

AGREEMENT

between the

Board of Education of

Regional School District No. 17

and the

Haddam-Killingworth Education Association

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027

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ARTICLE I
PREAMBLE

- A. This Agreement is negotiated under subsection 10-153 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, in order (a) to fix for its term the salaries and other conditions of employment provided therein, and (b) to encourage and abet effective and harmonious working relationships between the Board and the professional staff in order that the cause of public education be best served in Haddam and Killingworth.
- B. The Board and the HKEA recognize the importance of responsible participation by the entire professional staff in the education process, planning, development and growth. To this end they agree to maintain communication, to inform about programs, to guide in development and to assist in planning and growth either by committee, individual consultation or designated representatives.
- C. The Regional School District Board of Education and the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association support which may include volunteering one's services beyond the workday for the benefit of the students.
- D. This Agreement shall be an entire contract between the Board and the HKEA in the subject areas covered by the Agreement for the duration of the Agreement unless changed by mutual consent of both parties. Such mutually consented change shall be in writing and in accordance with the consultation procedure provided therein. Previously adopted policies, rules or regulations in conflict with this Agreement are superseded by this Agreement.
- E. In the event that any provision or portion of this Agreement is ultimately ruled invalid for any reason by an authority of established and competent legal jurisdiction, the balance and remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE II
RECOGNITION

- A. The Board recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative of certified professional in the teachers' bargaining unit, as defined in 10-153b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended.
- B. Unless otherwise indicated, the term "teacher" when used hereinafter in this Agreement shall refer to all employees in the above unit.

ARTICLE III
RIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- A. Unless expressly limited by a specific section of this Agreement, the rights, powers and authority held by the Regional Board of Education under state law, general or special act of the legislature of the State of Connecticut, over matters involving the Regional School District No. 17, including but not limited to full control over the policies, practices, procedures and regulations with respect to employees of the Board at all its schools. shall

remain vested solely and exclusively in the Board of Education of Regional School District No. 17, specifically including but not limited to the following: to maintain public elementary and secondary schools and such other educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the interests of the District to give the children as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable; to decide the need for school facilities; to determine the care, maintenance and operation of buildings, lands, apparatus and other property used for school purposes; to determine the number, age, and qualifications of the pupils to be admitted into each school; to employ, assign, and transfer teachers; or dismiss the teachers of the schools in the manner provided by statute; to designate the schools which shall be attended by the various children within the District; to make such provisions as will enable each child of school age residing in the District to attend school for the period required by law; to provide for transportation of children wherever it is reasonable and desirable; to prescribe rules for the management, studies, classification, and discipline for the public schools; to approve the textbooks to be used; to approve rules for the arrangement, use, and safekeeping of the school libraries, and to approve the books selected therefor; to approve plans for school buildings; to prepare and submit budgets to the District Meetings, and, in its sole discretion, to expend monies for the maintenance of the schools and to make such transfers of funds within the appropriated budget as it shall deem desirable. These rights, responsibilities, and prerogatives are not subject to delegation in whole or in part, except that the same shall not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with, or in violation of, any of the specific terms and provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV
PROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

- A. No later than two hundred ten days (210) days prior to the Regional School District meeting at which the budget is submitted, the Board and the Association agree to negotiate in good faith in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection 10-153a through subsection 10-153g of the Connecticut General Statutes. Either party may utilize the services of outside negotiators or consultants. The Board shall provide the Association with a copy of the budget adopted by the Board of Education for the following fiscal year as soon as available.

ARTICLE V
NO DISCRIMINATION

- A. In accordance with all applicable statutes, there shall be no unlawful discrimination or coercion of any kind against any teacher for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, race, religion, national origin, ancestry sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other class protected under the law, Association involvement, opposition or lack of involvement, either by the Board or by the Association. Any grievance based on this provision shall end at the Board level of the grievance procedure.
- B. Failure by the Association to accept any teacher for membership shall be construed as discrimination under the terms of this Article.

- C. There shall be no reprisals of any kind taken against any teacher by reason of their membership or lack of membership in organizations or participation or lack of participation in its activities.

ARTICLE VI
STAFF SALARIES

- A. The salaries of all teachers covered by this Agreement are set forth in the Appendices which are attached hereto and made a part of this Agreement.
- B. Part time teachers will be paid on a prorated basis based upon the currently applicable full teaching load for the grade level being taught.
- C. When a teacher leaves the Regional District No. 17 School System before the end of the school year, they shall be paid on a per diem basis for those days they have worked computed on the basis of the normal teacher work year.

ARTICLE VII
PLACEMENT ON SALARY SCHEDULE

- A. All teachers shall be placed on the appropriate step on the salary schedule, taking into consideration the following:
 - 1. Degree status as defined under “Degree Definitions” article.
 - 2. Full credit for previous teaching experience in public and accredited private schools provided that such experience shall have been continuous service of at least one half of the Regional District No. 17 work year in days, in any year. Teachers hired from accredited private schools shall be certified to teach in the public schools of Connecticut. Intermittent or short-term substitute service will not be credited as previous teaching experience.

However, effective July 1, 1996, the Board with the mutual agreement from a newly hired teacher with five (5) or more years of teaching experience, may place the teacher on the salary schedule according to teaching experience and degree status minus up to one half of their years of experience. However, such placement shall not be less than the step corresponding with four (4) years of experience.

Teachers who accept the above placement will hold the HKEA harmless to seek redress at a later date to improve their step placement based on their actual number of years of credited teaching service.

Teachers who accept the placement described under this section A.2. will voluntarily sign a statement to this This statement would substantially be as follows:

“I voluntarily agree to a decrease of ___ years of experience towards placement on the salary schedule. I will not seek

amendment to replacement on the salary scheduled for the remainder of my employment at Regional School District No. 17 nor thereafter for any reason whatsoever.

3. Credit of one (1) year for each two (2) years of active service in the Armed Forces or the Peace Corps, up to a maximum of two (2) years credit.
- B.
1. In shortage areas as defined by the State Department of Education, in an effort to attract the highest quality applicants, the Board may offer "Signing Bonuses" to prospective applicants. Such payments shall be in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 or the Board may place a newly-hired teacher on the salary schedule according to degree status up to and including the third step on the salary schedule.
 2. Notwithstanding Article VII, Section B.1., in teaching positions difficult to fill through normal recruiting means, teachers with related experience other than that of certified teachers may receive credit up to ten (10) years on the salary schedule at the discretion of the Superintendent and with approval by the Board Chair, acting as an agent of the Board. The Association will be consulted in all instances where the Superintendent wishes to utilize this paragraph and the reasons for its proposed utilization will be explained. Application of this paragraph will be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure of this Agreement.

C. Withholding of Pay increase

The Board reserves the right to withhold a salary increase or salary increment in cases where services are deemed less than satisfactory. Written reasons for the proposed withholding shall be furnished to the employee by the Superintendent. Notification concerning the possible withholding of a pay increase or increment will be made no later than April 1. They shall be entitled to submit a written statement to the Superintendent for their consideration. Decisions by the Superintendent to withhold salary increases or salary increments are subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure of the Agreement. Completion of one year of satisfactory service after the withholding of an increment or salary increase shall entitle the teacher to be placed on the salary level they would have held but for the withholding.

ARTICLE VIII
TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS

- B. The assignment and/or transfer of teachers within the school system is the authority of the Superintendent of Schools. Teachers employed by the Board shall receive their initial building grade and/or subject assignments from the Superintendent's office.
- C. Teachers who desire to transfer to another building may file a written statement of such desire with the Superintendent not later than March 1 of each year. Such statement shall include the grade and/or subject to which the teacher desires to be assigned or the school or schools (in order of if the teacher has preferences) to which they desire to be

transferred. Such applications on file will be considered together with applications received from publication in accordance with Section E below.

