

WORKING AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD

AND

THE CUSTODIAL SUPERVISORS UNION

July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029

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WORKING AGREEMENT

By this Agreement the School District, Administration Unit No. 52, City of Portsmouth, N.H., (hereinafter called "the SAU") and the Custodial Supervisors Unit (hereinafter called "the Union" "the Unit" or "the CSU") of the Portsmouth School District, do hereby reach agreement.

WITNESSETH

Whereas the Unit established itself as the exclusive representative of the custodial supervisors of the Portsmouth School District who are members of the unit and on regular active duty for the SAU and enrolled on the SAU's payroll, now, therefore, the parties hereto contract and agree with each other as a result of collective bargaining as follows.

Article 1 RECOGNITION

Whenever used in the Agreement, the word "employee(s)" refers to a person or persons actively and regularly engaged in SAU work or enrolled on the regular payroll of the SAU of the City of Portsmouth, N.H.

Article 2 BARGAINING WITH INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES

The CSU agrees for itself and its members that no member individually will bargain with the School Board or any of its authorized agents on matters pertaining to wages, hours of work, working conditions, and transfers or promotions.

The District agrees for itself and any of its authorized agents that it will not bargain with an individual employee on matters pertaining to wages, hours of work, working conditions, and transfers or promotions in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 273-A (PELRB).

Article 3 MANAGEMENT'S RIGHTS

It is understood that the SAU shall have the exclusive control of its operation. Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed to limit the SAU in any way in the exercise of the regular and customary functions of management, including the direction of the working forces, the establishment or methods of operation, the establishment of plans for efficiency, the adoption and maintenance of engineering standards, and the right to select or employ supervisory employees and their assistants, except as specifically and expressly limited by any of the provisions of this agreement.

Article 4 CSU RIGHTS

It shall be the right of the CSU to present and process grievances for its members whose wages, working conditions or status of employment are changed as a result of management's exercising the above mentioned rights, whenever such grievances exist in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 273-A:XII (PELRB).

Article 5 HOLIDAYS

Regular, full-time employees shall be paid for the following legal holidays. Should a holiday fall on a Sunday, it will be celebrated on Monday. Should a holiday fall on a Saturday, the preceding Friday will be considered the holiday. All regular, full-time employees shall be paid for this day. The following shall be designated as holidays.

Independence Day	*1/2 day before Christmas
Labor Day	Christmas Day
Veterans' Day	Day after Christmas Day
*1/2 day before Thanksgiving	Day before New Year's Day
Thanksgiving Day	New Year's Day
Day after Thanksgiving	Memorial Day
Martin L. King Day	Juneteenth
*Columbus Day	

* The SAU agrees to grant one-half a day before Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day when the School Department is in session one-half day before Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, provided it is not a regular school day. Additionally, Columbus Day will be designated as a holiday in any year that it is not a regular school day.

If the Portsmouth School Custodians' bargaining unit increases its allotment of paid holidays, The Portsmouth School Custodial Supervisors' bargaining unit will be entitled to the same increase.

Article 6 HOLIDAY PAY

Holiday pay shall be granted if an employee reports for work on the last regularly scheduled workday prior to the holiday and the first regularly scheduled workday after the holiday, provided the absence from work for legitimate reasons, excluding sickness, will not be grounds for denying holiday pay.

Article 7 HOLIDAY PAY (OVERTIME)

All hours paid on a holiday shall be counted as hours worked when computing overtime.

Article 8
HOLIDAY PAY (WHILE ON LEAVE)

If a holiday occurs while an employee is on paid leave, the employee shall be granted an extra day. This day may be taken at any time during the year with sufficient notice, subject to the approval of the Facilities Director.

Article 9
VACATIONS

All full-time employees shall receive paid vacation leave. Length of service on the chart below will be measured as of the July 1 prior to the employee's actual date of hire. For example an employee whose first day of work for the District was September 20, 1998 will be deemed to have completed six years of service for vacation purposes on July 1, 2004. District seniority within the building shall be the determining factor in selection of vacation time. Vacation pay will be based on an employee's regular rate of pay using the following schedule.

