

**ELMWOOD PARK
COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #401
8201 WEST FULLERTON AVENUE
ELMWOOD PARK, ILLINOIS 60707**

**AGREEMENT
between the
BOARD OF EDUCATION
and the
ELMWOOD PARK PSRP COUNCIL
WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS' UNION
LOCAL NUMBER 571, IFT, AFT**

JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2029

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION AND DEFINITIONS	4
1.1 Recognition	4
1.2 Definition of Terms.....	4
ARTICLE 2 BOARD RIGHTS	5
ARTICLE 3 NO STRIKE	5
ARTICLE 4 UNION RIGHTS	5
4.1 Union Dues.	5
4.2 Use of Facilities and Equipment.	6
4.3 Bulletin Boards.	6
4.4 Employee Information.	6
4.5 Contract.....	6
4.6 Right to Information	6
4.7 Union-Administration Meetings.	7
4.8 Union Leave.....	7
4.9 New and Restructured Positions.	7
4.10 Evaluation.	7
ARTICLE 5 EMPLOYEE RIGHTS	8
5.1 Hours of Work per Day and Week.....	8
5.2 Right to Representation.....	8
5.3 Probationary / Continuing Employees.	8
5.4 Suspension without Pay More Than Two Workdays / Discharge for Cause.	8
ARTICLE 6 VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS	9
6.1 Vacancy.....	9
6.2 Transfer	9
ARTICLE 7 SENIORITY, LAYOFF & RECALL.....	10
7.1 Seniority.....	10
7.2 Seniority Date.	10
7.3 Seniority List.....	10
7.4 Reduction in Force.....	10
7.5 Categories of Positions.....	11
ARTICLE 8 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.....	11
8.1 Definition.	11
8.2 Procedure.	11
8.3 General.....	12
ARTICLE 9 PERSONNEL FILE.....	13
ARTICLE 10 LEAVES	14
10.1 Sick Leave.....	14

10.2	Personal Leave.	15
10.3	Bereavement Leave.....	15
10.4	Extended Illness Leave without Pay.	16
10.5	Leave of Absence without Pay.....	16
10.6	Child-Rearing Leave.....	16
10.7	Jury Duty Leave.	17
10.8	Leave Benefit Coverage.	17
10.9	Unpaid Family Medical Leave.....	17
10.10	Waiver of Cook County Paid Leave.....	17
 ARTICLE 11 SALARY		18
11.1	Salary.	18
11.2	Payroll.	20
11.3	Retirement Severance Award.....	20
 ARTICLE 12 FRINGE BENEFITS		21
12.1	Health, Medical and Dental Insurance.	21
12.2	Term Life Insurance.....	21
12.3	Long Term Disability.....	22
12.4	Employees with Regular Workweeks of Less than Thirty-Five (35) Hours.....	22
12.5	Flexible Benefit Plan and Annuities.	22
12.6	Extra Duty Assignments.	22
 ARTICLE 13 OVERTIME & SUBSTITUTIONS		23
13.1	Overtime.	23
13.2	Internal Substitution.....	23
 ARTICLE 14 VACATION		23
 ARTICLE 15 HOLIDAYS		24
 ARTICLE 16 SAVINGS		24
 ARTICLE 17 TERMS OF AGREEMENT		25

AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the Board of Education of Elmwood Park Community Unit School District Number 401, Cook County, Illinois, hereinafter referred to as the "Board" and the Elmwood Park PSRP Council, West Suburban Teachers' Union, Local Number 571, IFT, AFT, hereinafter referred to as the "Union."

ARTICLE 1 **RECOGNITION AND DEFINITIONS**

1.1 Recognition.

The Board recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all paraprofessional and school related support staff including nurses, all secretaries, clerks, monitors/security, aides and technology personnel. Excluded employees are accounts payable, payroll, Board secretary, accountant, HR generalist, technology manager, IT director, Network Administrator, lunch program employees, supervisory employees, managerial employees, confidential and short-term employees as defined by the IELRA and all other employees.

