

**Independent School District No. 13  
Columbia Heights, Minnesota**

**and**

**COLUMBIA HEIGHTS  
CUSTODIAL EMPLOYEES**

**MASTER AGREEMENT  
SCHOOL YEARS 2024-2026**

**SEIU Local 284  
School Service Employees  
CTW**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b> .....	1
Section	1.	Parties.....	1
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>RECOGNITION OF UNION EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE</b> .....	1
Section	1.	Recognition .....	1
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b> .....	1
Section	1.	Terms and Conditions of Employment .....	1
Section	2.	Description of Appropriate Unit .....	1
Section	3.	Other Terms .....	2
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>SCHOOL BOARD RIGHTS</b> .....	2
Section	1.	Inherent Managerial Rights.....	2
Section	2.	Management Responsibilities .....	2
Section	3.	Effect of Laws, Rules and Regulations .....	2
Section	4.	Reservation of Managerial Rights .....	3
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE RIGHTS</b> .....	3
Section	1.	Rights to Views .....	3
Section	2.	Right to Join .....	3
Section	3.	Request for Dues Check-Off.....	3
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE</b> .....	4
Section	1.	Grievance Definition .....	4
Section	2.	Representation .....	4
Section	3.	Definitions and Interpretations.....	4
Section	4.	Adjustment of Grievance .....	5
Section	5.	School Board Review.....	5
Section	6.	Denial of Grievance.....	6
Section	7.	Arbitration Procedures.....	6
Section	8.	Election of Remedies and Waiver .....	8
<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>VII</b>	<b>HOURS OF SERVICE</b> .....	8
Section	1.	Basic Work Week .....	8
Section	2.	Part-Time Employees .....	8
Section	3.	Shifts and Starting Times.....	8
Section	4.	Lunch Period .....	9
Section	5.	School Closings.....	9

Article VII – Hours of Service – Continued:

Section 6.	Holidays .....	9
Section 7.	Building Checks.....	9
Section 7a.	Building Call-Backs .....	10
Section 8.	Vacations .....	10
Section 9.	Job Postings .....	11
Section 10.	Assistant in Charge .....	12
Section 11.	Work Year and Schedule .....	12
Section 12.	Seniority/Lay-Off/Reassignment from Eliminated Positions.....	13
Section 13.	Probationary Period.....	14

**ARTICLE VIII RATES OF PAY .....** 14

Section 1.	Rates of Pay .....	14
Section 2.	Retirement .....	15
Section 3.	Pay Checks.....	15
Section 4.	Job Categories.....	15
SALARY SCHEDULE .....		16
Section 5.	Compensation Adjustments .....	16
Section 6.	Longevity .....	18

**ARTICLE IX GROUP INSURANCE .....** 19

Section 1.	Selection of Carrier .....	19
Section 2.	Health and Hospitalization Insurance.....	19
Section 3.	Dental Insurance .....	20
Section 4.	Long Term Disability Insurance.....	21
Section 5.	Life Insurance.....	21
Section 6.	Duration of Insurance Contribution .....	21

**ARTICLE X LEAVES OF ABSENCE .....** 21

Section 1.	Sick Leave .....	21
Section 2.	Workers' Compensation.....	24
Section 3.	Extended Leave .....	24
Section 4.	Career Exploration Leave.....	24

**ARTICLE XI TIME LOSS DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY .....** 26

Section 1.	Lost Time .....	26
------------	-----------------	----

**ARTICLE XII SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY/PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE.....** 26

Section 1.	Without Pay .....	26
Section 2.	Notice .....	26
Section 3.	Hearing .....	26
Section 4.	Grievance.....	27
Section 5.	Progressive Discipline .....	27

<b>ARTICLE XIII SEVERANCE PAY .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Section 1. Eligibility.....	27
Section 2. Credit Toward Severance Pay .....	27
Section 3. Severance Calculation .....	27
Section 4. Pay Rate for Severance Calculation .....	28
Section 5. Severance Payments .....	28
Section 6. Severance in Case of Retired Employee’s Death .....	28
Section 7. Entitlement.....	28
Section 8. 403(b) Deferred Compensation.....	28
Section 9. Sick Leave 403(b) Conversion .....	29
 <b>ARTICLE XIV DURATION .....</b>	 <b>29</b>
Section 1. Term and Reopening Negotiations .....	29
Section 2. Effect .....	29
Section 3. Finality .....	30
Section 4. Severability.....	30
 <b>SIGNATURE PAGE .....</b>	 <b>31</b>
 <b>LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING .....</b>	 <b>32</b>

**COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13**

**CUSTODIAL EMPLOYEES  
2021-2024**

**ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE**

**Section 1. Parties: THIS AGREEMENT**, entered into between Independent School District No. 13, Columbia Heights, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the School District, and the School Service Employees, Local 284, hereinafter referred to as Exclusive Representative, pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Employment Labor Relations Act of 1971, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the PELRA of 1971, as amended, to provide the terms and conditions of employment for Custodial employees during the duration of the Agreement.

**ARTICLE II  
RECOGNITION OF EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Section 1. Recognition:** In accordance with the PELRA of 1971, as amended, the School District recognizes Local 284 as the Exclusive Representative for custodial employees employed by the School District and the Exclusive Representative shall have those rights and duties as prescribed by the PELRA of 1971, as amended, and as described in the provisions of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE III  
DEFINITIONS**

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

**Section 2. Description of Appropriate Unit:** For the purpose of the Agreement, the term Custodial Employees shall mean all persons in the appropriate unit employed by the School District in such classifications excluding the following: confidential employees,

supervisory employees, essential employees, part-time employees whose service does not exceed 14 hours per week, employees who hold positions of a temporary or seasonal character for a period not in excess of 67 working days in any calendar year, and emergency employees.

**Section 3. Other Terms:** Terms not included in this Agreement shall have those meanings as defined by the PELRA of 1971, as amended.

## **ARTICLE IV SCHOOL BOARD RIGHTS**

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

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

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

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

## **ARTICLE V EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

**Section 1. Right to Views:** Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit, impair or affect the right to any employee or his/her representative to the expression or communication of a view, grievance, complaint or opinion on any matter related to the conditions or compensation of public employment or their betterment, so long as the same is not designed to and does not interfere with the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment nor circumvent the rights of the Exclusive Representative.

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

**Section 3. Request for Dues Check-Off:** Employees shall have the right to request and be allowed dues check-off for the union. The union shall provide the district with written documentation attesting that the appropriate form of authorization has been received by the union from the employee to authorize the deduction. Deductions shall be made from the employees' regular pay check over 20 pay periods per calendar year. A list of names of the employees from whom deductions were made and the dues will be sent to the union. The district shall make available to the union a list of bargaining unit employees including name, address, phone number, work hours and location, work email address, position, classification and date of employment. The district shall inform the union representative(s) and steward(s) of all new hires and of the meeting date for new hires.

The union steward or business agent will be given an opportunity to address new employees regarding membership in the collective bargaining unit.

## **ARTICLE VI GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**Section 1. Grievance Definition:** A "grievance" shall mean an allegation by a custodial employee resulting in a dispute or disagreement between the custodial employee and the School Board as to the interpretation or application of terms and conditions of employment insofar as such matters are contained in this Agreement.

**Section 2. Representation:** The aggrieved may be represented by another person or persons of his/her choice but when so represented, the aggrieved and a representative of the Exclusive Representative must also be present. The number of representatives shall be limited to three (3).