After 6 Months	5 days
1 Year – 5 Years	10 days
6 Years – 10 Years	15 days
11 Years – 15 Years	20 days
16 Years – 24 Years	25 days
25 Years and Beyond	30 days

All bargaining unit members employed on July 1, 2003, will move into this schedule without losing days from old schedule and will complete the transition by June 30, 2008. Bargaining unit members whose first day of work was after July 1, 2003, will be on the schedule immediately.

Employees hired into the district as of July 1, 2015, will follow the schedule below:

After 6 Months	5 days
1 Year – 5 Years	10 days
6 Years – 10 Years	15 days
11 Years – 15 Years	20 days
16 Years and beyond	25 days

Article 10
VACATION ACCUMULATION

Vacation accumulation is not to exceed fifty (50) days.

Article 11
VACATION NOTIFICATION

Vacation may be taken at any time during the year with sufficient notice subject to the approval of the SAU.

The SAU agrees to notify each employee, in writing, of accumulated vacation leave days once a year in the month of July.

Article 12 PRE-PAID VACATION

Employees are entitled to a prepaid vacation with a notice of one (1) week to the pay period.

Article 13 VACATION TERMINATION

Upon termination of employment, the SAU shall pay to the employee an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of vacation leave earned prior to the date of termination of employment.

Upon the death of an employee while in the employment of the SAU, the SAU shall pay to that employee's estate an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of earned vacation leave.

Article 14 PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS AND POSTINGS

The SAU reserves the right and shall have the right to make promotions and transfers primarily on the basis of ability, performance, and attitude, but shall be governed by seniority when equal qualifications are present.

All employees who are successful candidates for a vacancy or new job will be given a reasonable opportunity to learn that job.

When a question arises as to the proper person having been chosen to fill any job and it cannot be resolved, it will be settled by using the grievance procedure.

All unit vacancies and new jobs that are to be filled shall be posted no later than five (5) days after the School Board has met in regular session after said vacancies or new jobs have occurred.

Custodial Supervisors will keep custodians who are supervised by them informed of any openings or transfers that occur in the Portsmouth School Department.

These vacancies and new jobs shall be posted for five (5) working days in each school to allow employees the opportunity to apply for said position. All vacancies and new jobs must be filled within thirty (30) working days after the expiration of the posting period.

After the position is awarded, the name of the person who has been awarded the position shall be posted for five (5) working days. Any candidate who has applied for the posted position may, in writing, request a meeting with the Building Principal and Personnel

Director to discuss the reason(s) why they were not selected. Said meeting should take place no later than five (5) working days after the written request has been received.

The CSU members shall receive copies of all unit vacancies and new jobs. If vacancies or new jobs are not to be filled or cannot be filled, the SAU shall notify the CSU members no later than thirty-five (35) work days after the position was posted or if the School Board, prior to posting, decides not to fill said vacancy or new position.

Job Elimination - It is understood that an employee may not bump an employee in a higher job category.

Article 15 JOB POSTING

Job posting shall include job specifications, job location, shift and hours, if the job is permanent with a permanent rating. All postings are to be dated, indicating month, day and year.

The above procedure shall be followed in all transfers and vacancies whether temporary or permanent.

The SAU agrees to assign employees to the school nearest the employee's residence whenever it is feasible and in the best interest of the School Board. Assignment will be based on employee's seniority.

After an award has been made concerning new jobs and vacancies, the name of the person, job location, shift, and/or hours shall be posted for five (5) working days. This also applies when the School Board goes outside to fill the above-mentioned jobs.

Article 16 NON-SELECTION

Employees who apply for new jobs, promotions, transfers and vacancies who are not selected may request a meeting with the Facilities Director and Human Resources Director in writing to discuss reasons for the non-selection. Said meeting shall be held within five (5) working days.