1.2 Definition of Terms.

- 1.2.1 Full-time Employee.** A full-time employee is any employee who is regularly employed for at least thirty-five (35) hours per week.
- 1.2.2 Twelve (12) Month Employee.** Any employee who is regularly employed on a twelve (12) month basis.
- 1.2.3 Two Hundred or More (200+) Day Employee.** Any employee who is regularly employed for two hundred or more (200+) days.
- 1.2.4 Less than Two Hundred (-200) Days Employee.** Any employee who is regularly employed for less than two hundred (-200) days.
- 1.2.5 Date of Hire / First Day of Work.** The terms "date of hire" and "first day of work" refer to the date on which the employee actually begins work in a bargaining unit position as an employee of the District, regardless of whether the employee was previously serving in a position within the District but outside of the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 2

BOARD RIGHTS

The Board retains and reserves the ultimate responsibility for proper management of the School District conferred upon and vested in it by the statutes and Constitutions of the State of Illinois and the United States.

The Board's rights include, but are not limited to, the full and exclusive right to hire, discharge, discipline, assign, layoff, direct, evaluate, determine the qualifications of employees, determine and control the operations of the District, and make work rules, and standards.

The exercise of the Board's statutory and Constitutional powers shall be subject to the provisions of law and the express terms of this Agreement. Such rights, unless otherwise specifically restricted by this Agreement, remain the prerogative of the Board of Education.

ARTICLE 3

NO STRIKE

During the term of this Agreement, in no event shall the Union nor any of its members, agents or any employees for any reason authorize, institute, or engage in a strike, or in a slowdown, work stoppage, picketing which would disrupt the operation of the schools, Administrative Offices or facilities of the School District. Nor shall the District, during the term of this Agreement, lockout the employees, provided, however that a Board decision to suspend operations and/or duties of bargaining unit employees during a strike, slowdown or work stoppage by another bargaining unit shall not be deemed a lockout. If operations are suspended during a strike, slowdown or work stoppage by another bargaining unit, (1) insurance benefits will be continued for bargaining unit employees covered by this Agreement, and (2) twelve-month bargaining unit employees shall not suffer a loss of salary if their duties are suspended.

ARTICLE 4

UNION RIGHTS

4.1 Union Dues.

The Board agrees that it shall, upon written request of an employee, withhold from the compensation of that employee any dues payable by such employee to the Union and, if also authorized, a contribution to the IFT/571 Committee on Political Education (COPE). The Board shall transmit such withholdings separately to the official designated in writing by the Union on a monthly basis. Dues shall be withheld on a monthly basis for ten (10) months in an amount which is equal to the prorata share of the annual dues payable to the Union. Nothing herein shall prevent an employee from revoking his/her written request to have dues deductions withheld from compensation. Deductions shall remain in effect until the employee leaves the bargaining unit or the Board receives notice that the employee has

revoked his/her deduction authorization in writing in accordance with the terms of the authorization.

4.2 Use of Facilities and Equipment.

The Union shall have the right to use District office equipment, copy machines, bargaining unit members' mailboxes, the District email system (subject to the District's acceptable use policies), and space within school buildings for Union activities provided that an application for use of school facilities is made to the Principal. The application must be submitted at least one day in advance of the meeting, unless such one-day advance notice cannot be given for good causes stated in the application. If such meeting results in additional maintenance or custodial expense, the Union shall pay the cost. Such meetings may only be held during non-working hours and may not interfere with any facet of the school's educational, administrative or extra-curricular program. The Union assumes legal responsibility for official communications pursuant to this section.

4.3 Bulletin Boards.

The Union may use available bulletin board space in employee lounges or other areas not usually frequented by students or members of the public to post notices and other materials related to Union business. All notices and materials shall be dated and posted by a Union representative authorized by the Union President.

4.4 Employee Information.

The Board will provide the Union with a list of bargaining unit members by creating a shared electronic document and providing the Union with continuous electronic access to the document. The list will include the following information: the employee's name, job title, worksite location, home address, work telephone numbers, identification number if available, any home and personal cellular telephone numbers on file with the District, date of hire, work email address, and any personal email address on file with the District. Names and addresses of newly hired employees covered by this Agreement will be added to the shared document (by the District) within ten (10) District Office workdays from the date of Board action approving employment in the School District.