### **Section 3. Definitions and Interpretations:**

**Subd. 1. Days:** Reference to days regarding the time periods in this procedure shall refer to working days. A working day is defined as all weekdays not designated as holidays by state law.

**Subd. 2. Computation of Time:** In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by procedures herein, the date of the act, event, or default for which the designated period so computed shall be counted, unless it is a Saturday, a Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday. Time can be changed by mutual consent.

**Subd. 3. Filing and Postmark:** The filing or service of any notice or document herein shall be timely if it bears a postmark of the United States mail within the time period.

**Subd. 4. Time Limitation and Waiver:** Grievances shall not be valid for consideration unless the grievance is submitted in writing to the School Board's designee, setting forth the facts and the specific provisions of the Agreement allegedly violated and the particular relief sought within ten (10) days after the date of the event giving rise to the grievance occurred. Failure to file any grievance within such period shall be deemed a waiver thereof. Failure to appeal a grievance from one level to another within the time periods hereafter provided shall constitute a waiver of the



grievance. An effort shall first be made to adjust the alleged grievance informally between the custodial employee and the School Board's designee.

**Section 4. Adjustment of Grievance:** The School Board and the custodial employee shall attempt to adjust all grievances which may arise during the course of employment of any custodial employee within the School District in the following manner:

**Subd. 1. Level I.** If the grievance is not resolved through informal discussions, the aggrieved shall present his/her grievance in writing to her/his immediate supervisor. The immediate Manager shall give a written decision on the grievance to the party involved within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

**Subd. 2. Level II.** In the event the grievance is not resolved in Level I, the decision rendered may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools, provided such appeal is made in writing five (5) days after receipt of the decision in Level I. If a grievance is properly appealed to the Superintendent, the Superintendent and/or his/her designated representative shall set a time to meet regarding the grievance within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) days after the meeting, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall issue a decision in writing to the parties involved.

**Subd. 3. Level III.** In the event the grievance is not resolved in Level II, the decision rendered may be appealed to the School Board, provided such appeal is made in writing within five (5) days after receipt of the decision in Level II. If a grievance is properly appealed to the School Board, the School Board shall set a time to hear the grievance within twenty (20) days after receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) days after the meeting, the School Board shall issue its decision in writing to the parties involved. At the option of the School Board, a committee or representative(s) of the School Board may be designated by the Board to hear the appeal at this level, and report its findings and recommendation to the School Board. The School Board shall then render its decision.

**Section 5. School Board Review:** The School Board reserves the right to review any decision issued under Level I or II of this procedure provided the School Board or its representative notify the parties of its intention to review ten (10) days after the decision has been rendered. In the event the School Board reviews a grievance under this section, the School Board reserves the right to reverse or modify such decision. Should the School Board

review and rescind a decision either at Level I or II, the grievant may re-file directly to the next step within ten (10) days.

**Section 6. Denial of Grievance:** Failure by the School Board or its representative to issue a decision within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a denial of the grievance and the custodial employee may appeal it to the next level.

**Section 7. Arbitration Procedures:** In the event that the custodial employee and the School Board are unable to resolve any grievance, the grievance may be submitted to arbitration as defined herein:

**Subd. 1. Requests:** A request to submit a grievance to arbitration must be in writing signed by the aggrieved party, and such request must be filed in the Office of the Superintendent within ten (10) days following the decision in Level III of the grievance procedure.

**Subd. 2. Prior Procedure Required:** No grievance shall be considered by the arbitrator that has not been first duly processed in accordance with the grievance procedure and appeal provisions.

**Subd. 3. Selection of Arbitrator:** Upon the proper submission of a grievance under the terms of this procedure, the parties shall within ten (10) days after the request to arbitrate, attempt to agree upon the selection of an arbitrator. If no agreement on an arbitrator is reached, either party may request the Bureau of Mediation Services to appoint an arbitrator, pursuant to the PELRA, providing such request is made within ten (10) days after the request for arbitration. The request shall ask that the appointment be made within twenty (20) days after receipt of said request. Failure to agree upon an arbitrator or the failure to request an arbitrator from the Bureau of Mediation Services within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a waiver of the grievance.

**Subd. 4. Submission of Grievance Information:**

- a) Upon appointment of the arbitrators, the appealing party shall within five (5) days after notice of appointment forward to the arbitrator, with a copy to the School board, the submission of the grievance which shall include the following:
  - 1.) The issues involved.
  - 2.) Statement of facts.

- 3.) Position of the grievant.
  - 4.) The written documents relating to Section 4 of the grievance procedure.
- b) The School Board shall make a similar submission of information within five (5) days after notice of appointment.

**Subd. 5. Hearing:** The grievance shall be heard by a single arbitrator and both parties may be represented by such person or persons as they may choose and designate, and the parties shall have the right to a hearing at which time both parties will have the opportunity to submit evidence, offer testimony, and make oral or written arguments relating to the issues before the arbitrator. The proceedings before the arbitrator shall be a hearing de-novo.

**Subd. 6. Decision:** The decision by the arbitrator shall be rendered within thirty (30) days after the close of the hearing. Decisions by the arbitrator in cases properly before him shall be final and binding upon the parties, subject, however, to the limitations of arbitration decisions as provided in the PELRA of 1971, as amended.

**Subd. 7. Expenses:** Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with arbitration including expenses relating to the party's representatives, witnesses, and any other expenses which the party incurs in connection with presenting its case in arbitration. The parties shall share equally the costs and expenses of the arbitrator. A transcript or recording shall be made of the hearing at the request of the party desiring the transcript. The cost shall be borne by the party making the request unless both parties agree to same, and then costs shall be shared equally.

**Subd. 8. Jurisdiction:** The arbitrator shall have jurisdiction over disputes or disagreements relating to grievances properly before the arbitrator pursuant to the terms of this procedure. The jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall not extend to proposed changes in terms and conditions of employment as defined herein and contained in this written Agreement; nor shall an arbitrator have jurisdiction over any grievance which has not been submitted to arbitration in compliance with the terms of the grievance and arbitration procedure as outlined herein; nor shall the jurisdiction of the arbitrator extend to matters of inherent managerial policy, which

shall include but are not limited to such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the employer, its overall budget, utilization of technology, the organizational structure, selection, direction and number of personnel.

In considering any issue in dispute, in its order the arbitrator shall give the consideration to the statutory rights and obligations of the School Board to efficiently manage and conduct its operation within the legal limitations surrounding the financing of such operations.

**Section 8. Election of Remedies and Waiver:** A party instituting any action, proceeding, or complaint in a federal or state court of law or before an administrative tribunal, federal agency, state agency, or seeking relief through any statutory process for which relief may be granted, the subject matter of which may constitute a grievance under this Agreement, shall immediately thereupon waive any and all rights to pursue a grievance under this Article. Upon instituting a proceeding in another form as outlined herein, the employee shall waive his/her right to initiate a grievance pursuant to this Article, or if the grievance is pending in the grievance procedure, the right to pursue it further shall be immediately waived. This section shall not apply to actions to compel arbitration as provided in this Agreement or to enforce the award of an arbitrator.

## **ARTICLE VII HOURS OF SERVICE**

**Section 1. Basic Work Week:** A regular work week shall consist of 40 hours, exclusive of lunch period for full-time employees. (Persons who work a night shift shall be allowed thirty (30) minutes for lunch or supper during the eight-hour (8) work period.) The night shift will be construed as a shift ending after 6:00 p.m. or commencing prior to 4:00 a.m. All persons being paid for their lunch period are expected to eat their lunch on the premises. Failure to do so may result in a warning notice, just cause suspension, or dismissal.