- D. Teachers shall be notified in writing, as soon as practicable and under normal circumstances not later than June 1, of any changes in their programs and schedules for the ensuing school year, including the schools to which they will be assigned, the grades and/or subjects that they will teach, and any special or unusual classes or assignments that they will have. In the event of a change in circumstances or conditions during the months of May through August (e.g., resignation, changes in enrollments), such assignments may be changed as required to meet the situation and those affected shall be notified in writing as soon as practicable.
- E. In the determination of assignments and transfers, the professional qualifications, convenience and wishes of the individual teacher will be honored to the extent that these considerations do not conflict with the instructional requirements and best interests of the school system and the pupils.
- F. Certified positions, including ones that pay a salary differential and/or involve an additional or higher level of responsibility, which become vacant due to death, retirement, discharge, resignation or by the creation of a new position shall be filled pursuant to the following procedures:
 - 2. The existence of a position vacancy shall be adequately publicized, both within and outside the system. All vacancies shall be posted on the District website and an email will be sent to certified staff to alert them of the vacancy.
 - 3. Said notice of a position shall clearly set forth the qualifications, relevant salary schedule, and salary differential for the position.
 - 4. The president of the Association shall receive a copy of the notice of position at the time notices are sent for posting.
 - 5. Teachers who desire to apply for such a position vacancy shall file their application in writing or electronically with the Superintendent or their designee within the time limit specified in the notice.
 - 6. Such position vacancy shall be filled on the basis of qualification for the vacant position as determined by the Board of Education.
 - 7. Postings shall be effective for five days except through mutual agreement with the Association for exigent circumstances.
- G. In arranging schedules for teachers who are assigned to more than one school, every effort shall be made to limit the amount of inter-school travel.
- H. An involuntary transfer shall be made only after a meeting between the teacher involved and the Superintendent or their designee, at which time the teacher shall be notified of the reasons for the transfer. (Except in emergencies or in instances where a teacher is relieved

of duties or transferred to an open position for disciplinary reasons, no involuntary shall take place until an attempt at seeking a volunteer or volunteers has been made.)

ARTICLE IX
SCHOOL DAY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- B. All personnel covered by this Agreement shall spend such time as is necessary to accomplish tasks set by' the Administration and to fulfill their obligations as professional teachers.

The normal workday for personnel covered by this Agreement shall be seven (7) hours and fifteen (15) minutes. The workday includes a duty-free lunch period.

Morning and afternoon student supervision during this wrap-around time should be covered by a rotating duty schedule.

If in the future the Board increases the amount of contact time within the normal workday beyond that in effect during 2013-2014, the Board shall negotiate over the impact. if any'. of such change. Such negotiations will be subject to the provisions of Sec. 10-153f of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning "midstream" negotiations and will be subject to mediation and arbitration if not amicably resolved.

The professional responsibility of the teacher referred to above shall include. but not be limited to, the offering of special assistance to individual students in their classes, detentions, preparing and arranging materials, displays, assignments. lesson planning and generally preparing for the creation of a classroom atmosphere conducive to academic scholarship. learning and curiosity of students.

- C. With the aim of continuing to improve communications and to fully exercise professional responsibility, teachers shall attend staff meetings, and meetings with the Superintendent of Schools, as required. Teachers will also be expected to participate in activities which contribute to the educational program: workshops, departmental activities, curriculum development, in-service training and parent conferences. At the beginning of each school year, the Building Principal shall notify teachers of the schedule for faculty/department meetings for the school year including the dates and start and end times for the meetings. This shall not prohibit the principal from calling an unscheduled emergency meeting when the circumstances warrant.
- D. While it is understood that significant curriculum development (review, revision, rewrite) occurs throughout the school year, the HKEA and the Board of Education recognize the fact that some curriculum development work may be necessary over the summer or during vacation periods. Proposals for curriculum development work for those vacation or summer periods may be submitted to the Superintendent through the building principal. With the approval of the project by the Superintendent, a maximum number of compensated hours will be authorized for its completion. Curriculum development work that has been approved by the Superintendent and occurs during the summer or during school vacation periods will be compensated per Article XXVIII.

- E. All members will have the day before Thanksgiving, the day before the winter Holiday break and the last student day of school as early release days.

ARTICLE X
EMPLOYMENT YEAR

- B. The employment year of teachers shall be one hundred eighty-five (185) days and shall start not earlier than August 25 and terminate not later than June 30. The one hundred eighty-five (185) days shall consist of one (1) day before the start of the students' school year, and two (2) non-contact days to be used for professional development which may also be scheduled before the staff of the student's school year. Team leaders, high school department heads and other personnel shall continue to work additional days as provided in this Agreement.

If in the future the Board increases the number of school days for students or the teacher work year beyond that in effect during 2005-2006, the Board shall negotiate over the impact, if any, of such change. Such negotiations will be subject to the provisions of Sec. 10-153f of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning "midstream" negotiations and will be subject to mediation and arbitration if not amicably resolved.

ARTICLE XI
PROTECTION OF TEACHERS

- B. Teachers shall report immediately in writing to the principal and to the Central Office all cases of assault suffered by them in connection with their employment.
- C. Teachers shall be indemnified for actions taken within the scope of their employment in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. §10-235 and §10-236a.
- D. Any complaint made against a teacher which may adversely affect that teacher by any parent, student, or other person shall be called to the attention of the teacher. In no case shall any anonymous and/or unverified complaint be placed in any teacher's file.
- E. No teacher shall be disciplined, reprimanded, reduced in compensation, denied an increment or suspended without pay without just cause. The provisions of Connecticut General Statute 10-151 set forth the exclusive procedure for termination or non-renewal of employment contracts.

ARTICLE XII
LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The provisions of this article shall be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

B. Sick Leave

2. Teachers shall be entitled to sick leave, up to fifteen (15) days per year, with full pay for personal sickness, personal injury, or sickness in the immediate family or household.

Unused sick leave shall be accumulated from year to year, up to a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) days, so long as the teacher is continuously in the service of the Board. Up to 60 days of a teacher's accumulated sick leave may be used to care for an immediate family member who has a serious health condition and/or to care for a newborn, as those terms are defined in the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. This provision shall supersede any past practice regarding use of accumulated sick leave for family members.

3. In the event of absence of a teacher for illness in excess of five (5) consecutive working days or with prior written warning of suspected sick leave abuse, the Board may require a doctor's certificate.
4. The Board may, at its discretion in cases of exceptional hardship, extend sick leave.

C. Absence Due to Assault or Accident

Whenever a teacher is absent from school as a result of personal injury by accident or assault arising out of and in the course of their employment, they shall be paid their full salary (less the amount of any Workers' Compensation award made for temporary disability due to said injury) and receive all fringe benefits for the period of such absence, and no part of such absence shall be charged to their annual or accumulated sick leave.

D. Pregnancy and Childbirth Leave

2. Disabilities caused or contributed to by pregnancy, or related condition and recovery there from shall be treated as temporary disabilities for all job-related purposes. (The term "temporary disability" shall be interpreted as being within the meaning of the term "sick" as used in Section 46A-60 of the Connecticut General Statutes.)
3. Accumulated sick leave shall be available for use during periods of such disability.
4. Unpaid disability leave beyond any accumulated sick leave shall be available, only for such reasonable further period of time as an employee is determined by an employee's physician or a physician selected by the Board to be disabled from performing the duties of the employee's job because of pregnancy or conditions attendant thereto.
5. Policies involving commencement and duration of leave, the availability of extensions, the accrual of seniority and other benefits and privileges, protection under health or temporary disability plans, and payment of sick leave shall be

applied to disability due to pregnancy and childbirth on the same terms and conditions as they are applied to other temporary disabilities.