4.5 Contract.

The Board will post the Contract on the District website in a non-editable format and provide the Union with an editable version in MS Word or other suitable program.

4.6 Right to Information.

The Union President may retrieve the agenda of any regular or special Board meeting from the District website. If such information is provided in a different manner to the Presidents of other bargaining units, the PSRP President will be provided the information in the same manner as the other Presidents. The Board shall provide the Union President, upon his/her

request, with any of the following documents if not posted on the District website: the annual fiscal year and financial statement and audit, the approved tentative budget, amended budgets, treasurer's reports, and regularly prepared statistical information pertaining to wages paid and benefit coverage.

4.7 Union-Administration Meetings.

The Superintendent and the Union President shall hold monthly meetings between September and May to exchange information and discuss items of mutual concern. The Superintendent and Union President shall exchange agenda items at least three (3) workdays prior to a scheduled meeting. More frequent meetings may be scheduled. If there are no items submitted for an agenda, the meeting shall be cancelled.

4.8 Union Leave.

A cumulative maximum of three (3) days of Union Leave shall be granted each school year for the purpose of allowing the Union President or designated Union officer to attend local, state or national conferences without loss of pay. Such days may be used within the year they are granted and shall not be cumulative.

Employee requests for Union Leave must be made to the Superintendent or his/her designee at least five (5) workdays in advance of the proposed leave, which requests shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. No more than two (2) bargaining unit members may utilize Union Leave on the same workday. The Union shall reimburse the District for its costs in providing a substitute, if any, for each day of Union Leave taken by an employee.

4.9 New and Restructured Positions.

The Board may from time to time create new bargaining unit positions or restructure current bargaining unit positions. When this occurs, the Board will notify the Union promptly in writing. If the Union desires to meet and negotiate the salary, benefits and working conditions of the new or restructured bargaining unit positions, the Union will notify the Board within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the Board's written notice.

4.10 Evaluation.

The Parties shall convene an administrative-Union committee when determined appropriate by agreement of the parties, to review the evaluation plan for the members of the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 5
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

5.1 Hours of Work per Day and Week.

The regular workday for full-time employees shall be a maximum of eight (8) hours daily, not including any unpaid duty-free lunch. An employee whose regular workday exceeds five (5) hours shall include a thirty (30) minute unpaid duty-free lunch. The normal work week shall be Monday through Friday. An employee's regular work hours will not be modified to avoid the payment of overtime.

5.2 Right to Representation.

When an employee is required to appear before the Superintendent, other administrator, Board or any committee thereof, concerning any matter which could reasonably result in the discipline of the employee or continued employment, the employee shall be entitled to have a Union representative present at such a meeting.

5.3 Probationary / Continuing Employees.

A new employee is designated a "probationary" employee. The probationary period for a new employee shall begin on the first day of work. Such probationary period shall be twelve (12) months. Upon completing his/her probationary period, an employee shall be considered a continuing employee.

5.4 Suspension without Pay / Discharge for Cause.

A probationary employee may be suspended or discharged without recourse at any time prior to the end of the probationary period.

A continuing employee may be suspended without pay or discharged only for just cause.

Prior to suspension without pay or a recommendation for discharge for cause, the continuing employee shall be afforded an opportunity to meet with the Superintendent or his/her designee to discuss the reason(s) for the suspension or recommendation for discharge. The continuing employee may be suspended without pay pending such meeting if the continuing employee's Union representative is unavailable.

In the event of a recommendation for discharge for cause, the continuing employee will be afforded an opportunity to address the Board in closed session prior to Board action on the discharge recommendation.