**Section 2. Part-Time Employees:** The School Board reserves the right to employ substitute personnel, as it deems desirable or necessary on a part-time or casual basis.

**Section 3. Shifts and Starting Time:** All employees will be assigned starting times and shifts as determined by the School Board or their designee.

**Section 4. Lunch Period:** Employees shall be provided a duty-free lunch period of at least thirty (30) minutes and a fifteen (15) minute break during each half day of work time. In the interest of the School Board, all custodial personnel are expected to stagger their breaks to make certain that the business of the School District will be conducted in an efficient manner during these release periods. Failure to follow these directives may result in a warning notice, just cause suspension, or dismissal.

**Section 5. School Closings:** In the event that schools are closed due to inclement weather, custodians will work four (4) hours on this day and be paid for eight (8) hours.

**Section 6. Holidays:** In addition to the regular holidays listed below, each custodial employee is entitled to use one (1) floating holiday per year, which shall not be used on Martin Luther King Day and must be pre-approved by the employee's supervisor. The regular holidays for all, except for fireman responsible for the various buildings on such days, are:

- |                                           |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. July 4                                 | 7. December 25 <sup>th</sup>                       |
| 2. Labor Day                              | 8. New Year's Eve Day                              |
| 3. October/Friday of Teachers' Convention | 9. New Year's Day                                  |
| 4. Thanksgiving Day                       | 10. President's Day                                |
| 5. Friday after Thanksgiving              | 11. Memorial Day                                   |
| 6. December 24 <sup>th</sup>              | 12. *Floating Holiday determined by Superintendent |
|                                           | 13. Juneteenth                                     |

\*Floating holiday determined by the Superintendent. Exceptions may be made with prior approval of the Manager of Buildings and Grounds

**Section 7. Building Checks:** The Manager of Buildings and Grounds shall develop a schedule for completing building checks on Saturday, Sunday, and other holidays, as the District determines are necessary.

**Subd. 1. Firing Season.** During the firing season, custodians will be held responsible for checking the buildings or boilers and the general temperature of the building, if so directed by the Manager of Buildings and Grounds. For this service, one (1) hour paid at the overtime rate will be allowed at the elementary schools and the middle school and one and one-half (1.5) hours paid at the overtime rate per check at the high school. Non-occupied buildings shall be checked once in a 48-hour period.

Occupied buildings shall be checked once in a 24-hour period. In the event the temperature remains below zero throughout the day, all buildings shall be checked once every 24 hours.

**Subd. 2. Non-firing Season.** The non-firing season will be designated from April 1 through September 30. Compensation for District-wide building checks will be \$130 per weekend. (Emergency situations – any time spent in excess of four (4) hours per day on building checks will be compensated at time and one-half pay.)

**Section 7a. Building Call Backs:** An employee called back for other duties, excluding building checks, after regular working hours will receive no less than two (2) hours of pay at time and one-half.

**Section 8. Vacations:** Items covered in Article X. Section 1, Subd. 4, a through c, the employee may notify the District and draw the appropriate leave day in lieu of the scheduled vacation day. An employee’s eligibility for vacation with pay during any annual period shall be determined according to each employee’s length of service with the employer as follows:

<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Accrued each Month</u>	<u>VACATION HOURS</u>	
		<u>Maximum Accrual</u>	
		<u>Hours</u>	<u>Days</u>
0-6 years	7.00 hours	84 hours	10.5 days
After six years	10.33 hours	124 hours	15.5 days
After twelve years	13.66 hours	164 hours	20.5 days
After eighteen years	17.00 hours	204 hours	25.5 days

The hours indicated above shall be credited upon the actual commencement of services for the District and at the start of each year thereafter.

All vacation periods are to be scheduled in advance under the following provisions:

- 2 weeks earned may be in 2 blocks of time
- 3 weeks earned may be in 3 blocks of time
- 4 weeks earned may be in 4 blocks of time
- 5 weeks earned may be in 5 blocks of time,  
but at least 3 blocks must be at least one week in length.

Additional blocks of time may be allowed with mutual consent of the employer and the employee if it is deemed by the School District to be in the best interest of the operation of the School District. An employee could occasionally take a day of vacation at a time if pre-approved by the Manager of Buildings and Grounds, which approval shall be at the Manager's sole discretion.

All vacation accrual will be based upon an annual period from July 1 to June 30. An employee's vacation accrual during the first year of employment will be prorated from the anniversary date to June 30. If an employee is terminated during the first six months of employment, accrued vacation is forfeited. If an employee leaves the District during the school year and has used more than the accrued pro-rata share of vacation, the employee consents to the District deducting the excess from the employee's final paycheck. Vacations may be scheduled at any time during the year with the approval of the Manager of Buildings and Grounds provided that the proper and efficient operation of the plant can be maintained. In the event all the vacation requests for a particular block of time cannot be granted, selection will be strictly on a seniority basis. In the elementary schools only one custodian may be on vacation at any given time. No custodian may be on vacation during the two weeks prior to the beginning of school or during the last five student contact days of the school year. Additionally, no vacation may be taken during an employee's probationary period.

Employees shall be allowed to carryover up to two (2) weeks of unused vacation into the next contract year for up to six (6) months. If the carryover is not used within 6 months, it shall lapse permanently.

**Section 9. Job Postings:** All job vacancies shall be posted for a period of five (5) working days to enable other members of the custodial unit to apply for said vacancies. A job vacancy is defined to mean a present job which has become vacant due to the person in that job leaving the bargaining unit and which would necessitate hiring a new employee from outside the District, or promoting an employee to a higher paying position. A revision of working hours, shifts and/or starting and quitting times is not a job vacancy and shall not be subject to posting.

"Posting Statement" – There shall be a five (5) working day posting of job vacancies on the School District website and a copy of the posting shall be provided to the union steward and designee. When possible the posting statement shall include the scheduled working hours. All applications by employees of the District must be filed within five (5) working days of the

posting in writing to the proper office, with a copy to the Local 284 Steward. Final determination will be made by the School Board.

Selection will then be made on the basis of seniority within the system from among these applicants able to meet the qualifications as determined by the administration. If no qualified applicant applies, the employer will assign an employee to said schedule.

**Section 10. Assistant in Charge:** In the event of the absence of the lead custodian, the assistant in charge shall be appointed by the administration after three (3) days of absence. The employees will be notified as to the person appointed to be in charge. In the event of absence of lead person, a replacement will be appointed by the administration to assume this responsibility, said replacement to be paid 80% of the pay differential after three (3) days of absence retro-active to the first day. The assistant in charge shall receive 80% of the pay differential for twenty (20) days after which the assistant in charge shall receive the full pay differential.

**Section 11. Work Year and Schedule:** The work year for custodians shall correspond to the regular school year, July 1st through June 30th. Custodians shall be paid based on a 261-day work year. For the years in which the calendar contains 260 work days, the 261<sup>st</sup> day shall be paid as a recognition day at the employee's regular rate of pay and throughout the year on a regular payroll basis.

The standard work week shall be five (5) days of eight (8) hours of work per day. However, if and when necessary for the proper operation and maintenance of the plant, the work day and week may be extended. Any time over forty (40) hours a week shall be considered overtime with the exception of the special provisions set forth in Article VII, Section 7. The overtime rate shall be time and one-half. When possible, employees shall be notified two (2) days in advance when overtime is to be anticipated.