Article 17 MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

Vacancies in management positions shall be posted in each school to allow employees the opportunity to bid on such positions.

Article 18 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

All disciplinary actions shall be applied in a fair manner and shall be consistent with the infraction for which disciplinary action is being applied.

All suspensions and discharges must be in writing with reasons stated and a copy given to the employee.

Disciplinary action shall follow this order:

- A. Verbal warning
- B. Written warning
- C. Suspension without pay (five (5) days maximum)
- D. Discharge

However, the above sequence need not be followed if an infraction is sufficiently severe to merit immediate suspension or discharge, including but not limited to the following reasons:

- (a) Misconduct during employment
- (b) Incompetency or inefficiency
- (c) Failure to perform assigned duties
- (d) Disobedience to his superior
- (e) Failure to observe rules and regulations
- (f) Incompatibility with other employees
- (g) Unauthorized absence from duty
- (h) Being under the influence of liquor or illegal drugs while on duty
- (i) Drinking intoxicating beverages and using illegal drugs on duty
- (j) Falsifying sickness or any other cause of absence

Article 19 JUST CAUSE

No employee shall be penalized, disciplined, suspended, reprimanded, reduced in rank or compensation, or deprived of any advancement without just cause.

Article 20 WRITTEN REPRIMAND

The personnel record of an employee will be cleared of a written reprimand after a period of one (1) year from the date of the reprimand, provided there are no similar infractions committed during the intervening period. However, if the discipline involves misconduct of any type against a minor, the document shall remain in the personnel file.

Article 21 SUSPENSION NOTICES

The personnel record of an employee will be cleared of suspension notices after a period of two (2) years from the date of suspension provided no similar infractions have been committed during the intervening period. However, if the discipline involves misconduct of any type against a minor, the document shall remain in the personnel file.

Article 22 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

22.1 A grievance for the purpose of this Agreement is a complaint against the employer by an employee with respect to the meaning and/or application of a provision of this Agreement.

22.2 A grievance must be filed within fifteen (15) working days of its occurrence or when the employee, by reasonable diligence, should have known of its occurrence. Grievances shall be processed in the following manner:

- A. An employee (or the Union) who has a grievance shall discuss the grievance with his steward. An initial meeting will be held among the employee, a Union representative, and the Facilities Director, for the purpose of determining if the matter can be resolved informally.
- B. If an employee is not satisfied with the informal resolution of the matter, a grievance may be filed with the Business Administrator within five (5) working days after the meeting with the Facilities Manager. The grievance shall be in writing and on an official grievance form. The Business Administrator shall meet with the Facilities Manager, employee, and the Union representative and render a decision in writing within five (5) days after the meeting.
- C. An unfavorable decision in Step B may be appealed in writing within five (5) working days to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools shall have four (4) working days to render a decision in writing. The parties agree to accept the Superintendent of Schools decision as final and binding.
- D. By mutual agreement of the parties, the above time limits may be extended to any step and may be passed for failure to respond.

Article 23 SENIORITY

An employee's seniority shall commence with the employee's date of hire and shall continue for as long as the employee is employed by the SAU.

An employee shall not forfeit seniority for absences caused by the following:

- (a) Illness resulting in total/temporary disability due to the employee's regular work with the School Board, certified by an affidavit from the worker's compensation carrier.
- (b) Illness that is not the result of misconduct resulting in total/temporary disability certified by a physician.
- (c) Duty with the Armed Forces.

Article 24

PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, LAYOFFS, VACATIONS AND OVERTIME

Seniority, ability, attitude and performance shall be determining factors in promotions and transfers. Seniority alone shall be the determining factor in layoffs, vacations and overtime. A three (3) week notice by certified mail shall be sent to any employee to be laid off.

Article 25 SENIORITY (DEFINITION)

Seniority shall be defined as having priority over or being given preference because of continuous years of employment as a custodian. In no case will seniority be forfeited or accrued while on layoff or approved leaves of absence.