E. Childrearing Leave

2. Any certified professional employee covered by this contract shall be entitled, upon written request to the Superintendent of Schools, to an extended leave for purposes of childrearing, apart from any period of childbirth disability leave. In the event of an adoption the teacher shall be entitled to receive up to three (3) weeks of leave with pay charged to the teacher's accumulated sick leave if sick leave is available or without pay if sick leave time is not available. Such employee shall be entitled to such leave for the remainder of any school year, in which the child is born, adopted, or fostered, and if the birth occurs after June 1, for the full following school year, if requested.
3. Childrearing leave shall be subject to the following provisions:
 - a. Employee requesting leave shall submit not less than thirty (30) days' written notice of the anticipated date of ending performance of duties unless, in the case of adoption or premature delivery, sufficient notification was not given the employee. In case of prospective adoption, the employee shall give reasonable notice of intent to adopt and of the general time of anticipated adoption.
 - b. All insurance and other employee fringe benefits, including payments to the State Teachers' Retirement System, shall continue in effect, upon payment by the teacher of any premiums or membership costs. This provision shall involve no additional expense to the Board and shall be conditional upon approval of the insurance companies and the State Teachers' Retirement Board.

F. General Leave

Certain circumstances may warrant granting special leave, with or without pay, to professional staff members. Such leave shall be at the discretion of the Board after consideration of the Superintendent's recommendation. All conditions of the leave, both during and upon return to the school system, shall be detailed in writing and mutually agreed upon by the Board and the leave recipient.

G. Teacher Education and Mentoring Program

For each teacher in the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program during module completion, a total of two (2) days per year release time shall be provided at the teacher's request.

H. Returns from Leave

Every effort will be made to return the employee as nearly as possible to the position which said employee held when the employee left. The teacher's year(s) of service in the district, contract status, and accumulated sick leave will be the same when the teacher returns to the position as it was when they began unpaid leave. However, when an employee works a minimum of 93 school days (including paid leave) in the school year that the leave began and returns to work in a different school year, upon return to work, they shall receive credit for the year of service they went on leave.

ARTICLE XIII
PERSONAL DAYS

- B. All teachers shall be allowed the following personal days with full pay subject to approval of the Superintendent or their designee:
2. Two (2) days per year to conduct important personal business which cannot reasonably and conveniently be scheduled outside the workday. Important personal business does not include activities which are primarily recreational or for personal compensation. No more than fifteen (15) teachers may take such personal days on any day.
 - a. Unusual circumstances may be considered on their merits by the Superintendent of Schools for more than two (2) days.
 3. Consideration will be given by the Board each year for additional major religious holidays (not to exceed three (3) per year).
 4. Days at the discretion of the Superintendent for attendance at professional or institutes or for visits to other schools. The Board will reimburse the teacher a preapproved amount for mileage, meals, accommodations and registration upon submission of receipts.
 5. Up to five (5) consecutive days shall be allowed where necessary for absence without loss of pay in case of death in teacher's immediate family or spouse's immediate family (parent, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, grandchild or grandparents).
- C. Application for personal days with the provisions above shall be made to the immediate supervisor at least forty-eight (48) hours before taking such personal days (except in the case of emergencies). The teacher shall not be required to state in advance any reasons when applying for personal day(s) under the provisions of Article XIII, section A.I. other than that, the day is for the purpose of conducting important personal business which cannot reasonably and conveniently be scheduled outside the workday and that the day is not being used to engage in an activity that is primarily recreational or for personal compensation.
- D. A personal day shall not be granted for the sole purpose of extending a vacation. For leaves of absences other than those covered by any portion of this Agreement, the rate of deduction shall be based on the normal teacher work year.

ARTICLE XIV
TEACHERS' CONTRACT

B. The Board will maintain a copy of the current Teachers- Contract on the District website.

ARTICLE XV
DEGREE DEFINITIONS

The salary' schedules listed in the Appendices of this Agreement shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the following definitions:

Bachelor A baccalaureate degree earned at an accredited college or university.

Master's or Bachelor and 30 hours Any teacher who receives thirty (30) graduate credits beyond the bachelor's degree or the master-s degree during the school year is eligible for a new salary beginning the September following the acquisition of the thirty (30) credits. The burden of proof is upon the teacher, who must present an official transcript of the credits to the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools on or before September in order to be eligible for the increased salary.

Any teacher who plans to obtain thirty (30) graduate credits beyond the bachelor's or master's degree must obtain prior approval of the Superintendent for the planned program of individual courses to be taken. Additional salary contingent on successful completion of approved program. or amended program approved by Superintendent. Credit hours accumulated prior to date of hire shall receive credit therefore at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Master's plus 30 A Master's Degree plus thirty (30) additional credits in a graduate program approved by the Superintendent of Schools and by accredited colleges and universities.

Doctorate A doctoral degree in a doctorate program approved by the Superintendent of Schools and earned at an accredited college or university.

Any teacher who intends to qualify tor movement to another column of the salary schedule effective the following school year must notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing prior to December 1 of the preceding school year. This is for the purpose of permitting the Board to budget for changes in degree status. The Superintendent's office agrees to distribute a written reminder notice to staff prior to the December 1st deadline.

ARTICLE XVI
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- B. A “grievance” is defined as a dispute involving the interpretation or application of a specific section of this Agreement. The term “aggrieved member” as used in this grievance procedure, shall mean any teacher in Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools. as well as the Association in the event that the Association files a grievance.
- C. To invoke the grievance procedure set forth hereafter, a written grievance must be submitted within thirty (30) school days after occurrence of the event giving rise to it. Forms appended to this contract shall be used for the written grievance.

D. 1. **Level One - Principal or Immediate Superior**

Within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence of the event giving rise to it, a member of the bargaining unit with a grievance shall first informally discuss it with their immediate superior or principal, either directly or through the Association with the objective of resolving the matter.

If the matter is not resolved informally, the grievant may file the grievance in writing with the principal within 30 school days of the occurrence as described in B above. Within ten (10) school days of the filing, the principal or immediate supervisor shall deliver a written response to the grievance to the aggrieved member.

2. Level Two - Superintendent of Schools

- a. In the event that such aggrieved member of the unit is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at Level One, or in the event that no decision has been rendered within ten (10) school days after filing of the grievance, they may file a written grievance either directly with the Superintendent or through the President of the Association or their designee. This must be done within ten (10) school days after the decision at Level One is rendered or due, whichever is sooner.
- b. Within ten (10) school days after receipt of the written grievance by the Superintendent, the Superintendent or their representative shall meet with the aggrieved member of the unit and the President of the Association or their designee.
- c. If a member of the unit or the President of the Association does not file the written grievance to the Superintendent or their representative within thirty (30) school days after the member of the unit knew or should have known of the act or condition on which the grievance is based or within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision at level one (whichever is sooner), then the grievance shall be deemed waived.

3. Level Three - Board of Education

In the event that the aggrieved member of the unit is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at Level Two, or in the event no decision has been rendered within ten (10) school days after they had first met with the Superintendent, they may file the written grievance with the Board, indicating such dissatisfaction, either directly or through the President of the Association within five (5) school days after a decision by the Superintendent, or fifteen (15) school days after they had first met with the Superintendent, whichever is sooner. Within fifteen (15) school days after receiving the written grievance, the Board or a committee of the Board shall meet with the aggrieved member of the unit and the President of the Association or their designee for the purpose of resolving the grievance. However, the ultimate decision on the Level Three grievance shall be rendered by the Board within fifteen (15) days after the meeting. A written decision will be delivered to the party filing the grievance within five (5) school days after the Board meeting.

4. Level Four - Impartial Arbitration

- a. If the grievance is not settled, it may be submitted at the request of the Association only, to arbitration. The arbitrator shall be selected from a list submitted by the American Arbitration Association and the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with their rules and regulations. The Association's request for arbitration shall be in writing and must be filed with the American Arbitration Association no later than ten (10) school days after receipt of the written answer of the Board under Level Three above.
- b. The arbitrator shall hear and decide only one (1) grievance at a time. The award shall be final, and binding as provided by law. The arbitrator shall be bound by and must comply with all the terms of this Agreement and shall have no power to add to, subtract from, or in any way modify the provisions of this Agreement. The cost of arbitration shall be borne equally by both parties.