In order that the work may be accomplished effectively, different shifts, and at times, broken shifts are necessary. The Manager of Buildings and Grounds is responsible to transfer employees, to determine work assignments, and also to arrange the time when vacations may be taken. The interests of the employee must always be considered, but all arrangements must be designed to accomplish the major purpose of getting the necessary work done and completed on schedule. All employees must recognize and accept such transfers, work assignments, and special requests made by the Manager of Buildings and Grounds. The Manager of Buildings and Grounds shall give an employee five (5) work days



notice before implementing a temporary shift change, except in cases of extreme emergency. New split shifts created after the signing of this contract shall be posted, if no one applies, the least senior qualified employee shall be appointed.

The duties and new qualifications of a member of this unit, in addition to the generally accepted work included in cleaning, must also include firing, repair work, general maintenance, and any other work as determined by the administration.

Each employee shall be subject to the "Schedule of Working Hours" set up for the position to which he/she is assigned and shall report to the appropriate supervisor. Permission to leave the building or grounds during these scheduled hours must be secured from the Manager of Buildings and Grounds or on-site supervisor.

**Section 12. Seniority/Lay-off/Reassignment from Eliminated Positions:** Staff reduction shall be on a reverse seniority order. Last employee hired to be the first laid off, providing the remaining employees have the necessary qualifications or can obtain such qualifications through training within 30 days, to do the work required. Through the course of time because of technological changes, the decline of pupil population, etc., if it is necessary, in the judgment of the School Board and Administration to reduce the work force, the following procedure will be followed to effect the staff reduction and for reassignment from eliminated positions.

**Subd. 1.** A seniority list, based on the employee's anniversary date shall be published by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**Subd. 2.** When a position is eliminated the person or persons with the least total seniority in the District shall be laid off first.

**Subd. 3.** Employees whose position is eliminated shall have the right to replace the least senior employee, provided the employee has the qualifications to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position. If a day position is eliminated or hours adjusted so as to make it a night position, the displaced employee shall have the right to bump the least senior day shift employee, excluding lead persons and employees receiving specialists pay. If the least senior employee is in a position requiring a licensure which the displaced employee does not have, the displaced employee may continue to bump the least senior day shift employee to find a position for which s/he is qualified.

**Subd. 4. Limitations:** In no event shall an employee replace another employee with greater seniority or replace another employee in a higher paid category.

**Subd. 5.** Re-employment rights will be maintained for a period of three (3) years from date of lay-off. Employees who are called back during this three (3) year period, but do not report for duty within ten (10) calendar days after written notification of recall shall forfeit all rights to further recall. Any time loss due to lay-off shall not count as years of service for vacation or severance pay accrual.

**Section 13. Probationary Period:** All new employees shall serve a new hire probationary period of 120 consecutive work days, excluding paid and unpaid leave days, during which period the employer shall have the unqualified right to discharge or discipline such employee without assigning any reason therefore, and without recourse to the grievance procedure. A new hire shall work in the same position and assignment as initially hired for at least sixty (60) consecutive work days before being eligible for transfer to a different position or assignment. An employee promoted or transferred to a new position shall be on a new assignment probationary period for sixty (60) consecutive work days, excluding paid and unpaid leave days, during which period the employer shall have the right to return the employee to his/her previous position, subject to the grievance procedure.

## **ARTICLE VIII RATES OF PAY**

### **Section 1. Rates of Pay:**

**Subd. 1.** The wages and salaries reflected in Schedule A, attached hereto, shall be part of this agreement for a period commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

**Subd. 2.** New employees to the bargaining unit may be initially placed on a step based on relevant and related education and/or work experience as determined by the Director of Human Resources and the Manager of Buildings and Grounds.

**Subd. 3.** Normally, employees progress one step per year until the top step is reached, however, a salary increase is not automatic and is effective only upon affirmative action of the School Board. The School Board may withhold a salary increase in individual cases as the School Board shall determine. This shall not be done without thirty days (30) notice to the employee prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Section 2. Retirement:** Custodial employees shall retire with 30 days notice.

**Section 3. Pay Checks:** Effective July 1, 2024 pay checks will be issued for direct deposit and deductions on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Section 4. Job Categories:** All employees in this bargaining unit receive wages as per Schedule A. Employees holding specific job titles also receive hourly specialist differentials as per Schedule A-1. All employees within this bargaining unit are categorized as one of the following:

**Custodian (Includes individuals assigned to specialist positions):** A custodian is an employee who works 12 months, 40 hours per week. If a custodian holds a bus driver license, the custodian may be required to perform extra work beyond his/her regularly scheduled assignment driving a school bus in the event of a bus driver shortage or may be required to perform bus driving duties in addition to his/her regularly scheduled custodial duties.

**CUSTODIAL SALARY SCHEDULES AND REGULATIONS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13  
SCHEDULE A – CUSTODIAN AND BUS DRIVER-CUSTODIAN WAGE STEPS**

	<b>2024-2025</b>		<b>2025-2026</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	\$19.22	<b>Step 1</b>	\$19.70
<b>Step 2</b>	\$21.23	<b>Step 2</b>	\$21.76
<b>Step 3</b>	\$23.06	<b>Step 3</b>	\$23.64
<b>Step 4</b>	\$26.23	<b>Step 4</b>	\$26.89
<b>Step 5</b>	\$28.78	<b>Step 5</b>	\$29.50

	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>
<b>Differentials</b>		
Columbia Academy 1 <sup>st</sup> Shift Lead	\$3.61	\$3.70
High School 1 <sup>st</sup> Shift Lead	\$3.61	\$3.70
Elementary 1 <sup>st</sup> Shift Lead	\$3.61	\$3.70
District 2 <sup>nd</sup> Shift Lead	\$3.61	\$3.70
Utility Locator Specialist	\$4.75	\$4.87
Technical/Building Specialist	\$4.75	\$4.87
Transportation Specialist/District Mechanic	\$4.75	\$4.87
District Service Technician	\$4.75	\$4.87
Sound and Lighting Specialist	\$4.75	\$4.87
Buildings and Grounds Facilitator	\$5.42	\$5.56

**Section 5. Compensation Adjustments:**

- 1) Elementary School Lead Personnel to be appointed in the summer when a crew is working and the Manager is not available for full time supervision. Compensation to be \$30.00 per month when this situation occurs. Time periods of less than a month will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis.
  
- 2) The District Technological Specialist and District Service Technician shall be reimbursed at the IRS approved mileage rate for use of personally owned vehicles. If other

custodial staff is required to use their personal vehicle for District purposes, they will be reimbursed at the IRS approved mileage rate.