Article 26 SENIORITY LIST

The SAU agrees to establish and keep up to date a seniority list by district. This list shall be posted once a year in July.

Article 27 SENIORITY/FORFEITED

Seniority is forfeited by voluntary resignation, discharge for just cause and retirement.

Article 28 RE-EMPLOYMENT LIST

The person with the most seniority will be hired back first. All employees who have been laid off will be kept on a re-employment list for a minimum of two years. Qualified and available permanent employees shall be reinstated before new employees are hired.

An employee who is offered a regular full-time job and does not accept recall shall be dropped from the reemployment list. Employees offered reemployment shall have two (2) weeks to decide upon the offer and must be ready to start work within two weeks of notifying the School Department of acceptance unless the parties agree otherwise in a specific instance.

Article 29 SICK LEAVE DAYS (ACCUMULATION)

Sick leave without loss of pay or fringe benefits shall be computed at the rate of 1 1/4 days per month or 15 days per year and may be accumulated without limitation. For employees hired after 1/1/90 accumulation to be limited to 150 days. It will be credited to an employee's record only after earned. For employees hired into the district after July 1, 2015, sick leave without loss of pay or fringe benefits shall be computed at the rate of 1 day per month or 12 days per year.

Article 30
SICK LEAVE (PAY BACK)

The School Board agrees to pay 60% of the accumulated sick days (in a cash payment at their present per diem rate) to any employees who terminates employment with the School District, so long as the employee has been employed in the system for ten (10) or more years, the only exception being if an employee is discharged for just cause. In all cases, prior notice of termination or retirement must be given a year in advance of that termination or retirement.

Employees hired after July 1, 1996, shall not receive any sick leave payout upon termination, retirement, layoff, or death.

Employees seeking payment under this Article shall notify the Superintendent by the first of January prior to their last year of work in order to receive severance pay at retirement. If the employee complies with this notice, severance pay will be payable on or after July 1 of the year in which the notice is given. If the employee does not notify the Superintendent, they will receive severance pay no later than the fiscal year following his/her retirement.

Article 31
SICK LEAVE (NOTIFICATION)

The School Board agrees to notify each employee in writing of accumulated sick leave days once a year in the month of July.

Article 32
SICK LEAVE AND VACATION (OVERTIME)

Paid sick leave taken and vacation shall not be counted as hours worked when computing overtime.

Article 33
SICK LEAVE (MEDICAL OR DENTAL)

Sick leave shall be used for medical or dental appointments during working hours. Employees shall be charged for actual time absent.

Article 34
SICK LEAVE (CALL IN)

All employees shall call in at least two hours prior to shift starting time if they are taking a sick day. This does not apply in cases of emergency.

Article 35

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

In addition to sick leave, bereavement leave will be granted, as follows:

Up to three (3) days

- brother-in-law
- sister-in-law
- grandparents
- aunt or uncle
- niece or nephew
- blood relative or ward residing in the same household

Up to five (5) days

- parents
- sister
- brother
- parent-in-laws

Up to seven (7) days

- Husband, wife or civil union partner
- children

Extensions may be granted by application and approval of the Superintendent.

Article 36 PERSONAL DAYS

All employees shall be entitled to five (5) non-accumulative personal days per year. Permission to use these days is subject to the approval of the Facilities Director, with a copy sent to Personnel 24 hours prior to taking, except in case of an emergency.

Article 37 NATIONAL GUARD/ARMED RESERVES LEAVE

An employee called to serve a training tour of duty or for emergency (floods, hurricanes, riots, etc., or upon the call of the Governor of the State of New Hampshire) with the National Guard or Armed Reserves will suffer no loss of pay or fringe benefits and will be paid the difference between the fee received for such service and the amount of straight time earnings lost by reason of such service. Reimbursement under this section shall not exceed four weeks per employee per year.