- D. The time limits specified herein may be extended by mutual agreement.
- E. In the event a grievance is filed on or after June 1 the time limits set forth herein may be reduced by mutual agreement between the administration and the party that filed the grievance so that the grievance procedure may be exhausted prior to the end of the school term or as soon thereafter as practicable.
- F. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the Board or by any member of the administration against anyone by reason of participation in the grievance procedure or support of any participant therein.

ARTICLE XVII
DURATION AND RENEWAL

- C. The parties agree that this Agreement constitutes the full and complete agreement between them.
- D. No individual teacher in the bargaining unit or representative, agent or employee of the Board may enter into any separate agreement or understanding which will be inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement. Any such separate inconsistent agreement will not be binding upon the parties hereto, unless expressly adopted in writing and mutually agreed upon between the Board and the Association.
- E. This Agreement may be altered or modified only by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.
- F. For a three (3) year period effective July 1, 2024, this Agreement shall be binding upon the Board of Education and the Association and shall continue in full force and effect through June 30, 2027, when it shall expire.
- G. Negotiations upon proposed changes in the terms of this Agreement shall comply in accordance with Section 10-153 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

ARTICLE XVIII
PAYMENT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE

- C.
 - 1. For employees hired on or before June 30, 1991, fifty percent (50%) of unused sick leave accumulated at the year of retirement of a teacher or upon death shall be paid on a per diem basis as determined in the year of retirement.
 - 2. For employees hired on or after July 1, 1991, twenty-five percent (25%) of unused sick leave accumulated at the year of retirement of a teacher or upon death shall be paid on a per diem basis as determined in the year of retirement.
 - 3. Employees hired on or after July 1, 1997, shall not be eligible for payment for unused accumulated sick leave.
- B. Teachers intending to retire must notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing of their intention by January 1 of their last school year of teaching. Failure to notify the Superintendent by the aforementioned date shall move the payment for unused sick leave as specified in Section D below.
- C. Upon death of a teacher, payment will be made to the beneficiary as indicated on the regular life insurance policy. Such payment will be made in the first month of the next fiscal year following the death.
- D.
 - 1. The Board shall implement and maintain a pre-tax Special Pay Retirement Plan in accordance with state and federal law from which the employee may use this severance benefit to pay for health insurance benefits after retirement. Such

Plan shall consist of a post-retirement medical expense trust account and an IRC 403(b) in which the severance benefits shall be distributed as determined by the Board.

2. For an employee who retires during or at the close of a given school year and who notifies the Superintendent before January 1 of that school year of the employee's intention to retire, fifty percent (50%) of the employee's unused sick leave benefit as determined in Section A of this Article shall be paid on or before July 31 of the school year immediately after their last school year of teaching to a post-retirement medical expense account or to an IRC 403(b) account as determined by the Board based on uniformly applied non-arbitrary standards. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the employee's unused sick leave benefit shall be paid on or before January 31 of the school year immediately after their last school year of teaching to a post-retirement medical expense account or to an IRC 403(b) account as previously determined by the Board based on uniformly applied non-arbitrary standards.

For an employee who retires during or at the close of a given school year and who notifies the Superintendent on or after January 1 of that school year of the employee's intention to retire, fifty percent (50%) of the employee's unused sick leave benefit as determined in Section A of this Article shall be paid on or before July 31 of the calendar year that is one year and seven months after January 1 of the last school year of teaching to a post-retirement medical expense account or to an IRC 403(b) account as determined by the Board based on uniformly applied non-arbitrary standards. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the employee's unused sick leave benefit shall be paid on or before January 31 of the calendar year that is two years and one month after January 1 of the last school year of teaching to a post-retirement medical expense account or to an IRC 403(b) account as previously determined by the Board based on uniformly applied non-arbitrary standards.

ARTICLE XIX

RETIRED TEACHER BENEFITS

- D. Retiring members of the teaching profession may have the option of participating in the medical plans offered through the Regional District No. 17 to current teachers, if the retiring member is not participating in Medicare Part A and B, with the retired teacher paying their own way directly to the Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education.
- E. A teacher who is retired from Regional School District No. 17 and did not choose to continue medical insurance in effect or a retired teacher who chose such insurance but subsequently allowed it to lapse, may not resume insurance coverage through the District's Plan if the teacher is eligible for Medicare.

ARTICLE XX
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- D. Those teachers sponsoring extra-curricular activities will be compensated, according to the rate indicated, at the conclusion of the activity or at the end of the season or year. There is no obligation on the part of the Board to appoint sponsors merely because the activity is listed and a rate set.
- E. All extra-curricular paid activity assignments will be made annually by the Superintendent in consultation with the principal. Such assignments will be made wherever possible by June 1 the year preceding the activity. The principal and their agent will evaluate the performance of the sponsors each year and a report will be made prior to the time the annual assignment is to be made again. It is agreed that all such assignments are for a period of one (1) year.
- F. Initial placement on the schedule will be on Step #1, save where an exception is agreed upon by the HKEA and the Superintendent in consultation with the principal. Extracurricular activity sponsorships will be assigned to qualified people. If there are several people who are equally qualified for a particular assignment, the candidate higher on the following priority scale will be given the assignment:

Priority Scale

1. Teacher in Haddam-Killingworth schools
2. Teacher in the towns of Haddam and Killingworth
3. Resident of the towns of Haddam or Killingworth
4. Resident of Connecticut

It is agreed in principle that extra-curricular activities for which compensation is provided should be shared by as many faculty members as possible. Qualifications, however, will be the most important factor in making assignments. A person who has already served in one compensated activity may be named to a second if they are the best qualified for the second activity.

Categories:

1. Category A - High School Winter Varsity Sports and Football
2. Category B - High School Fall and Spring Varsity Sports
3. Category C - Middle School Sports
4. Category D - High School Clubs (per quarter)
5. Category E - Middle, Intermediate or Elementary Clubs (per trimester)
6. Category F - Individual Exceptions

G. **EXTRA-CURRICULAR STIPEND SCHEDULES**

The salary schedule for all extra-curricular paid activity assignments shall increase by 2.0% for each of these fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27.

When there is an assistant, junior varsity, or freshman coach for an athletic category, said assistant, junior varsity, or freshman coach shall receive a stipend equal to 70% of the athletic category, based upon the experience of assistant, junior varsity or freshman coach.

H. Steps for Category A, B & C only:

2. Experience Steps for Coaches:

- a. 1 - Zero (0) previous years' experience as a school coach in that sport
- b. 2- One (1) previous years' experience as a school coach in that sport
- c. 3- Two (2) or more years' experience as a school coach in that sport

3. Any new hire that is placed on a step other than those designated above requires the approval of the Superintendent and the Association.

I. Work Requirements

2. Category D: High School Clubs (Stipend/Quarter)- Clubs will meet on average once per week and serve a minimum of 10 students

3. Category E: Middle School / Intermediate/ Elementary Clubs (Stipend/Trimester) - Clubs will meet on average once per week and serve a minimum of 10 students

4. Category F: High School or Middle School clubs that have an exceptional commitment or workload level, (i.e.-yearbook, Class Advisors, Student Council). No new clubs or activities can be added to this category without prior negotiation with the Association over the amount of the stipend.

Should the number of assistant coaches change from the 2014/2015 school year the Board and Association will bargain the impact, if any, of the increase in workload under 10-153f(e) of the Teachers Negotiations Act.

J. Supervision of student activities that fall outside the parameters of a club or sport, as described above, will be compensated at an hourly rate. The number of hours will reflect contact time with students and appropriate preparation and follow up time as approved by the building administrator.