ARTICLE 6
VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS

6.1 Vacancy.

A vacancy shall be defined as a newly created or present bargaining unit position that becomes open due to an employee's resignation, retirement or termination, or a newly created but unfilled position. All vacancies shall be posted for at least five (5) working days on District AppliTrack (or alternative District software), during which time the Board shall not fill the position except on a temporary basis. If the vacancy occurs during the summer break period, the notice shall be posted for ten (10) calendar days. Notice of vacancies occurring during winter and spring breaks shall be electronically posted for at least five (5) working days following the end of such breaks. Unless otherwise stated, all time limits in this subsection shall consist of working days on which the District administrative offices are open.

A bargaining unit employee who meets the minimum qualifications and submits an application for a vacancy may be afforded an opportunity to interview for the position. A bargaining unit employee who is not selected for the position will be given the reason(s) for the decision, if requested.

6.2 Transfer.

An involuntary transfer is defined as a District-initiated reassignment of an employee to a bargaining unit position in another category in the same building, or to another building. No employee shall be involuntarily transferred on a permanent or indefinite basis unless the employee is first notified in writing of the transfer and afforded an opportunity to discuss the reasons for the transfer with the Superintendent or designee.

A voluntary transfer is defined as a transfer from one position category to another position category, requested by the employee or offered by the District and accepted by the employee.

An employee who is involuntarily transferred to a lower-paid position will have his/her hourly wage frozen at the current level for the remainder of the current school year.

Wage rates will be determined as follows, for an employee who voluntarily transfers, an employee who is involuntarily transferred to a higher-paid position, or an employee who has completed the wage rate freeze period referenced above:

Effective upon the date of transfer (or the end of the wage rate freeze period), the employee's hourly wage rate will be increased or decreased by a differential equal to the starting hourly rate differential for the relevant positions. For example, for an employee who is promoted from Building Office Clerk to Secretary, the employee's hourly rate will be increased by a dollar amount equal to the dollar amount difference in the starting hourly rates between a Building Office Clerk and a Secretary. This paragraph does not apply to

(and such salary modifications will not be implemented for) position category adjustments made due to negotiated changes in position category designations.

Nothing within this subsection limits the rights of the Board with respect to reduction in force.

ARTICLE 7

SENIORITY, LAYOFF & RECALL

7.1 Seniority.

Seniority shall be the controlling factor in reduction in force.

7.2 Seniority Date.

For purposes of this Agreement and reduction in force of support staff under the *Illinois School Code*, the seniority of each employee shall date from the employee's last date of hire by the Board and an employee's seniority shall be measured by the employee's length of continuous service with the Board since the employee's last date of hire. If two or more employees have the same seniority, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine the relative seniority of the affected employees by a drawing of lots, witnessed by the affected employees and an authorized Union representative.

7.3 Seniority List.

The Board shall maintain and keep current a seniority list by category of position, noting the employee's date of hire. The District shall distribute the seniority list to the Union on or before February 1 of each school year. Seniority shall not be broken when employment is terminated at the end of the school term and then resumed at the start of the next school term. Otherwise, seniority shall be broken upon termination of employment.

7.4 Reduction in Force.

In the event of a reduction in force under Section 5/10-23.5 of the *Illinois School Code*, employees shall be dismissed by category of position on the basis of least seniority first. An employee who has worked in more than one category of position (as defined in Section 7.5) shall retain the employee's seniority and bumping rights in each of the position categories. Provided, however, in any category for which legal qualifications are established by law or by regulation of the State Board of Education, the more senior employee in that category must be legally qualified to fill the position of a less senior employee in that category in order for the more senior employee to have bumping rights.

7.5 Categories of Positions.

For purposes of reduction in force under this Article, the categories of positions shall be as follows:

Building Office Clerk (includes Attendance Recorder)
Campus Monitor
Data Manager
Library Aide
Nurse – LPN and RN without IEP Privileges
Nurse – RN with IEP Privileges
Registrar
Secretary
Technology Support Specialist
Paraprofessional (Bilingual/ELL Paraprofessional, Instructional Paraprofessional (regular and special education), and 1:1 Paraprofessional)

ARTICLE 8 **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

8.1 Definition.

A grievance is defined as a written claim that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of a specific provision of this Agreement.