- 3) District-wide flag duty for designated holidays as determined by administration - \$40.00 per day.
- 4) Overtime turned in on payday will be paid on the following payday.
- 5) The School District will consider granting to all full-time custodians all fringe benefits granted to other non-administrative employees.
- 6) The School District shall purchase and provide three shirts and three pair of pants annually for each custodial employee upon hire. Each subsequent year, the employee may select the number of shirts or pants needed up to six items. The School District shall purchase a jacket for each employee who requests a jacket no more than once every three years. Any additional uniforms needed due to excessive wear and tear shall be purchased by the employee. It is expected all custodial employees to be in uniform during their shift.
- 7) Lead Personnel. It is expected that all lead personnel will plan the work operations he/she directs in such a manner as to meet all established schedules. He/she will furthermore plan, direct, control and check all operations and processes he/she oversees and make a constant effort to improve his/her operations and procedures. He/she shall work toward communicating with custodial and cleaning staff the importance of quality standards for those staff and make every attempt to eliminate wasteful practices and procedures. He/she shall also assume responsibility to see that all scheduled work hours are rigidly adhered to; shall enforce the time limitations in the contract as to length of lunch and coffee breaks.
- 8) The District will pay the renewal fee for boiler licenses after receipt of proper documentation indicating the fee has been paid. All new employees must procure a special class boiler license within six (6) months from the date of employment.
- 9) Employees shall be reimbursed for the cost of tuition for a course of study requested by the School District and agreed to by the employee in areas related to the employee's job responsibilities under the following conditions:

- a) The course requested by the District relates specifically to the employee's job functions;
- b) Transcript verifying a "C" grade or above, or a certificate of satisfactory completion if letter grades are not assigned, is received, and
- c) The instructor verifies attendance at a minimum of 90% of the class sessions.
- d) Classes are scheduled during non-duty hours.

10) Bargaining unit members who hold the following licensure will be reimbursed the following differential:

Boiler Second Class	\$32.50/mo.
Applicator When Required or Recommended	\$11.00/mo.
Boiler First Class	\$40.00/mo.
Chief	\$55.00/mo.
CPO Pool License	\$25.00/mo.
AFO Pool License	\$45.00/mo.
School Bus License*	\$25.00/mo.
Bus and Van Driver Trainer---certified or required by District	\$15.00/mo.
Locksmith Certification	\$10.00/mo.

Employees are only paid for the CPO Pool License or AFO Pool License, not both.

Payments for licensure differentials shall be made in the regular paychecks throughout the school year on a pro rata basis.

The District may require an employee to obtain an advanced boilers' license. If such training is required, the District shall provide and pay for the training and the employee's time spent in the training.

\*Employees who hold a bus driver license may be required to perform extra work beyond their regularly scheduled assignment driving a school bus in the event of a bus driver shortage or may be required to perform bus driving duties in addition to his/her regularly scheduled custodial duties.

11) The School District shall reimburse all custodians for the cost of obtaining and maintaining a bus drivers' license, only if such license is required by the School District for that employee's job, including required physical examinations and license/testing fees.

- 12) Custodians requested to work on Sundays for special events, outside organizations and holidays will receive double their regular hourly wage unless Sundays are a regularly scheduled workday.

**Section 6. Longevity Pay:** Longevity pay of \$350.00 per year will be granted after ten (10) years of continuous service and \$450.00 per year after fifteen (15) years of continuous service and \$575.00 per year after twenty (20) years of continuous service in the School District effective the 2024-2025 contract. Longevity payments shall be made in a lump sum by June 30 in the year in which the longevity is earned.

## **ARTICLE IX GROUP INSURANCE**

**Section 1. Selection of Carrier:** The selection of the insurance carrier and policy shall be made by the School Board.

### **Section 2. Health and Hospitalization Insurance:**

**Subd. 1. Single Coverage:** The Board shall contribute during the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of \$823.02 per month toward the cost of the premium for medical-hospitalization plan for individual custodial and transportation personnel working three-quarters time or more, who is employed by the District, and who qualifies for and is enrolled in the group medical-hospitalization plan. The cost of the premium not contributed by the Board shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. The rate for the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall be the same as for other non-administrative staff.

**Subd. 2. Family Coverage:** The Board shall contribute during the 2024-2025 fiscal year the same amount as is contributed for non-administrative staff (teachers) per month toward the cost of the premium for the medical-hospitalization plan for family coverage for each custodial and transportation personnel working three-quarters time or more, who is employed by the District, who qualifies for and is enrolled in the school district group medical-hospitalization plan and who qualifies for family coverage. The cost for the premium not contributed by the board shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction. The rate for the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall be the same as for other non-administrative staff.

**Subd. 3 Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association Account:** The school district shall contribute to the eligible employee's Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) account \$200 per month for family health insurance plans and \$100 per month for single insurance plans. For employees participating in the Maximum Value Family or Single Health Insurance Plans the School District shall contribute an amount necessary to meet the minimum monthly insurance premium. One-sixth of the contribution will occur on the first paycheck in July and the remaining five-sixths will occur on the first paycheck in September. Custodial employees may apply for VEBA hardship on the School District website no later than the last contracted teacher day for that year. The School District reserves the right to approve or deny any VEBA hardship requests in its sole discretion.

**Subd. 4. Retired Employee Medical-Hospitalization Insurance:** The School District shall contribute the same amount as that contributed for teachers who retire during the same year as the custodial employee towards the premium for health and hospitalization insurance, provided the employee has completed at least sixteen (16) continuous years of service and has reached the age of 55 at the time of retirement, to the extent the employee elected such insurance benefits while actively employed or during the open enrollment period in the employee's last year of employment with the District. Leaves of absence approved by the School District shall not be considered a break in service for the purpose of determining eligibility for retiree health insurance contributions. Retiree health insurance benefits shall be terminated when the employee reaches Medicare eligibility. If a court of law or state or federal agency shall determine that the Medicare eligibility language is unlawful, the employee shall receive the benefits in this paragraph for a period of five (5) years following retirement. The entire cost of dependent coverage shall be borne by the retired employee with all premiums payable in advance. Employees who have retired prior to July 1, 2006 shall continue to receive the District contribution towards health insurance currently being provided to these retirees.

**Section 3. Dental Insurance:** For each custodial and transportation bargaining unit member who qualifies for and is enrolled in the group dental insurance plan, the school district shall contribute to the single or family premium for group dental insurance an amount per month equal to the amount which is contributed to teachers for single or family dental coverage. The cost of the premium not contributed by the School Board shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.



**Section 4. Long Term Disability Insurance:** The School District agrees to make full premium payment for an income protection insurance acceptable to the School Board. Such insurance shall require a 60 working day elimination period of total disability before being effective.

**Section 5. Life Insurance:** The District will pay the premium for a group term life insurance policy based on \$50,000. In addition, all medically qualified employees will be granted the option of purchasing on a payroll deduction plan additional amounts of insurance in the amount of \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$40,000, or \$80,000. Life insurance to be reduced 8% a year after an employee reaches Medicare eligibility.

**Section 6. Duration of Insurance Contribution:** Any employee is eligible for School District contributions as provided in this Article as long as the employee is employed by the School District. Upon termination of employment, all School Board participation and contribution shall continue through the last day of the month worked. Any employee may remain in the group hospitalization program until he/she is re-employed or for a period of eighteen (18) months, whichever is shorter. This applies to voluntary and involuntary termination. All costs must be paid in advance by the individual electing to continue coverage.

## **ARTICLE X LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

### **Section 1. Sick Leave:**

**Subd. 1.** Twelve (12) days of sick leave per year will be granted to full-time employees. Twelve (12) days shall be credited upon the actual commencement of services for the District and at the start of each year thereafter. If an employee leaves the District during the school year and has used more than the accrued pro-rata share of sick leave, the employee consents to the District deducting the excess from the employee's final paycheck.

The time allowance will accumulate as follows:

<b>First Year -</b>	12 days sick leave with full pay.
<b>Second Year -</b>	12 days sick leave plus the unused portion of the first year's accumulation, but not to exceed 24 days
<b>Third Year -</b>	Etc.

**Subd. 2.** Unused sick leave days may accumulate to a maximum of 155 days sick leave per employee.

**Subd. 3.** Sick leave with pay shall be allowed by the School District whenever an employee's absence is found to have been due to illness which prevented the employee's attendance and performance of duties on that day or days.