K. The salary for teachers participating in voluntary student activities, pre-approved by administration, shall be \$22.81 per hour in 2024-25, \$23.27 per hour in 2025-26, and \$23.74 per hour in 2026-27.

L. High School Baseball and High School Softball coaches employed in the following school years shall be compensated in Category A as follows: 2% for each of 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27 each year of the contract. Any High School Baseball and High School Softball coaches hired after June 30, 2015 shall be paid in accordance with Category B below.

- M. The Middle School and Intermediate School Activities Coordinator shall receive a stipend of \$6,090 for 2024-25, \$6,212 for 2025-26, and \$6,336 for 2026-27. They shall be relieved of normal and nonacademic duty assignments including the duty period.

<u>2024-25</u>			
Category	1	2	3
A	\$6,041	\$6,612	\$6,839
B	\$5,357	\$5,927	\$6,270
C	\$3,420	\$3,648	\$3,932
D	\$798		
E	\$569		
	HS – Musical Director		\$5,699
	HS – Drama Director		\$5,699
	HS – Musical Music Director		\$4,559
	HS – Musical Choreographer		\$3,989
	HS –Musical Pit Director		\$2,281
	HS – Yearbook		\$5,130
	HS – High School Bowl		\$4,559
	HS – Math League		\$4,559
	HS – Student Council		\$4,559
	HS/MS – Robotics Team (2)		\$3,989
	HS – Class Advisors (Senior & Junior)		\$3,761
	HS – Class Advisors (Sophomore & Freshman)		\$3,192
	IS – Musical Director		\$4,559
	IS – Musical Music Coordinator		\$3,989
	MS – Musical Director		\$4,559
	MS – Musical Coordinator		\$3,989
	MS – Student Council		\$3,420
	MS – Yearbook		\$3,420
	MS – Math Counts		\$2,849
	MS – Audio Visual		\$3,420

<u>2025-26</u>			
Category	1	2	3

<u>2025-26</u>			
A	\$6,162	\$6,744	\$6,976
B	\$5,464	\$6,046	\$6,395
C	\$3,488	\$3,721	\$4,011
D	\$814		
E	\$580		
	HS – Musical Director		\$5,813
	HS – Drama Director		\$5,813
	HS – Musical Music Director		\$4,650
	HS – Musical Choreographer		\$4,069
	HS –Musical Pit Director		\$2,327
	HS – Yearbook		\$5,233
	HS – High School Bowl		\$4,650
	HS – Math League		\$4,650
	HS – Student Council		\$4,650
	HS/MS – Robotics Team (2)		\$4,069
	HS – Class Advisors (Senior & Junior)		\$3,836
	HS – Class Advisors (Sophomore & Freshman)		\$3,256
	IS – Musical Director		\$4,650
	IS – Musical Music Coordinator		\$4,069
	MS – Musical Director		\$4,650
	MS – Musical Coordinator		\$4,069
	MS – Student Council		\$3,488
	MS – Yearbook		\$3,488
	MS – Math Counts		\$2,906
	MS – Audio Visual		\$3,488

<u>2026-27</u>			
Category	1	2	3
A	\$6,285	\$6,879	\$7,116
B	\$5,573	\$6,167	\$6,523
C	\$3,558	\$3,795	\$4,091
D	\$830		
E	\$592		
	HS – Musical Director		\$5,929

<u>2026-27</u>		
	HS – Drama Director	\$5,929
	HS – Musical Music Director	\$4,743
	HS – Musical Choreographer	\$4,150
	HS –Musical Pit Director	\$2,374
	HS – Yearbook	\$5,338
	HS – High School Bowl	\$4,743
	HS – Math League	\$4,743
	HS – Student Council	\$4,743
	HS/MS – Robotics Team (2)	\$4,150
	HS – Class Advisors (Senior & Junior)	\$3,913
	HS – Class Advisors (Sophomore & Freshman)	\$3,321
	IS – Musical Director	\$4,743
	IS – Musical Music Coordinator	\$4,150
	MS – Musical Director	\$4,743
	MS – Musical Coordinator	\$4,150
	MS – Student Council	\$3,558
	MS – Yearbook	\$3,558
	MS – Math Counts	\$2,964
	MS – Audio Visual	\$3,558

ARTICLE XXI
TEACHER PREPARATION PERIOD

- D. Except in cases of emergency, unavailability of substitutes or other circumstances which are not reasonably foreseeable, full-time high school and middle school classroom teachers shall have the equivalent of five (5) preparation periods per five (5) day school week. Preparation periods shall be used exclusively for development of class presentation, curriculum development and/or related academic activities involving the teacher’s assigned duties and responsibilities.

- E. The Board agrees to make every effort to obtain substitutes for absent teachers including specialists at all grades levels.

- F. All full-time certified employees on the K-3 level shall have a minimum of two hundred and ten (210) minutes per week, during a normal five (5) day work period (Monday through Friday). The preparation period shall be defined as non-teaching time to be used for development of class presentations, and/or related academic activities, and not fewer than four of the five preparation periods shall be for the purpose of teacher-directed planning. Preparation periods shall be in blocks of time consisting of no less than thirty (30) consecutive minutes per block.

- G.
1. When the Board determines it is necessary, they may seek volunteer teachers to teach an additional academic class in the schedule. The class will be in addition to the classes that a full-time teacher is assigned to meet the requirements of the current Contract. The teachers must be certified in the subject of the additional class or eligible in accordance with the CT State Department of Education certification flexibilities. Volunteers will be sought first from the department of the class(es) in question and then from the school at large.
 2. A teacher who volunteers to teach an additional class may not have a preparation period since that period will now be assigned to the additional class. The volunteer will be relieved from all non-academic duties for the duration of the extra assignment of the additional class.
 3. A teacher who volunteers to teach an additional class will be compensated with an additional salary. That salary shall be equal to twenty percent (20%) of the per diem salary they receive as described in the Appendix of the Teacher's Contract. Since the teachers' work year is 185 days that amount shall be one nine hundred and twenty fifth (1/925) of the volunteer teachers' full year salary for each workday they are assigned the additional class.

ARTICLE XXII
SALARY PAYMENTS

- D. Paychecks shall be issued every two (2) weeks commencing with the first Thursday of the teacher employment year with an adjustment being made so that teachers are paid on the second Thursday of the employment year, if necessary, to align with the Board payroll.
- E. All teachers shall have their salaries deposited electronically.
- F. IRS 457 Plan

The Board will offer employees the ability to participate in the State of Connecticut 457 Plan With employees making voluntary contributions to such plan consistent with legal requirements, provided there shall be no cost to the Board of Education in the set-up, administration, and/or any other component or requirement related to the plan.

ARTICLE XXIII
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING DAY

- D. The parties recognize the Board's unilateral right to alter the scheduling of the student day.
- E. If the Board exercises its rights under (A) above. the parties will bargain over any impact for which impact bargaining is required under C.G.S. § 10-153f.

- F. Except in cases of emergency, unavailability of substitutes or other circumstances which are not reasonably foreseeable, full-time high school classroom teachers shall be assigned one preparation period per day.