Article 38 CIVIL LEAVE FOR JUROR OR WITNESS SERVICE

Employees who are subpoenaed as witnesses in a civil or criminal case, or who are called for service on a jury, will be granted paid leave for the period of time they are unable to report to work. The employee shall transmit any monies received from such assignment,

other than those paid for personal expenses (e.g., travel) to the School Board. All time spent while serving on jury duty shall be counted as hours worked.

Article 39
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A leave of absence may be granted without pay or benefit, with the written approval of the Superintendent and the School Board after an employee has been employed for at least three years.

Article 40
NORMAL WORK WEEK

The normal work week shall consist of any five consecutive days, Monday through Saturday. The normal work day shall consist of any eight consecutive hours within a 24 hour period, exclusive of 1/2 an hour for lunch period for the day shift and 1/2 an hour for the night shift employees. By mutual agreement between the Facilities Director and the employee, a work week of four 10-hour days may be implemented during the summer school vacation.

Article 41
WORK SCHEDULE CHANGE

In the event that it is necessary to change the work schedule in effect, it may be changed provided two (2) weeks' notice is given in advance to those employees affected, stating the duration of the change. This shall not apply in an emergency situation. Any changes not covered by this section, hereof, shall be by agreement of the parties.

Article 42
AVOID PAYMENT OF OVERTIME

The SAU agrees that the employee's normal workday or normal work week shall not be interrupted to avoid payment of overtime.

Article 43
EVALUATIONS

All employees covered by this agreement shall have a conference with their supervisors to explain their evaluations. After that conference, both the employee and the supervisor are to initial the evaluation and, if it is desired, either may at that time indicate and attach any substantial agreement or disagreement with that which is written. Such initials shall indicate only that the evaluation has been read and in no way indicates agreement. Upon notice, employees shall have the right to review and reproduce material in their personnel files.

Article 44
NO STRIKE CLAUSE

There shall be no strikes of any kind, stoppage of work, slowdowns or any kind of interference with or interruptions of the SAU's business by the CSU or its members. There shall be no lockout, partial or total, by the SAU as provided in Chapter 273-A:3 (PELRB).

Article 45

STABILITY OF AGREEMENT

Should any article, section, portion thereof of this Agreement be in violation of a State law or be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall apply only to the specific article, section, or portion thereof directly specified in the decision; upon issuance of such a decision, the parties agree immediately to negotiate a substitute for the invalidated article, section or portion thereof.

Article 46

WORK BREAKS

Coffee breaks or other similar breaks shall be granted to all employees covered by this agreement for a fifteen (15) minute period during each four consecutive hours of work.

Article 47

OVERTIME

All employees shall receive time and a half for all hours worked over forty in any one week. Employees who are requested to work on Sundays for non-school related work (non-school related work is when the school department will receive reimbursement from another party for the custodians' hours) shall be paid two times their regular hourly rate of pay.

Employees who are ordered in to work outside their normal schedule for the purpose of responding to a weather-related emergency, as declared by the Superintendent or their designee, will be compensated at their overtime rate of compensation.

Article 48

CALL-IN TIME

When employees are called in to work outside their regularly scheduled working hours, they shall be paid a minimum of three (3) hours at time and one-half their regular hourly rate.

Article 48A

WEEK-END BUILDING CHECKS

Employees scheduled by the Facilities Director or the Business Administrator to check the building over the weekend shall be paid a minimum of two (2) hours per day for Elementary and Middle Schools and two and one half (2 ½) per day for the High School.

Article 49

SAFETY

The SAU shall have the right to make regulations for the safety and health of its employees during their hours of employment.

Article 50
PROPER CARE

The Union and its members agree to exercise proper care and to be responsible for all School Board property issued or entrusted to them.

Article 51
PERSONNEL FILE

No written material concerning an employee's conduct, service, character or personality while on the job shall be placed in the employee's personnel file unless the employee has had an opportunity to read and initial the actual copy to be filed with the understanding that such signature merely signifies that the material has been read and in no way indicates agreement.