8.2 Procedure.

The parties agree that it is desirable for an employee and the employee's immediate supervisor to resolve problems informally. Accordingly, an attempt to resolve informally may be made by the employee approaching and discussing the problem with the supervisor before filing a grievance. If a grievance is not resolved informally, it must be processed in accordance with the following:

8.2.1 Step One. The grievant or Union shall file the grievance in writing with the grievant's immediate supervisor within fifteen (15) working days of the date of the event giving rise to the grievance. The immediate supervisor shall confer with the grievant within ten (10) working days of the supervisor's receipt of the grievance. A decision shall be rendered by the immediate supervisor to the grievant in writing within five (5) working days of the conference. If the event giving rise to the grievance originates directly from the action of an administrator above the grievant's immediate supervisor, the grievance may be filed with the District designated administrator at Step Two within twenty (20) working days of the event giving rise to the grievance.

- 8.2.2 Step Two.** If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step One, the grievant or Union may appeal to the District designated administrator, in writing, within fifteen (15) working days of the date of the immediate supervisor's reply at Step One. The District designated administrator shall hold a conference with the grievant within ten (10) working days after receipt of the appeal and render a written decision within ten (10) working days after the conference.
- 8.2.3 Step Three.** If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step Two, the grievant or Union may appeal to the Superintendent, in writing, within fifteen (15) working days of the date of the District designated administrator reply at Step Two. The Superintendent shall hold a conference with the grievant within ten (10) working days after receipt of the appeal and render a written decision within ten (10) working days after the conference.
- 8.2.4 Step Four.** If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step Three, the grievant or Union may appeal to the Board of Education. The grievance must be submitted to the Board within fifteen (15) working days of the date of the Superintendent's decision at Step Three. The Board shall conduct a hearing on the grievance within forty-five (45) calendar days of the date of receipt by the Superintendent of the appeal to the Board or as otherwise agreed. The Board shall have fifteen (15) working days following the hearing, or until the next regular Board meeting, whichever is later, to approve and render a written decision.
- 8.2.5 Step Five.** If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Step Four, the Union may submit the grievance to binding arbitration within thirty (30) working days after receipt of the Board's decision at Step Four, by requesting an arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association and filing a copy of the request with the Superintendent within the thirty (30) working day period. The selection of the arbitrator shall follow the voluntary labor arbitration procedures of the American Arbitration Association. The fees of the arbitrator and the American Arbitration Association shall be divided equally between the Board and the Union. All other expenses shall be borne by the party incurring them. Either party shall be entitled to have a court reporter present and submit a transcript and post-hearing brief to the arbitrator. Unless the parties split equally the cost of the court reporter and the transcript, the party not requesting the court reporter shall not be entitled to a transcript.

8.3 General.

- 8.3.1** An employee who participates in the grievance procedure shall not be subjected to discipline or reprisals because of such participation.
- 8.3.2** An employee shall be entitled to Union representation at each step of the grievance procedure.

- 8.3.3** All grievance records shall be stored separately from the employee's regular personnel file after final resolution of the grievance.
- 8.3.4** The Board and the Administration will attempt to arrange mutually convenient times and places for meetings and hearings conducted under the grievance procedure; provided, however, the Board and the Administration shall not be required to conduct any grievance meeting or hearing on working time or to pay any employee for time spent in processing any grievance on non-working time.
- 8.3.5** The time limits and procedures for grievance processing must be strictly followed. Failure of the grievant or the Union to meet any time limit shall bar submission or further processing of the grievance. Failure of the Board or the Administration to respond within the time limits specified shall permit the grievant or the Union to proceed to the next step. Time limits may be extended at any step by mutual agreement of the parties in writing. Unless otherwise provided, all time limits in this grievance procedure shall consist of working days on which the District administrative offices are open.
- 8.3.6** Upon mutual written agreement of the Union and the Superintendent, a grievance may be brought directly to the Superintendent.
- 8.3.7** Each grievance must state the specific provisions of the Agreement alleged to have been violated, the facts upon which the grievant relies to establish the alleged violation and the relief sought. In the case of a grievance filed by the Union, the grievance shall also state the names of the employees for whom relief is sought.
- 8.3.8** The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the provisions of the Agreement and shall decide only the specific issues raised in the written grievance and the replies thereto. The arbitrator's decision shall be based solely upon the specific terms of this Agreement and the relevant facts presented. The arbitrator shall have no authority to decide or make recommendations on other matters.
- 8.3.9** Union officials and grievants shall be granted release time without loss of pay, if needed to process and resolve a grievance.