**Subd. 4.** Upon request to the Manager of Buildings and Grounds, sick leave allowance may be utilized for the illness or death of the employee's family members as follows:

- a) For serious illness in the immediate family, necessary periods (not to exceed five (5) days without superintendent permission) shall be granted. "Immediate Family" shall mean a spouse, child, parents, domestic partner and siblings.
- b) For absences due to an illness of the employee's child for such reasonable periods as the employee's attendance with the child is necessary, on the same terms the employee is able to use sick leave benefits for the employee's own illness. The sick child care leave applies only to sick leave benefits payable to the employee from the sick leave benefits accumulated by the employee. "Child" means an individual under 18 years of age or an individual under age 20 who is still attending secondary school.
- c) In the case of death of immediate family, employee may be granted up to three days of leave time, not deducted from their sick leave. Up to two (2) days of sick leave allowance shall be granted per occurrence for the death of the employee's immediate or extended family members.

The District reserves the right to require a doctor's certification when such care is required and it also reserves the right to obtain periodic reports on the status of the child's illness.

**Subd. 5.** The School Board may require an employee to furnish a medical certificate from the School Health Officer or from a qualified physician as evidence of illness, indicating such absence was due to illness, in order to qualify for sick leave pay. If the employee is absent due to illness more than three (3) consecutive days, the District may require a physician's statement. Cost of this examination shall be borne by the School District. However, the final determination as to the eligibility of an employee for sick leave is reserved to the Board, subject to the grievance procedure.

**Subd. 6.** Sick leave allowed shall be deducted from the accrued sick leave days earned by the employee.

**Subd. 7.** No sick leave will be paid to any employee if his/her disability results from gainful employment other than District #13.

**Subd. 8.** Sick leave will not be provided for routine dental or medical attention. These appointments are expected to be scheduled during non-scheduled working hours or vacation shall be utilized.

**Subd. 9. Extended Illness:** After an extended illness, the custodian, at the request of the Administration or the School Board, shall present a satisfactory certificate of good health signed by the employee's physician or by a physician of the School District's choosing.

**Subd. 10. Emergency Leave:** Two (2) days of emergency leave per year (non-accumulative) may be granted when in the opinion of the Administration such request constitutes a real emergency. The salary in such cases will be paid in full but the days granted will be deducted from sick leave accumulation.

**Subd. 11. Personal Leave:** Each custodial employee shall be credited with three (3) days deducted from sick leave which may be used by the employee for a necessary absence required for the transaction of personal business which cannot be completed outside the normal working day. Examples of personal business that qualify for use of such leave are court appearances, real estate closings, or significant family events such as weddings and commencement ceremonies. Application for use of personal leave shall be made in advance in writing, when possible, to the immediate supervisor. In the event notice cannot be given, oral approval must be obtained from the supervisor. Ethical obligations on the part of the employee must preclude this leave from being used for vacation or recreational purposes.

**Subd. 12. Conferences or Classroom Activities:** Any employee may have up to a total of sixteen (16) hours during any school year to attend school conferences or classroom activities related to the employee's child, provided that the conferences or classroom activities cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. When the leave cannot be scheduled during non-working hours and the need for the leave is

foreseeable, the employee must provide reasonable prior notice of the leave and make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the district. The employee may substitute accrued vacation leave or personal leave for any part of the leave under this subdivision.

## **Section 2. Workers' Compensation:**

**Subd. 1.** Upon request of an employee who is absent from work as a result of a compensable injury under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act, the School District will pay the difference between the compensation received pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act by the employee and the employee's regular rate of pay to the extent of the employee's earned accrual of sick leave and/or vacation pay.

**Subd. 2.** A deduction shall be made from the employee's accumulated vacation or sick leave accrual time according to the pro-rata portions of days of sick leave or vacation time that is used to supplement Workers' Compensation.

**Subd. 3.** Such payment shall be paid by the School District to the employee only during the period of disability.

**Subd. 4.** In no event shall the additional compensation paid to the employee by virtue of sick leave or vacation pay result in the payment of a total daily, weekly or monthly compensation that exceeds the normal compensation of the employee.

**Section 3. Extended Leave.** In the event of a serious illness suffered by an employee covered by this contract, where accumulated sick leave is entirely used and the employee is unable to return to normal duties because of this illness, the employee shall ask the School District for a medical leave of absence for the balance of said fiscal year. Said medical leave of absence may be further extended by the School Board upon its expiration, if requested by the employee. This action is necessary to protect PERA rights.

**Section 4. Career Exploration Leave.** The Board, under the following conditions, shall grant a voluntary leave of absence for at least one (1) year but no more than two (2) years, without pay:

**Subd. 1.** The employee must have been employed on a full-time basis by the District for at least five (5) years but have less than thirty (30) years total of employment.

**Subd. 2.** A leave may be granted only once.

**Subd. 3.** The employee on such leave shall be reinstated to the least senior position in the same category which he/she occupied prior to going on leave provided he/she has more seniority and the employee has not been terminated under the layoff provision of the contract; and has notified the Board of his/her intent to return prior to May 1st of the year of the date of return. Failure to comply with this subdivision shall constitute grounds for termination.

**Subd. 4.** The employee on such leave shall retain seniority earned prior to the leave but shall not accrue any additional seniority in the District during the period of said voluntary leave. Any sick leave or years of service toward vacation accrual shall be granted should the employee return to work in District #13.

**Subd. 5.** No sick leave or vacation will accrue and insurance benefits will not be provided by the Board during this voluntary leave. The employee may remain in the group hospitalization/medical plan at his/her expense if no other employment is held and the carrier permits. All premiums for this insurance shall be paid a month in advance.

**Subd. 6.** The voluntary leave shall be limited to two (2) employees providing suitable replacements can be found.

**Subd. 7.** The parties shall agree that any individual granted a voluntary career exploration leave shall not file for unemployment compensation benefits chargeable to the District.

**Subd. 8.** Request for career exploration leave must be made by March 1 of each year. Approval or denial of said leave shall be made known to the requesting employee by the following May 15.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**TIME LOSS DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY**

**Section 1. Lost Time:** No sick leave or vacation which may have accrued during the time away from work due to illness or injury will be granted to any employee who is absent on long-term sick leave (defined as twenty (20) consecutive work days or longer) or leave while on Workers' Compensation or leave without pay. There will be no sick leave or vacation granted to any employee while absent on leaves without pay. Any accrual of sick leave or vacation while absent on medical leave (Article X Section 1. Subd. 12), or long-term sick leave as defined in this section will be credited to the employee after the employee returns to work. No vacation or sick leave will accrue or be granted to any employee who is on extended sick leave (medical or long-term) for three (3) months or longer.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY AND PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1. Suspension Without Pay:** A Custodial employee may be suspended without pay for good and sufficient reason. Any such suspension is subject to the grievance procedure.

**Section 2. Notice:** Suspension shall take effect upon the Custodial employee's receipt of written notification from the Superintendent of Schools to the employee, stating the grounds for suspension together with a statement that the employee may make a written request within five (5) calendar days after receipt of such notification for a hearing before the School Board to review the suspension. If no hearing is requested within such five (5) calendar day period, it shall be deemed acquiescence by the employee to the suspension.