Article 52
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE/SHOE ALLOWANCE

Seven (7) new sets of uniforms will be furnished by the School Board at its expense for all employees covered by this Agreement, including two (2) sets of summer uniforms (shorts and polo shirts). The School Board will replace said uniforms no later than 30 days after request to replace. No later than 30 days after the completion of the probation period or as soon as possible thereafter employees will be issued new uniforms. Upon termination each employee must return all uniforms. The School Department will provide three hundred dollars (\$300.00) annually for work boots/shoes/sneakers and adopt the attached policy which shall be paid by July 1st of each year of the contract.

Article 53
SPECIAL CLOTHING

Special clothing will be issued upon the request of a Custodian Supervisor if approved by the Facilities Director.

Article 54
RETIREMENT

All employees covered by this agreement shall participate in the New Hampshire State Employee's Retirement System in accordance with its terms.

Article 55
BULLETIN BOARDS

The School Board shall provide space for bulletin boards for the posting of notices of the SAU addressed to the employees and notices of the Union addressed to its members.

Article 56
NON-CONTRACTING SERVICE CLAUSE

The School Board agrees that work or services presently performed shall not be subcontracted, transferred, leased, assigned, or conveyed, whole or in part, to any other agency, person, private contractor, or non-unit employee, where such work or services can be performed by present employees. The Association understands that the School Board's position is that this clause is not legally enforceable and in the event the School Board successfully attacks the validity or enforceability of such a clause in another school department labor agreement, through litigation, the association agrees to be bound by the final decision.

Article 57
RELATED TO ANOTHER EMPLOYEE

No employee related to another employee shall work in the same building if one of the employees is in a supervisory capacity.

Article 58
COPY EQUIPMENT

The SAU agrees to allow the use of its copying equipment to members of the CSU unit when the purpose is to provide notices and information to its members. This work will be performed with prior approval by the building administrator and at a time designated by that administrator, and the materials are to be supplied by the CSU.

Article 59
COPIES

The SAU agrees to provide each custodial supervisor unit member with a copy of this agreement within 30 days of signing. The SAU agrees to further provide each custodial supervisor with a copy of the contract between the SAU and the custodian unit.

Article 60
BENEFITS (MAINTENANCE OF)

Nothing in this agreement, either by inclusion or exclusion, shall be so interpreted as to limit any benefits now enjoyed by the custodial Supervisors.

Article 61
EMERGENCY DEFINITION

For the purpose of the agreement, an emergency shall be defined as an unexpected event or happening.

Article 62
SCHOOL BUILDING

The SAU agrees that the bargaining unit and its representatives may have permission to use a designated room with sufficient prior notice in a school building to conduct general meetings at reasonable hours.

Article 63
BONDING OF EMPLOYEES

The SAU agrees that the bonding of custodial supervisors shall remain at the present level throughout the duration of this AGREEMENT.

Article 64
HEALTH INSURANCE

The School Board shall provide health insurance for individuals, two people, or family coverage for full-time employees.

The District will offer full-time employees only the Cigna 2.0 with Choice Fund or the equivalent. Effective July 1, 2026, the employee's premium cost share for the Cigna 2.0 with Choice Fund or the equivalent (single, 2-person or family option) will be 7% of the total premium. The City's premium cost share will be 93% of the total premium. Effective July 1, 2027, the employee's premium cost share for the Cigna 2.0 with Choice Fund or the equivalent(single, 2-person or family option) will be 8% of the total premium. The City's premium cost share will be 92% of the total premium. Effective July 1, 2028, the employee's premium cost share for the Cigna 2.0 with Choice Fund or the equivalent(single, 2-person or family option) will be 9% of the total premium. The City's premium cost share will be 91% of the total premium.