ARTICLE 9

PERSONNEL FILE

Only one official Board file shall be kept for each employee. Every employee shall be allowed access to the employee's official Board file no later than five (5) working days after submission of a written request to the District's Designee to view the file. If an employee is not permitted to view the file on working time, then reasonable arrangements will be made before or after regular office hours for the employee to view the file.

An employee shall be provided with two (2) copies of any documents adverse to the employee's employment status. At the time(s) he/she receives the copy(ies) the employee shall sign one copy of the document(s) indicating receipt and said documents shall be placed in the official Board file. The employee shall not be charged for such copy.

Every employee shall have the right to add material of reasonable length to the employee's official Board file and attach dissenting or explanatory material of reasonable length to any document in the file. "Reasonable length" shall be defined as not exceeding the document to be explained or to which the employee dissents by more than one page.

Upon written request, an employee may receive a copy of materials in his/her personnel file except for those documents which the employee may not review under the *Personnel Record Review Act*.

ARTICLE 10 **LEAVES**

10.1 Sick Leave.

Sick Leave shall be granted to employees in accordance with the following schedule.

12 Month Employees

12 days
After 7 years of service: 14 days

200+ & -200 Day Employees

10 days
After 7 years of service: 12 days

Sick Leave days shall be awarded as follows:

- a. Sick leave days will be prorated for employees hired during the school year.
- b. When an employee is first hired:
 - i. The employee will receive one sick leave day on the employee's first day of work.
 - ii. Thereafter, the employee will receive one sick leave day on the first work day of each work month for the next three (3) work months.
 - iii. At the end of the 3-month period referenced in subsection ii, the employee will receive the remainder of his/her sick leave days in one lump sum.

Up to 240 days of unused sick leave may be carried over to the following school year.

Paid sick leave shall be used only for personal illness, mental or behavioral health complications, quarantine at home, or serious illness or death in the immediate family or household. Immediate family or household includes parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and legal guardians. The Board may require physician's certificates as set forth in Section 24-6 of the School Code and examinations with respect to an employee's health as provided in Section 24-5 of the School Code.

Eligible employees are entitled to use up to thirty (30) days of their accumulated sick leave for birth, adoption, placement for adoption, and the acceptance of a child in need of foster care, as provided by law. Leave time exercised in this manner shall run concurrently with FMLA leave, if eligible.

An employee may access his/her sick leave record using the District's Skyward system (or alternative District software).

10.2 Personal Leave.

All employees shall be entitled to use two (2) days each school year for paid personal leave. Personal leave may be used only for personal business which cannot be scheduled except during an employee's designated work time. Personal Days may also be used for religious holidays. The employee shall make an application for personal leave to the Superintendent or his/her designated representative at least 48 hours in advance of the leave, unless the business is such that this advance notice cannot be given. If 48-hour notice is not possible, the application shall be routed through the employee's immediate supervisor for his/her acknowledgment and his/her contacting the Superintendent's office by telephone to make the necessary arrangements. Personal days shall not be granted on the day before or the day after a holiday, winter or spring school break, or vacation, unless approved by the Superintendent or designee. Unused Personal Leave shall be accumulated as Sick Leave.

10.3 Bereavement Leave.

10.3.1 Five (5) consecutive bereavement days will be granted annually for the death of a parent, spouse, or child.

10.3.2 One (1) bereavement day will be granted per occasion for the death of other immediate family members of the employee or spouse. Immediate family is defined in Sick Leave. Up to five (5) days will be granted annually.

