x1 Drama - Spring Show x1 Fall Color Guard x1 Freshman Class Advisor x2 Interact x1 Junior Class Advisor x2 Madrigal Singers x1 Math Team Advisor x2 Robotics Team x1 Senior Class Advisor x2 Sophomore Class Advisor x2 Student Senate x2 Student to Student x1 Winter Color Guard x1 Yearbook Advisor x2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Cycling Club x1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drama – Director x1 Grade 6 Basketball Coordinator x1 Ski and Snowboard Club x2 Yearbook Advisor x1 Dungeons and Dragons x1 Weight Club x1 = 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

TIER 4 \$2601-\$6548

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Band Director (Level 2) x1 \$3572 Concert Percussion Ensemble x1 \$3572 Drama - Musical Director x1 \$6548 Drama - Musical Conductor x1 \$3572 Marching Band Director (Level 1) x1 \$6548 TQP – \$3247 Robotics x1 \$ 3572 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After School Intramural Activities Director x1 (\$3173) TQP – 3247 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TQP – 3247

TIER 5 (\$6,295-\$10,000)

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic Director (\$9,697) 	

Article 53

POSTINGS

53.1 The Superintendent shall provide the President of the ASSOCIATION, and have posted in each school, a list of vacancies and/or openings within the Portsmouth School System as frequently as the openings arise. This is to include all openings, full or part-time, co- or extra-curricular, federal, or special programs.

53.2 All open co- or extra-curricular positions and coaching positions will be posted in each school within the system. All qualified candidates within the system at the time of the opening will be interviewed. It is desirable to employ certified personnel whenever possible.

Article 54

EXTRA PAYMENT SCHEDULE

54.1 Payments for extracurricular assignments and travel will be made in two (2) installments; the first pay period in December and the last pay period in June.

54.2 Payment schedule for coaches (less any deductions for loss of time and other deductions mutually agreed upon by both parties and authorized in writing by the teacher) will be:

Fall sports	First pay period in October
Winter sports	First pay period in February
Spring sports	First pay period in May

Article 55

NEW POSITIONS

In the event the school department establishes an entirely new co-curricular position, the School Department shall establish the rate for said position after consultation with the Association. If the Association disagrees with the rate to be established by management, it may negotiate for higher/lower compensation. During the pendency of such negotiation, the rate as established by the department shall be used if the job is filled. If a higher compensation is ultimately negotiated, it shall be retroactive to the first date that the new position was filled (in the absence of an agreement to the contrary between both parties). It is understood that the new position will be included in the first subsequent collective bargaining agreement forwarded to the City Council for approval.

Article 56

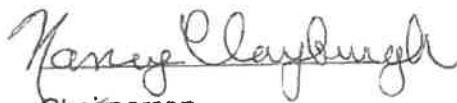
DURATION

This Agreement shall be effective July 1, 2025 and shall expire on June 30, 2028 .

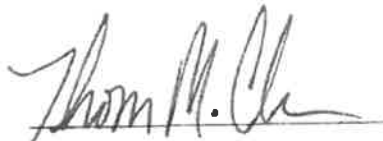
SIGNATURES

As Approved by the Portsmouth City Council, May 19th, 2025.

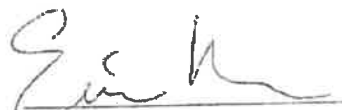
For the Portsmouth
School Board:

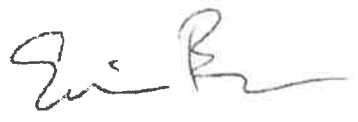

Chairperson

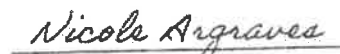

Superintendent of Schools


City Negotiator

For the Association
of Portsmouth Teachers:


President


Chief Negotiator


NEA/NH Representative

SALARY SCHEDULE A

Interval	2025-2026
1	53,339
2	54,939
3	56,588
4	58,286
5	60,034
6	61,837
7	63,690
8	65,600
9	67,569
10	69,596
11	71,684
12	73,835
13	76,049
14	78,330
15	80,682
16	83,101
17	85,595
18	88,162

2025-2026		
	Interval 1 - 12	Interval 13+
Track B	3,521	7,389
Track C	8,603	13,179
Track D	9,510	14,293
Track E	10,416	15,340
Track F	12,232	17,429
Track G	14,048	19,522

Teachers who received longevity in 14-15 will continue at the same level reached by this year. No new longevity will be added.