Given the current volatility in the health insurance industry, the parties recognize and agree that the district may change health insurance plans and/or carriers during the term of this Agreement. If such change occurs, the District will bargain in good faith with the Union to provide comparable insurance coverage. The parties further recognize and agree that the District provides insurance coverage subject to all contractual limitations and exclusions imposed by the carrier, including any contractual right of the carrier to modify coverage (such as prescription benefit coverage) during the term of this Agreement.

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

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.

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The Board need not provide coverage if the employee is already covered under the same plan or a plan with equal benefits. 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.

Effective as soon as possible after final approval of this contract, the School Board will offer employees the option of participating in an IRS 125 Plan (premium conversion plan) so employees may pay their portion of the premium with pre-tax dollars (applicable to co-pay attributed to 95 if possible).

Article 65

LONG TERM DISABILITY

The Board will purchase income protection insurance for each employee to begin on the 91st day of disability in an amount equal to 66 2/3%, up to \$1200.00, of the monthly salary of the employee at the date of disability. Said insurance shall run until age 65 and shall be coordinated with Social Security benefits.

Article 66

LIFE INSURANCE

The School Board shall purchase one hundred percent (100%) of term life insurance for all employees, equal to twice the annual income of each employee. It is understood that employees age 70 and over will have their benefits reduced in accordance with the Certificate Schedule attached.

Article 67

DENTAL INSURANCE

The District agrees to provide a Cigna(or an equivalent plan and to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the premium cost for single, two-person, or family plan.

Given the current volatility in the health insurance industry, the parties recognize and agree that in order to continue to provide coverage, the District may need to change dental insurance plans and/or carriers during the term of this Agreement. If such change occurs, the District will bargain in good faith with the Union to provide comparable insurance coverage. The parties further recognize and agree that the District provides insurance coverage subject to all contractual limitations and exclusions imposed by the carrier, including any contractual right of the carrier to modify coverage (such as benefit coverage) during the term of this Agreement.

Article 68

LIABILITY INSURANCE

The School Board shall save harmless all employees from financial liability arising out of any claim suit, criminal prosecution or judgment against them because they are an

employee of the School Board or because of an act taken by them in the course of their employment.

The above shall not apply in cases where an employee is guilty of gross negligence or gross irresponsibility. An employee who has been found guilty of gross negligence or gross irresponsibility by the employer may appeal such decision through the grievance procedure. Should said appeal find in favor of the employee, the employer shall make the employee whole in terms of all financial liability or loss and all costs related to the alleged negligence or irresponsibility and the subsequent appeal.

Article 69

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

All unit employees shall be covered by the State of New Hampshire Unemployment Compensation Act, as provided in Chapter 348 and all amendments thereafter.

Article 70

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Worker's Compensation benefits will be provided as specified in the New Hampshire Statutes. In cases where an employee is on total disability, the School Board shall pay to the employee the difference between the Worker's Compensation benefit and the employee's take-home pay. In accordance with past practice an employees accumulated sick leave time shall be used to pay the supplemental pay to make up the difference in the Worker's Compensation benefit and the employees take home pay.

In no event shall such payments exceed fifty-two (52) weeks.

Article 71

WAGE AND SALARY GUIDE

Effective July 1, 2026, all Custodial Supervisors will be paid in accordance with the following schedule:

Hire through end of first year	\$28.24/hour
Beginning of second year through end of third year	\$28.49/hour
Beginning of fourth year through end of sixth year	\$28.56/hour
Beginning of seventh year and on	\$28.88/hour

Effective July 1, 2026, the hourly rate of the incumbent Senior High Supervisor will be \$32.17/hour-this is intended to "red circle" only the person currently in the position, not to set a binding wage rate for the position (which would otherwise be included in the regular wage schedule).

An employee will only advance up the step table if their most recent performance evaluation is acceptable or better.

COLA ADJUSTMENT

Effective July 1, 2027, the wage schedule will be increased by the City's standard COLA-rolling 10-year average CPI-U-3.0%-5.0%. Effective July 1, 2028, the wage schedule will be increased by the City's standard COLA-rolling 10-year average CPI-U-2.0%-5.0%.