**Section 3. Hearing:** If the employee requests a hearing within the five (5) calendar day period the hearing shall take place within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the request for hearing. At the option of the School Board, the hearing may be by a committee or a designated representative of the School Board. The School Board reserves the right to affirm, reduce or reverse the suspension action. In the event the suspension is reversed or reduced, the employee shall be compensated appropriately for any salary loss during the period of the suspension not affirmed by the School Board. The employee shall be notified of

the date, time and place of the hearing and the School Board shall issue its decision within ten (10) calendar days after the conclusion of the hearing.

**Section 4. Grievance:** The decision of the School Board shall be subject to the grievance procedure as provided in this Agreement commencing at the arbitration level, provided written notification requesting arbitration is received by the Superintendent within five (5) calendar days after receipt of the School Board's decision.

**Section 5. Progressive Discipline:** Generally, discipline shall be applied progressively and shall be consistent with the accepted principles of progressive discipline. Generally, discipline shall be imposed in the following manner:

1. Oral reprimand
2. Written reprimand
3. Suspension without pay
4. Termination

If conduct is of such a degree of severity to warrant it, disciplinary action may start at any of the above steps.

### **ARTICLE XIII SEVERANCE PAY**

**Section 1. Eligibility:** Custodial employees employed by the School District prior to July 1, 2000, and at least age 40 as of June 30, 2000 and who have completed at least 16 years of service at the time of separation and who are at least 55 years of age shall be eligible for severance pay pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

**Section 2. Credit Toward Severance Pay:** This Article shall apply only to employees whose service has been full-time. Employees serving on any type of leave shall not accrue any credit toward severance pay while on any such leave. All credit to apply toward severance pay must be full-time and no pro-rata portion of a year can be construed to count toward severance pay.

**Section 3. Severance Calculation:** An employee shall be eligible to receive as severance pay upon retirement an amount representing 1.66 days of pay times the number of his/her unused sick leave days, but in any event not to exceed seventy-five (75) days times his/her daily rate of pay.

**Section 4. Pay Rate for Severance Calculation:** In applying the provisions of this Article, an employee's daily rate of pay shall be the basic daily rate earned during his/her last completed contract year of full-time employment as provided in the basic salary schedule for that contract year, and shall not include any additional extra compensation.

**Section 5. Severance Payments:** Employees who are eligible for severance pay based on unused sick leave who have single insurance with the School District during their last year of employment shall have severance paid out 50% into a Health Care Savings Plan and 50% into a Special Pay Deferral Plan in five equal installments spread over five years. Employees who have family insurance with the School District during their last year of employment shall have their severance pay deposited into a Health Care Savings Plan in five equal installments spread over five years. Employees who do not have insurance with the School District shall have their severance pay deposited into a Special Pay Deferral Plan in five equal installments spread over five years. This Article shall not apply to any employee who is discharged for cause by the School District.

**Section 6. Severance in Case of Retired Employee's Death:** Any earned severance pay, in case of the retired employee's death shall be paid to the deceased's estate in one lump sum.

**Section 7.** This Article shall apply only to employees who retire after July 1, 1977.

**Section 8. 403(b) Deferred Compensation:** The Columbia Heights Public Schools Matching Deferred Compensation Plan (403b) is designed to provide employees with an annual tax deferred monetary benefit. Employees shall be eligible to participate in the District's 403(b) Compensation Plan. Employees may defer additional amounts of their income in the District Deferred Compensation Plan (403b).

Subd. 1. 403(b) Compensation: Employees not eligible for the severance benefits described in Article XIII, Sections 1-7, may participate in the District 403(b) deferred compensation plan. These employees are eligible for an annual employer matching contribution in an amount up to three and one-half (3 ½) percent of the



employee's annual salary, provided the employee makes an equal or greater contribution.

**Section 9. Sick Leave 403(b) Conversion: Section 9. Sick Leave 403(b)**

**Conversion:** All employees who have accumulated at least 60 days of sick leave as of July 1 may elect to receive a District contribution of \$75 for each day of sick leave accumulated above 60 days, in lieu of sick leave, up to a maximum of 10 days per year, or \$750, provided the employee makes an annual contribution equal to or greater than the amount contributed by the District under this Subdivision and subject to the following requirements. The employee shall submit a written request to the Director of Finance and Operations by June 15th for such matching funds, specifying the dollar amount of the employee's contribution. The deduction from the employee's accumulated sick leave and sick leave conversion matching funds must be based upon the sick leave accumulation available on July 1 following the employee's 403(b) conversion election made by June 15<sup>th</sup> in the immediately preceding fiscal year. The District matching contribution shall be paid through payroll starting July 1 through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year from which the sick leave is deducted.

**ARTICLE XIV  
DURATION**

**Section 1. Term and Reopening Negotiations:** This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period commencing on July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 and thereafter until modifications are made pursuant to the PELRA of 1971, as amended. If either party desires to modify or amend this Agreement commencing at its expiration, it shall give written notice of such intent no later than ninety (90) days prior to said expiration. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the parties shall not commence negotiations more than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

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

**Section 3. Finality:** Any matters relating to the terms and conditions of employment, whether or not referred to in this Agreement, shall not be open for negotiations during the terms of this Agreement except by mutual consent.

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

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

For School Service Employees, SEIU Local 284

For Independent School District No. 13

450 Southview Boulevard  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

1440 - 49th Avenue N.E.  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

\_\_\_\_\_  
Union Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Union Steward

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bargaining Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bargaining Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Negotiator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bargaining Team Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Negotiator

Dated this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Dated this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

**MASTER AGREEMENT 2024-2026**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME (ESST)**

Independent School District #13, Columbia Heights, Minnesota ("School District") and the School Service Employees, SEIU Local 284 ("Exclusive Representative") have entered into a collective bargaining agreement for the 2024-2026 school years ("CBA") that covers the terms and conditions of employment for Custodial Employees and are applicable to the all persons in the job classification employed by the school district that meet the requirements of Minn. Stat. 179A.03 Subd. 14; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District and the Union entered into an Agreement, effective through June 30, 2026 ("CBA"), governing the general terms and conditions of employment for School District custodial employees;

**WHEREAS**, the terms of the CBA currently specify the amount and conditions of use of an employee's sick leave.

**WHEREAS**, the School District and the Union wish to address the Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time ("ESST") law passed by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2023, (Session Law, Chapter 53, Article 12), effective January 1, 2024; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF** the foregoing, the mutual promises and agreements contained in this MOU, and other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency and receipt of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. This MOU is being entered into to comply with Minnesota's ESST law, effective January 1, 2024. To the extent the law or related guidance changes impacting the terms of this MOU, the parties will meet and negotiate an amendment to this agreement consistent with the changes.
2. Custodian employees receive 12 days of sick leave for working the length of the school year per the CBA. Employees who start the school year with over 80 hours of sick leave will not receive any additional ESST hours. Custodial Employees who do not receive eighty (80) hours of sick leave will receive the difference front-loaded up to eighty (80) hours in a separate ESST leave bank. Eighty (80 hours) of sick leave each school year can be used for ESST purposes. Sick leave accumulated beyond the 80 ESST hours shall only be available for use for reasons set forth in Article X. Prior to January 1, 2025 sick leave accumulated beyond the 80 ESST hours shall only be available for use for reasons set forth in Article IX Section 1.
3. Effective January 1, 2024, sick leave shall be used in accordance with Minnesota's ESST law, Minn. Stat. § 181.9447. This includes the use of sick leave for the following reasons:

- An employee’s mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care;
- The mental or physical illness, treatment or preventive care of an employee’s family member;
- Absence due to domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking of an employee or their family member;
- Closure of an employee’s workplace due to weather or public emergency or closure of their family member’s school or care facility due to weather or public emergency; and
- When determined by a health authority or health care professional that an employee or their family member is at risk of infecting others with a communicable disease.