Longevity	
After 13 yrs	3,099
After 16 yrs	3,722
After 25 yrs	4,544

APPENDIX B

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS (PLP): THEORY INTO ACTION

Purpose: The Purpose of the Professional Learning Project (PLP) is to support the development of an engaged learning community through innovative strategies in responding to student learning needs and sharing promising practices among educators. The PLP proposal must contribute to progress on district/building goals/initiatives including, but not limited to literacy, personalization, technology, power standards and assessment. Projects should connect together as many aspects of our “5 area framework” as possible by including elements of curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development, and community.

Inquiry Question: This question frames the project and guides the professional learning. The question should be framed to focus on a specific issue appropriate to the teaching assignment/role of the individual(s). The question should be specific enough to be answered through action research, including research of best practices and the collection of actual student work.

Some samples:

What are effective strategies in accelerating the growth of students who are more than two years below grade level in reading?

How can technology be integrated effectively to increase student learning in the content areas?

Teacher (s): The Professional Learning Project can be a proposal for an individual or a group. Collaboration is strongly encouraged as well as a team approach to meeting the needs of students across classrooms. This might include small study circles devoted to discussion of common readings tied to a project theme.

Proposed Timeline: The duration of the PLP can be for as little as a semester and as long as two years, but PLP credits will only be awarded upon successful completion of the project.

Proposals: The Professional Learning Project should outline the research to be completed, the actions to be taken, and the evidence of student learning expected in addressing the inquiry question. The proposal should be detailed with dates for key events. An inquiry journal will be used to reflect on the professional learning throughout the project. The proposal should contain reasonable estimates of the time necessary to complete each phase of the PLP. The ultimate success of the project will lie in many educators engaging in this process of life-long learning, reflecting on what they have learned and bringing that new understanding or insight into their everyday classroom planning and instruction. Project participants will also be required to make a public presentation of their work to the staff and/or community. Deadlines for proposals to begin in the Fall semester is May 1 for the Spring semester is November 1.

Committee: A Committee made up of three teachers appointed by the APT and three administrators appointed by the Superintendent will review PLP proposals and recommend to the Superintendent those proposals that the Committee deems appropriate along with an estimate of the credits that will be awarded upon the successful completion of the project. The Superintendent will make a final determination within 30-days of receipt of the proposal from the Committee. The Committee will also evaluate PLPs in progress and determine if the PLP has been satisfactorily completed and how many credits should be awarded. If the Committee is not unanimous in determining whether the PLP has been satisfactorily completed or how many credits to award, the matter shall be referred to the Superintendent for a final determination. If the teacher(s) disagree with the Superintendent's final determination, the teacher(s) involved, accompanied by another member of the bargaining unit, shall be given the opportunity to discuss the PLP with the Superintendent.

Credits: PLP credits will be awarded after all requirements are met. PLP credits will be based upon a conversion table that roughly equates to the time commitment of university credits and degrees. For example, a three-credit university course normally requires 45 hours of class time plus 2 hours of travel/preparation for each hour of class time, or a total of 135 hours.

Staff Development Hours: Only (50) staff development hours in excess of those necessary to achieve certification will be counted toward advancement on the Advanced Degree schedule, limited to 5 credits every 3 years.

Transition: No PLP or Profession Development credits will be awarded for professional activities conducted prior to the effective date of the CBA. No teacher will be placed higher on the new Advanced Degree schedule higher than his/her current track status.

Salary Adjustments: Salary adjustments based upon successful completion of the PLP shall be applied once a year in accordance with present contract language.

APPENDIX C

Track A	Track B	Track C	Track D	Track E	Track F	Track G
Bachelors Degree	Bachelors Degree Plus 15 Credits	Masters Degree OR Bachelors Degree Plus 45 Credits	Masters Degree Plus 15 Credits OR Bachelors Degree Plus 60 Credits	Masters Degree Plus 30 Credits OR Bachelors Degree Plus 75 Credits	Two Masters Degrees OR CAGS Degree OR Masters Degree Plus 45 Credits OR Bachelors Degree Plus 90 Credits	PHD OR Two Masters Degrees Plus 15 Credits OR CAGS Degree Plus 15 Credits OR Masters Degree Plus 60 Credits OR Bachelors Degree Plus 105 Credits

METHODS FOR MOVING ACROSS SALARY TRACKS

2022-2024

Credits: Credits can be earned three ways:

1. Taking approved graduate courses- Number of credits is determined by course
2. Current PD hours conversion- Every three years 50 non-course/PLP/recertification PD hours can be converted into 5 credits
3. Completing a Professional Learning Project- Credits determined by PLP committee