ARTICLE XXIV
REDUCTION IN STAFF AMONG CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES

General

- D. It is recognized and agreed that the Board of Education has the sole responsibility to maintain good public schools for the children of the school district and to implement the educational interests of the state. It is further recognized and agreed that the Board of Education has the sole authority to establish the school district's educational program and its curriculum and, from time to time, to reduce the number of certified staff and to eliminate or reduce courses or programs. This Article deals with the method in which staff reductions determined by the Board of Education to be necessary will be implemented and how staff members to be affected by a reduction in staff will be identified.
- E. When it becomes necessary to reduce the number of certified professional employees employed by the Board, the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall determine the number of professional staff positions to be eliminated. The Board shall then, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, determine and identify the area(s), program(s) or department(s) in which the staff reductions shall be implemented. Such area(s), program(s) or department(s) shall correspond with one or more of the staff pools identified in Section C, below. Identification of staff member(s) to be affected by the reduction shall be made according to the following procedure:
2. Retirements and resignations among the teaching staff will first be reviewed to determine if the staff is, by normal attrition, reduced by sufficient number to avoid further release of tenured teachers:
 3. If additional reduction is necessary, then non-tenured teachers employed by the Board will be terminated or non-renewed prior to the release of any tenured teachers as follows. Non-tenured teachers will be identified for layoff based on the recommendation of the Superintendent based on his/her judgment as best serves the district's interests.
 - a. tenured teachers employed by the Board who occupy positions which are determined and identified as positions in which staff reductions are to be implemented shall be permitted to displace any non-tenured teacher in the employ of the Board provided that the tenured staff member involved is certified and qualified to perform the teaching assignment of the affected non-tenured teacher. If such a position exists then the tenured teacher will not be terminated and instead the non-tenured teacher will be displaced by the certified and qualified tenured teacher and the non-tenured teacher shall be either nonrenewed or terminated pursuant to this provision:

- b. for the purposes of this Article, a teacher shall be considered to have “tenure” if such teacher is a tenured teacher as defined under subsection 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.
- F. In the event that additional staff reductions are necessary and such reductions require the termination of tenured teachers employed by the Board, the following procedure shall apply. The remaining provisions of this Article shall apply only to teachers in the Board’s employ who have attained tenure:
 - 2. All tenured teachers employed in the area(s), program(s) or department(s) in which the position(s) are to be eliminated shall be placed in and comprise a “staff pool(s)” from which further terminations shall stem. The staff pool into which the tenured teachers will be placed in each staff reduction proceeding is as follows:
 - a. elementary school classroom teachers (K-6) pool:
 - b. math coaches and math intervention teachers (K-8) pool:
 - c. secondary school teachers (7-12) shall be pooled by the following departments:
 - 1) mathematics department pool
 - 2) science department pool
 - 3) social studies department pool
 - 4) English department pool
 - 5)
 - d. notwithstanding the above, teachers in the following areas will be pooled on a system wide (K-12) basis as follows:
 - 1) music pool
 - 2) art pool
 - 3) physical education and health pool
 - 4) speech and language pool
 - 5) special education pool
 - 6) guidance pool
 - 7) school psychologist pool
 - 8) library media specialist pool
 - 9) social worker pool
 - 10) world languages pool
 - 11) reading pool
 - 12) consumer science/life skills pool
 - 13) technology education pool
 - e. teachers who have assignments which overlap between the above-listed pools will be placed in the pool in which the largest portion of their current teaching assignment occurs.

3. There shall be established a review committee whose membership shall consist of the Superintendent and two (2) administrators chosen by them. Where possible, the two (2) administrators shall not have any teachers under their supervision who are in the above-described “staff pool.” Two (2) members of the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association shall be appointed by the President of the Association as observers in the review committee procedure. The review committee shall assign a point total to each tenured teacher in each pool under consideration for termination as follows:
 - a. one (1) point for each year of continuous unbroken contractual experience as a certified professional employee of the Regional District No. 17 Board of Education;
 - b. one (1) point for each degree earned or its equivalent on the salary schedule;
 - c. one (1) point for each State Department of Education certification held as reflected by the certification material in each teacher’s personnel file;
 - d. one-half (1/2) point for each year of teaching experience outside of Region No. 17, but not to exceed three (3) points;
 - e. one (1) to ten (10) points based on review of the teacher’s classroom performance as indicated by written evaluation reports.
4. The identification of tenured teacher(s) within the pool to be terminated because of the reduction in staff shall be determined in accordance with the total number of points assigned. The teacher in the pool with the fewest points shall be terminated first and the teacher with the highest number of points shall be terminated last. If the point totals of two (2) or more teachers in a pool are equal, then the teacher with the lowest number of points from the review of the teacher’s classroom performance shall be terminated first.
5. Tenured teachers selected for staff reduction shall be notified in writing by the Board or its Superintendent that the Board has voted to consider termination of the teacher’s contract of employment. This notification, and any proceeding with regard to contract termination, will be in accordance with the provisions set forth in subsection 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration provisions set forth elsewhere in this Agreement.
6. If the contract of employment of a tenured teacher is terminated because of elimination of position, the name of that teacher shall be placed on a “re-appointment list” and remain on said list for a period of two (2) years. If a position becomes open during such period, and the teacher on the re-appointment list is certified and qualified to hold that position, then the teacher will be notified in writing by registered mail, sent to their last mailing address at least thirty (30) days prior to the anticipated date of reappointment, where possible. Teachers shall

be recalled in inverse order of layoff to positions for which they are certified and qualified. The teacher must accept or reject an appointment in writing within ten (10) calendar days from the date of receipt or of attempt to deliver the recall letter. If the teacher rejects the appointment offer or does not respond according to the above procedure within ten (10) calendar days, the name of the teacher will be removed from the recall list, and they shall forfeit all such recall rights.

7. A tenured teacher who has been laid off due to a reduction in staff may continue to participate in any group insurance program, provided they pay the full costs for the premium for such coverage and that the provisions of the appropriate group policy permit such continuation. No compensation or other benefits shall be available to a laid-off teacher, provided, however, that a laid-off teacher who is recalled shall be granted any sick leave entitlement they had accrued up to the point of layoff and for which they were not compensated.
8. In the event of recall, the teacher shall be placed on the salary schedule at the level they had attained at the time of termination.
9. Nothing herein shall be construed or interpreted to require the promotion of a teacher to a position of higher rank, authority or compensation. Any teacher not recalled prior to the expiration of recall rights set forth above shall have no remaining rights under this provision.
10. If a reduction in force occurs at the administrative level, that tenured "teacher" shall have equal bumping rights given to other tenured teachers and no criteria for determining layoff may be applied to a displaced administrator that disadvantages them solely because of their service as an administrator. Displaced members of the administration shall have bumping rights as prescribed by law.

ARTICLE XXV **PERSONNEL FILES**

- D. Teachers shall have the right, upon request, to review all materials in their personnel files originating after the date of original employment. A teacher who disagrees with the contents of documents in their personnel file may submit a written rebuttal regarding the document in question and the same shall be attached to the file copy of the material in question. Any transmittal outside the system of materials from a teacher's personnel file shall include any written rebuttal attached to the material. If the teacher is asked to sign material placed in their file, such signature shall be understood to indicate their awareness of the materials, but in no instance shall said signature be interpreted to mean agreement with the content of the material.

ARTICLE XXVI **DUTY FREE LUNCH PERIOD**

- D. All teachers shall have a daily uninterrupted duty-free lunch period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-156a.

ARTICLE XXVII
DUES DEDUCTION AND SERVICE FEE DEDUCTION

D. Members

All teachers who elect to join the Association shall sign and deliver to the Haddam Killingworth Education Association, if they have not already done so, a signed authorization for the payroll deduction of membership dues of the Haddam Killingworth Education Association for the Connecticut Education Association and National Education Association. A teacher must give notice of intent to resign from the Association to the Board of Education prior to July 31 in any year.

E. Subsequent Employment

Those teachers whose employment commences after the start of school year and who become members shall pay a prorated amount of dues.

F. Resignations, Retirements, Leaves

If during the school year a teacher resigns, retires, receives a leave or has their employment terminated, the balance of the dues owed up to the final date of employment shall be deducted from those teachers' final paycheck.

G. Forwarding of Monies

The Board agrees to forward to the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association each month all monies deducted during that month for local dues and local service fee deduction. The Board further agrees to send each month all monies deducted during that month for CEA and NEA dues deduction to the Connecticut Education Association.

H. Lists

No later than the first paycheck in October of each school year the Board shall provide the Association with a list of all employees of the Board of Education in the bargaining unit and the positions held by said employees. The Board shall notify the Association monthly of any changes in said list.