The COLA adjustment percentage shall be determined by the ten (10)-year rolling average in the CPI-U for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton all items index as computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor for the most recent calendar year 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 reference base is 1982-1984 equals 100 until BLS updates the reference base at which time the parties agree to adopt the official reference based as used by BLS.

Thus if the ten (10)-year rolling average for the CPI-U for the Boston SMSA calendar year is 1.5% the applicable COLA adjustment would be 2%; if it is 3.5% the applicable COLA adjustment would be 3.5%; if it is 5.5% the applicable COLA adjustment would be 5%.

Applicability After Contract Expires: It is clearly understood that in the event that the three-year Working Agreement expires without a successor Working Agreement being settled prior to July 1, 2029, that no further COLA adjustments after July 1, 2028 will be generated under the Working Agreement even though the Working Agreement has an evergreen clause. It is further agreed that continuation of COLA adjustments are not to be deemed "status quo" as the term has been used by the PELRB in the event that a successor agreement has not been settled by July 1, 2029.

Article 72 LONGEVITY

Longevity will be paid in accordance with the following schedule:

	7/1/2026
After 5 years	\$1,169
After 10 years	\$1,288
After 15 years	\$1,406
After 20 years	\$1,526
After 25 years	\$1,800

Longevity will be increased by the same COLA as base wages on July 1, 2027, and July 1, 2028.

Longevity will be paid in a separate check on the first payday in August.

Longevity is based on years of employment with the SAU in any full time capacity.

Article 73 MILEAGE

Employees required or requested to use their personal vehicles in the course of their duty, shall be reimbursed at the minimum rate of 31.5 cents per mile. The rate for mileage shall increase based on the IRS justifiable mileage rate as set by that agency. Mileage payments shall be paid in agreement with the Business Office.

Article 74 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCEDURE

Any party desiring to bargain shall serve written notice of its intention on the other party at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to May 16th.

The parties agree to enter into negotiations no later than the third week of January, if possible, to reach agreement on salaries, fringe benefits and other conditions of employment, pertinent to the provisions of N.H. RSA 273-A.

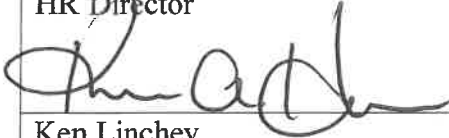
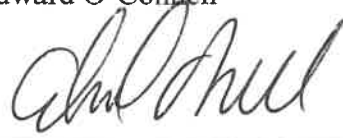
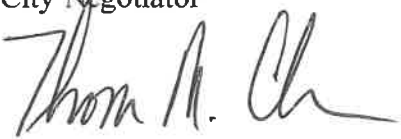
Article 75 DURATION OF AGREEMENT

SAU agrees to a three (3) year Agreement. This agreement shall be in full force and effect from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, and shall continue from year to year thereafter unless written notice of desire to cancel or terminate the Agreement is served by either party upon the other at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the date of expiration as provided in Chapter 273-A:3:ll.

Where no such cancellation or termination notice is served, and the parties desire to continue this Agreement but also desire to negotiate changes or revisions in this Agreement, either party may serve upon the other a notice at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to budget submission date, as provided in Chapter 273-A:3:ll (PELRB), advising that such a party desires to revise or change terms or conditions of such Agreement and specifies the articles to be renegotiated. The Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until such changes and revisions have been agreed upon.

Article 76
SIGNATURES

EXECUTED THIS 18th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

<u>PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u>CSU</u>
Nancy Clayburgh, School Board 	Arthur Ashley  
Kelly Harper, HR Director 	Edward O'Connell 
Ken Linchey, Director of Buildings & Grounds 	
Tom Closson, City Negotiator 	

Approved by the Portsmouth City Council on August 17th, 2026.