10.3.3 Use of sick time is permitted if additional days are needed.

10.3.4 Notice of use of bereavement leave must be given in the same manner as notice of emergency Personal Leave is given, except that all applications must state the name of the deceased and the relationship of the employee to the deceased. Bereavement leave is non-cumulative. Exceptions or additions to this listing may be requested on an individual basis by meeting with the Superintendent or designee.

10.4 Extended Illness Leave without Pay.

A leave of absence without pay beginning at the start of the school year or semester and ending at the end of the school year or semester may be granted by the Board due to personal illness or serious illness in the immediate family or household. Such leave may be available only after the employee has exhausted all available sick leave days and Family and Medical Leave. The request for leave must be made in writing to the Superintendent at least sixty (60) calendar days, if possible, prior to the beginning of the leave which timeline may be waived by the Board at the Board's sole discretion. An extension of the leave may be requested, but the extension shall not exceed one semester. The Board may require evidence of extended illness in the same manner as for paid sick leave use. The Board's decision on any leave request shall be made in the Board's sole discretion.

10.5 Leave of Absence without Pay.

The Board may grant a leave of absence of not more than one school year, without pay. Applications for such leave must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent at least sixty (60) days, if possible, in advance of the beginning of the leave which timeline may be waived by the Board at the Board's sole discretion. The Board's decision on any leave request shall be made in the sole discretion of the Board. The employee must notify the Superintendent by at least March 1 of the school term preceding the school term the employee is due to return to work from the leave or sixty (60) days prior to the date the employee is due to return to work from the leave, whichever occurs first. If notification is not received and the date of notification has passed, the vacancy will be posted so the position can be filled. Failure to so notify the Superintendent, in writing, shall constitute resignation of the employee effective at the end of the leave. An employee granted a leave may continue in the group medical insurance if he/she chooses at his/her own expense, by paying the full premium.

10.6 Child-Rearing Leave.

An employee with a new born child or an employee who is adopting/fostering a child may request a child-rearing leave. The Board's decision on any leave request shall be made in the sole discretion of the Board. The leave must begin no later than the birth of the child and following the exhaustion of an FMLA leave for which the employee is eligible, and end at the start of the following school term. The employee must apply for the leave in writing with the District's Designee at least thirty (30) days, or as soon as possible, in advance of the anticipated birth/adoption/placement of the child. The employee must notify the Superintendent by at least March 1 of the school term preceding the school term the employee is due to return to work from the leave. Failure to so notify the Superintendent in writing shall constitute a resignation of the employee effective at the end of the leave.

10.7 Jury Duty Leave.

Employees must notify the Superintendent or designee as soon as possible after being summoned for jury duty and must furnish satisfactory evidence that jury duty was performed on the days for which salary is claimed. Employees who are required to serve on jury duty at times when they would be working shall be paid their regular salary. Employees may retain any amounts paid while performing jury duty as expenses for jury duty.

10.8 Leave Benefit Coverage.

Fringe benefits for employees on leaves with pay shall continue during the leave. Employees on unpaid leaves of absence shall not receive or accrue any Board-paid fringe benefits. Employees on child-rearing leave may continue in the health, medical and dental insurance and death benefit programs at the employee's expense at the conclusion of an approved FMLA leave. Employees on any other unpaid leave may continue in the health, medical and dental insurance programs at the employee's expense as may be permitted by the District's insurance carrier.

10.9 Unpaid Family Medical Leave.

Employees will be eligible for and have access to leave under the *Family and Medical Leave Act*, as amended, as provided in the Act. The Board's Family and Medical Leave Act policy shall be included in the Board Policy Manual. Required FMLA notices shall be posted at the District's schools where they may be readily seen by employees. The FMLA forms can be obtained on the District's intranet.

10.10 Waiver of Cook County Paid Leave.

Pursuant to Section 42-5 of the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance, enacted by the Cook County Board of Commissioners on December 14, 2023, as compiled into the Cook County Code of Ordinances at Chapter 42, Article I, Division 1, effective December 31, 2023, and as amended from time to time thereafter ("the Ordinance"), the Union, on behalf of itself and the members of the bargaining unit, hereby waives its/their rights under the Ordinance.