I. Hold Harmless

The Association will indemnify, and hold harmless the Board, its members and all Board employees and agents from any and all claims, suits, demands and liability of any kind from any person by virtue of any and all action taken pursuant to this Article, including but not limited to attorneys' fees.

ARTICLE XXVIII
SALARIES FOR STAFF LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

Salaries for all staff leadership positions and professional work for each year of this Agreement shall increase 2.0% for each of 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27.

- D. Elementary/Intermediate Lead Teachers shall receive a stipend of \$4,652 for 2024-25, \$4,745 for 2025-26, and \$4,840 for 2026-27. They shall work an additional two (2) days beyond the normal teachers' work year. They shall be relieved of normal non-academic duty assignments and may apply to the building principal for additional relief time during the school day to complete the tasks of this position. The building principal shall have sole discretion for the approval of such requests.
- E. Middle School Team Leaders shall receive a stipend of \$6,090 for 2024-25, \$6,212 for 2025-26, and \$6,336 for 2026-27. They shall work an additional two (2) days beyond the normal teachers' work year. They shall be relieved of normal non-academic duty assignments including the duty period.
- F. High School Department Heads shall receive a stipend of \$6,090 for 2024-25, \$6,212 for 2025-26, and \$6,336 for 2026-27. They shall work an additional two (2) days beyond the normal teachers' work year. They shall be relieved of normal non-academic duty assignments including the duty period.
- G. TEAM Mentor Teachers shall receive a stipend of \$611 for 2024-25, \$623 for 2025-26, and \$635 for 2026-27.

TEAM Paper Reviewers shall receive a stipend of \$50 per paper as approved by the Superintendent up to the number of papers submitted by Region 17 teachers.

- H. The Lead Teacher for Student Life shall work five (5) additional days beyond the teacher work year and shall be compensated with a stipend as follows: 2024-25 -\$6,090; 2025-26 \$6,212; 2026-27 - \$6,336.

Professional Work

- I. Homebound Instruction stipends shall be compensated with an hourly rate as follows: \$37.76 for 2024-25, \$38.52 for 2025-26, and for \$39.29 for 2026-27.
- J. Curriculum Writing stipends shall be compensated with an hourly rate as follows: \$37.76 for 2024-25, \$38.52 for 2025-26, and for \$39.29 for 2026-27.
- K. Outside Professional Learning stipends shall be compensated with an hourly rate as follows: \$25.50 for 2024-25, \$26.01 for 2025-26, and for \$26.53 for 2026-27.
- L. Voluntary Summer Education Program teachers shall be compensated with an hourly rate as follows: \$37.76 for 2024-25, \$38.52 for 2025-26, and for \$39.29 for 2026-27.

- M. Speech and Language Pathologists shall be compensated at the rate derived by taking their salary divided by the number of days in the teacher work year divided further by the number of hours in the teacher workday.

ARTICLE XXIX
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHING DAY

- D. For as long as the Board of Education maintains the eight-period schedule at the middle school, teachers shall have scheduled contact time with students for no more than six periods per day. Contact time shall be either instructional time or non-instructional time.
- E. Instructional time shall be that contact time when the teacher or teachers lead, direct, or control student learning. Instructional time shall consist of but not be limited to the following: leading class discussions, supervising group work, administering assessments, supervising electronic learning, lecturing, and organizing classroom resources/materials with the students.
- F. Non-instructional Flex time shall be that contact time when the teacher or teachers are supporting students. Non-instructional time shall consist of but not be limited to the following: independent reading, extra help sessions, office hours, make-up work opportunities, study hall, recess, reward activities, assemblies, extended breaks between classes and student team meetings and facilitating Advisory lessons.
- G. Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts team teachers shall devote a minimum of five sixths (5/6) of their contact time to instructional time and one sixth (1/6) to Flex. All other teachers shall devote all (6/6) of their contact time to instructional time.
- H. For as long as the Board of Education maintains the eight-period schedule at the middle school, teachers shall have one teacher preparation period per day and one assigned period per day. The assigned period for Middle school teachers shall be their required attendance at meetings, duties, or other assignments.
- I. The provisions of this Article are subject to negotiation should the Board exercise its right to change the length and/or scheduling of the student day.

ARTICLE XXX
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHING DAY

- D. Each teacher shall have six (6) forty-two (42) minute preparation periods per six (6) day schedule rotation.
- E. Each Teacher shall be assigned one (1) forty-two (42) minute period per week for the purpose of an administrator assigned meeting, not to exceed 30 meetings in a school year.
- F. Each teacher shall be assigned one (1) twenty-five (25) mid-day duty period day which shall be used for duty, recess supervision, and/or administrator assigned meetings.

- G. Each teacher shall be assigned five (5) teaching periods comprising four (4) academic periods and one (1) personalized learning period.
- H. The provisions of this Article are subject to negotiation should the Board exercise its right to change the length and/or scheduling of the student day.

ARTICLE XXXI
SICK LEAVE BANK

- D. Purpose - To provide members with additional leave when such members have exhausted sick leave due to their personal catastrophic illness or injury or combination thereof, and have provided competent medical certification of said catastrophic illness or injury or combination thereof.
- E. Process for activating the sick leave bank - A member fitting the criteria set forth above may request that the Superintendent/Association activate the sick leave bank.
- F. The bank shall be administered by the Superintendent or their designee and an Association representative.
- G. Upon receipt of a request from a member to activate the sick leave bank, the Superintendent and the designated Association representative shall use the following criteria to determine the eligibility of a member to receive donations and to determine the number of days to be donated:
 - 2. A teacher must have a catastrophic illness or injury or combination thereof and must provide timely and competent medical certification of the catastrophic illness or injury or combination thereof.
 - 3. A teacher must have exhausted all accumulated sick leave.
 - 4. A teacher shall not be entitled to any other paid leave, remuneration from disability payments, workers' compensation, and/or other such benefits.
- H. If the Superintendent and the Association representative have agreed to activate the sick leave bank, donations will be accepted by the Board on a first come, first serve basis until the number of days donated to the eligible member totals sixty (60) days. Teachers who donate paid days to the eligible member shall have the days deducted from their total accumulated sick leave. Once donated, the days shall no longer be available to the teacher who donated them. Donations shall be voluntary. Once donated, the donated days do not revert to the donating teacher. Teachers may not donate if such donation reduces their available sick days to fewer than 15 days.
- I. Once donations have been accepted in compliance with Section C above, the Superintendent and the Association representative may issue a grant of days from the Sick Leave Bank of no more than sixty (60) days to any individual teacher. In the event of disagreement between the Superintendent and the Association representative regarding

eligibility or the number of days to be granted, there shall be no grant of sick leave days from the bank.

- J. The aggregate number of days that may be donated in any school year shall be a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) days.
- K. The decisions of the Superintendent and the Association representative shall be final and binding and not be subject to the grievance procedure or arbitration.
- L. The Superintendent shall notify the Board if the sick leave bank has been activated, including information regarding the number of days that has been allocated from the bank.

ARTICLE XXXII
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

- D. The Board shall budget \$20,000 per year for the purpose of reimbursing teachers toward the cost of tuition for course work.
- E. Teachers shall be eligible for reimbursement in the amount of up to \$1,000.00 per course. However, if requests for reimbursement exceed the annual budget, the amount distributed shall be divided equally among all teachers who have requested reimbursement.
- F. Each course must be approved in advance by the Superintendent to be eligible for reimbursement.
- G. Reimbursement for courses taken in a given fiscal year shall be paid to teachers by June 30 of that same fiscal year.
- H. Receipt of course reimbursement shall occur after course completion and requires attainment of a grade of B-minus or better.