The term family member includes those individuals defined in Minn. Stat. § 181.9445, subd. 7. When an employee uses sick leave for more than three consecutive days, the School District may require reasonable documentation that the leave is covered in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 181.9447, subd. 3.

4. To the extent the terms of the CBA governing the use sick leave do not meet the minimum requirements or conflict with Minnesota’s ESST law, effective January 1, 2024, the parties agree to follow the provisions of Minnesota’s ESST law and any related Minnesota Department of Labor guidance.

5. Effective Date and Duration. This Memorandum of Understanding shall continue in effect until a new CBA is ratified by the parties. The parties are not bound by the language of this MOU for future CBAs.

6. Equal Drafting. In the event any party asserts that a provision in this MOU is ambiguous, this MOU must be construed to have been drafted equally by the parties.

7. Choice of Law and Severability. This MOU shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota. Any term or condition of this MOU found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable shall not render this MOU void or unenforceable. To the extent any term or condition of this MOU is found to be inconsistent with Minnesota’s ESST law or the Minnesota Department of Labor’s guidance on ESST, the law and Department of Labor’s guidance shall control. If any particular provision of this MOU shall be adjudicated to be invalid or unenforceable, the parties specifically authorize the tribunal making such determination to sever and/or replace the invalid or unenforceable provision of this MOU to allow this MOU and the remaining provisions thereof, to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent allowed by law.

8. Entire Agreement. This Memorandum of Understanding contains the full and complete agreement between the parties relative to the subject matter addressed herein. No promises, guarantees, or representations relative to the subject matter addressed herein exist outside the terms of this document. This MOU controls to the extent that it conflicts with the terms of

the CBA. No changes to this MOU are valid unless they are in writing and signed by both parties.

School Service Employees  
SEIU Local 284

Independent School District No. 13  
Columbia Heights

\_\_\_\_\_  
Union Steward

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Union Representative

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AND  
SEIU, LOCAL 284**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between Columbia Heights Public Schools, Independent School District No. 13 (the District) and SEIU, Local 284 representing custodial employees, (the Union) related statutory language.

WHEREAS, the union is the exclusive representative of custodial employees in the district; and

WHEREAS, during the course of negotiations for the 2024-2026 labor agreement the union wished incorporate changes in Minnesota Statutes into the contract and the district agreed to follow all statutory language but did not want reference to the statutory language in the contract;

WHEREAS, both parties in the spirit of compromise have agreed to instead add a Memorandum of Understanding that contains the changes in Minnesota Statutes that the union wished to bargain into the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, the parties now agree as following:

**Payroll Deduction**

*Effective date: 8.1.23*

[2023 Session Laws Chapter 53, Article 11, Section 13](#) (Minn. Stat. § 179A.06, subd. 6).

Payroll deduction, authorization, and remittance. (a) Public employees have the right to request and be allowed dues checkoff payroll deduction for the exclusive representative. In the absence of an exclusive representative, public employees have the right to request and be allowed dues checkoff for the organization of their choice. and the political fund associated with the exclusive representative and registered pursuant to section 10A.12. A public employer must rely on a certification from any exclusive representative requesting remittance of a deduction that the organization has and will maintain an authorization, signed by the public employee from whose salary or wages the deduction is to be made, which may include an electronic signature by the public employee as defined in section 325L.02, paragraph (h). An exclusive representative making such certification must not be required to provide the public employer a copy of the authorization unless a dispute arises about the existence or terms of the authorization. The exclusive representative must indemnify the public employer for any successful claims made by the employee for unauthorized deductions in reliance on the certification.

(b) A dues deduction authorization remains in effect until the employer receives notice from the exclusive representative that a public employee has changed or canceled their authorization in writing in accordance with the terms of the original authorizing document, and a public employer must rely on information from the exclusive representative receiving

remittance of the deduction regarding whether the deductions have been properly changed or canceled. The exclusive representative must indemnify the public employer, including any reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs, for any successful claims made by the employee for unauthorized deductions made in reliance on such information.

(c) Deduction authorization under this section is independent from the public employee's membership status in the organization to which payment is remitted and is effective regardless of whether a collective bargaining agreement authorizes the deduction.

(d) Employers must commence deductions within 30 days of notice of authorization from the exclusive representative and must remit the deductions to the exclusive representative within 30 days of the deduction. The failure of an employer to comply with the provisions of this paragraph shall be an unfair labor practice under section 179A.13, the relief for which shall be reimbursement by the employer of deductions that should have been made or remitted based on a valid authorization given by the employee or employees.

(e) In the absence of an exclusive representative, public employees have the right to request and be allowed payroll deduction for the organization of their choice.

(f) Any dispute under this subdivision must be resolved through an unfair labor practice proceeding under section 179A.13.

### **Union Access**

*Effective date: 8.1.23*

[2023 Session Laws Chapter 53, Article 11, Section 17](#) (Minn. Stat. § 179A.07, subd. 9).

Access. (a) A public employer must allow an exclusive representative to meet in person with newly hired employees, without charge to the pay or leave time of the employees, for 30 minutes, within 30 calendar days from the date of hire, during new employee orientations or, if the employer does not conduct new employee orientations, at individual or group meetings. An exclusive representative shall receive no less than ten days' notice in advance of an orientation, except that a shorter notice may be provided where there is an urgent need critical to the operations of the public employer that was not reasonably foreseeable. Notice of and attendance at new employee orientations and other meetings under this paragraph must be limited to the public employer, the employees, the exclusive representative, and any vendor contracted to provide a service for purposes of the meeting. Meetings may be held virtually or for longer than 30 minutes only by mutual agreement of the public employer and exclusive representative.

(b) A public employer must allow an exclusive representative to communicate with bargaining unit members using their employer-issued email addresses regarding collective bargaining, the administration of collective bargaining agreements, the investigation of grievances, other workplace-related complaints and issues, and internal matters involving the governance or business of the exclusive representative, consistent with the employer's generally applicable technology use policies.

(c) A public employer must allow an exclusive representative to meet with bargaining unit members in facilities owned or leased by the public employer regarding collective bargaining, the administration of collective bargaining agreements, grievances and other workplace-related complaints and issues, and internal matters involving the governance or business of the exclusive representative, provided the use does not interfere with governmental operations and the exclusive representative complies with worksite security protocols established by the public employer. Meetings conducted in government buildings pursuant to this paragraph must not be for the purpose of supporting or opposing any candidate for



partisan political office or for the purpose of distributing literature or information regarding partisan elections. An exclusive representative conducting a meeting in a government building or other government facility pursuant to this subdivision may be charged for maintenance, security, and other costs related to the use of the government building or facility that would not otherwise be incurred by the government entity.

The exclusive representative will schedule with the immediate supervisor to determine the best date to meet with newly hired employees. The exclusive representative will provide reasonable notice to an employee's immediate supervisor prior to any other meeting with an employee. Reasonable notice shall not be less than 8 hours unless mutually agreed upon. Other than new employee orientation, any other meetings with union members will not take place during the employees' work hours.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Agreement on the dates shown below.

By signing below, each party specifically acknowledges that it has read this Agreement and that it understands and voluntarily agrees to be legally bound by all terms of the Agreement.

**SEIU Local 284:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 13:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_