ARTICLE XXXIII
LONGEVITY

All teachers hired prior to July 1, 2015 will be paid a longevity stipend according to the following schedule:

- 2. As of September 1, 2011: all teachers on step 11 of the salary schedule and who have 10-14 total completed years of experience in R-17 - \$700.
- 3. As of September 1, 2011: all teachers on step 11 of the salary schedule and who have 15-19 total completed years of experience in R-17 - \$875.
- 4. As of September 1, 2011: all teachers on step 11 of the salary schedule and who have 20 or more total completed years of experience in R-17 - \$1,000.

Part time teachers will receive pro-rated amounts. Longevity payments shall be included in regular paychecks.

**Board of Education of
Regional School District No. 17**

**Haddam-Killingworth
Education Association**

By: _____
Suzanne Sack, Chairperson

By: _____
Robin Duffield, President

By: _____
Secretary

By: _____
Representative

Date: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX A-1

SALARY SCHEDULE 2024-25

STEP	Completed Years of Exp. On 9/1/24	BA	BA + 30	MA	MA + 30
1					
2	0-1	52,580	54,001	54,552	57,465
3	2	54,984	56,909	57,522	60,612
4	3-4	58,177	60,278	60,959	64,235
5	5-7	60,669	63,750	64,501	67,976
6	8-10	63,593	67,329	68,159	71,843
7	11-14	66,824	71,282	72,195	76,151
8	15-16	71,053	76,866	77,851	82,170
9	17	75,282	82,450	83,507	88,189
10	18-20	79,511	88,034	89,163	94,208
11	21+	83,738	93,617	94,819	100,225

For 2024-25 employees not already at the top step (Step 11) shall advance one full step. Teachers identified on the spreadsheet previously provided will move an additional step midyear in 2024-25.

Notes:

1. Individuals who receive a Ph.D. from an accredited college or university shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) annual salary stipend.
2. See Article XII, Section G., for information about returning from a leave.

APPENDIX A-2

SALARY SCHEDULE 2025-26

STEP	Completed Years of Exp. On 9/1/25	BA	BA + 30	MA	MA + 30
1					
2	0	52,580	54,001	54,552	57,465
3	1-2	54,984	56,909	57,522	60,612
4	3	58,177	60,278	60,959	64,235
5	4-5	60,669	63,750	64,501	67,976
6	6-8	63,593	67,329	68,159	71,843
7	9-11	66,824	71,282	72,195	76,151
8	12-15	71,471	77,334	78,325	82,671
9	16-17	76,118	83,386	84,455	89,191
10	18	80,765	89,438	90,585	95,711
11	19+	85,413	95,489	96,715	102,230

For 2025-26 employees not already at the top step (Step 11) shall advance one full step.

Notes:

1. Individuals who receive a Ph.D. from an accredited college or university shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) annual salary stipend.
2. See Article XII, Section G., for information about returning from a leave.

APPENDIX A-3

SALARY SCHEDULE 2026-27

STEP	Completed Years of Exp. On 9/1/26	BA	BA + 30	MA	MA + 30
1					
2	0	52,580	54,001	54,552	57,465
3	1	54,984	56,909	57,522	60,612
4	2-3	58,177	60,278	60,959	64,235
5	4	60,669	63,750	64,501	67,976
6	5-6	63,593	67,329	68,159	71,843
7	7-9	66,824	71,282	72,195	76,151
8	10-12	71,898	77,811	78,809	83,182
9	13-16	76,972	84,340	85,423	90,213
10	17-18	82,046	90,869	92,037	97,244
11	19+	87,121	97,399	98,649	104,275

For 2025-26 employees not already at the top step (Step 11) shall advance one full step.

Notes:

1. Individuals who receive a Ph.D. from an accredited college or university shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) annual salary stipend.
2. See Article XII, Section G., for information about returning from a leave.

APPENDIX A-3

INSURANCE

- A. Life insurance coverage will be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) (AD & D).
- B. Teachers and their eligible dependents with an FTE of .80 or better, and part time teachers hired before June 30, 2015, may enroll in the following plan.
1. The Board shall provide health insurance during the term of this Agreement through the Eastern CT Health and Medical Cooperative (ECHMC) Plan subject to all the terms and conditions of said plan as they may be amended from time to time. A summary of the current version of the plan is attached. Employees shall contribute towards the cost of said plan as follows:

2024-24	24.0%
2025-26	24.5%
2026-27	25.0%
 2. Dental Coverage — CIGNA Dental PPO (or its successor) or its equivalent.
 3. Vision Coverage — CIGNA Vision or its equivalent.
- C. The plan year will be from July 1 to June 30 the following year.
- D. The indicated insurance carriers can be changed after separate written approval by the Board of Education and notification to the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association provided that the replacement carrier(s) provide(s) coverage equal to or better on an overall basis. The Board shall provide at least thirty (30) days advance notification to the Haddam Killingworth Education Association of change of carrier(s). If the Haddam-Killingworth Education Association disagrees that the replacement carrier(s) provide(s) coverage comparable to or better than the existing coverage in benefits and function. such disagreement must be made the subject of a grievance filed directly with the Superintendent at level II of the grievance procedure under Article XVI of this agreement within forty (40) days of the above advance notification. Any disagreement as to whether the replacement carrier(s) provide(s) coverage comparable to or better than the existing coverage in benefits and function may be appealed to arbitration under the provisions of such article. If a grievance is filed, the change will not be implemented until the grievance has been resolved or arbitrated.
- E. Teachers who submit their resignation on or before June 30 of a school year shall receive health insurance benefits under the plan described in the CBA between HKEA and RSD 17 BOE for the months of July and August immediately following the resignation. Such teacher will pay the premium cost share described in the CBA for the contract year beginning July 1 following the resignation plus the 2% administrative permitted for the COBRA process. Teachers will access this through the COBRA process.

Teachers who submit resignations after June 30 and before the start of the school shall receive health insurance benefits for the months of July and August either as an active employee and/or COBRA as appropriate. Such teacher will pay the premium cost share described in the C BA for the contract year beginning July 1 following resignation plus the 2% administrative fee permitted for the COBRA process.

If the teacher elects to remain on COBRA after August 31 the teacher will assume 100% of the premium and COBRA fees for the remaining COBRA period.

APPENDIX C

Region School District No. 17

GRIEVANCE

Aggrieved

Person _____

Date: _____

Home Address _____

School _____

Principal _____

Name of Association Representative _____

Statement of Grievance:

Action Requested:

(signature of aggrieved)

Region School District No. 17

RESPONSE BY PRINCIPAL/IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR

Aggrieved Person _____

Date Grievance Presented to Principal/Supervisor _____

Date of Informal Meeting with Aggrieved _____

Date of Principal/Supervisor's Response _____

Principal/Supervisor's Response:

(signature of Principal/Supervisor)

Region School District No. 17

RESPONSE BY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Aggrieved Person _____

Date Grievance Presented to Superintendent of Schools _____

Date of Meeting with Aggrieved/HKEA Representative _____

Date of Superintendent of Schools Response _____

Board of Education Response:

(signature of Superintendent of Schools)

Region School District No. 17

RESPONSE BY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aggrieved Person _____

Date Grievance Presented to Board of Education _____

Date of Meeting with Aggrieved/HKEA Representative _____

Date of Board of Education's Response _____

Board of Education Response:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

In the recently-concluded negotiations between the Board and the Association, the parties reached the following additional agreement:

The Board shall determine how many opportunities for certification for LTRS and/or OG will be offered each year. Teachers can apply for the opportunity and will receive written approval or denial.

Bargaining unit members who complete the certification for LTRS and/or OG will receive a stipend of \$3000 paid in three separate installments.

- In the 1st year of completion, teachers receive \$1000 in their first paycheck in the next school year.
- In the 2nd year after completion, teachers receive \$1000 in their first paycheck in the next school year.
- In the 3rd year after completion, teachers receive \$1000 in their first paycheck in the next school year.

These stipends include teachers who have completed either LTRS and/or OG, and their first stipend payment will be made at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

This Memorandum of Agreement shall sunset June 30, 2026.