The Union's waiver of its/their rights under the Ordinance is understood by both parties as being non-precedential and such waiver will neither be implicitly nor explicitly expected as a requirement for bargaining of future contracts between the Union and the Board/District.

ARTICLE 11
SALARY

11.1 Salary.

11.1.1 Starting Hourly Rates. The following starting hourly rates shall be in effect for the duration of this Agreement:

Position	Starting Hourly Rates			
	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Building Office Clerk (includes Attendance Recorder)	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.50	\$ 22.00
Campus Monitor	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.50	\$ 22.00
Data Manager	\$ 26.50	\$ 27.00	\$ 27.50	\$ 28.00
Library Aide	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.50	\$ 22.00
Nurse (RN with IEP Privileges)	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.50	\$ 41.00	\$ 41.50
Nurse (RN without IEP Privileges)	\$ 39.00	\$ 39.50	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.50
Nurse (LPN)	\$ 25.50	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.50	\$ 27.00
Paraprofessional	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.00	\$ 21.50	\$ 22.00
Registrar	\$ 22.50	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 24.00
Secretary	\$ 22.50	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 24.00
Technology Support Specialist	\$ 25.50	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.50	\$ 27.00

For Registered Nurses (with or without IEP Privileges), at the discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education, a higher starting hourly rate may be assigned to a newly hired employee based upon the employee's prior experience. In that event, the Superintendent will notify the Union of the assigned rate.

11.1.1.1 Paraprofessional Stipend.

In addition to their hourly rate, Instructional Paraprofessionals and 1:1 Paraprofessionals assigned to the following District programs will receive an annual stipend of \$3,400.00: Transition, CORE, Structured, and PreK SPED Self-Contained.

The stipend will be prorated for a Paraprofessional who works less than a full paraprofessional work year. The stipend will be paid in equal installments over the Paraprofessional's scheduled pay periods. The stipend will not be considered to be part of the Paraprofessional's hourly rate for purposes of hourly rate increases.

The stipend will be prorated for employees working as a Paraprofessional in the stipend role for less than a full work day so long as the stipend role is part of the Paraprofessional's daily assignment.

11.1.1.2 Driver Stipend.

The District will pay an annual stipend of \$600.00 to a Paraprofessional who meets all of the following criteria:

- The Paraprofessional is assigned to the District's Transition Program;
- The Paraprofessional obtains or holds a School Bus Driver Permit;
- The Paraprofessional is otherwise qualified as a driver to transport students; and
- The Paraprofessional agrees to (and does) drive a District vehicle to transport students for community outings and field trips.

The stipend will be prorated for a Paraprofessional who drives for less than a full paraprofessional work year. The stipend will be paid in equal installments over the Paraprofessional's scheduled pay periods. The stipend will not be considered to be part of the Paraprofessional's hourly rate for purposes of hourly rate increases.

The District will reimburse a Paraprofessional assigned to the District's Transition Program for necessary costs incurred in obtaining a School Bus Driver permit provided that:

- The Paraprofessional seeks and obtains prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee; and
- The Paraprofessional successfully completes the requirements and obtains the School Bus Driver Permit within six (6) months after approval is given by the Superintendent or designee.

A Paraprofessional who seeks and obtains prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee (as referenced above) will be given a paid professional day for the purpose of attending training required to obtain the School Bus Driver permit.

11.1.1.3 Retention Bonus.

On June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027, and June 30, 2028, and June 30, 2029: All employees who have been continuously employed for at least thirty-four (34) months (and remain employed) on the relevant June 30 date shall receive a retention bonus of \$275. This bonus shall be paid in one installment on June 30. This bonus will not be considered to be part of the employee's hourly rate for the purposes of hourly rate increases.

11.1.2 Hourly Rate Increases.

Each bargaining unit employee will receive the following increase in his/her hourly rate, for each indicated school year, provided that the employee begins work prior to January 1 of the preceding school year.

On July 1, 2025: One dollar (\$1.00)

On July 1, 2026: One dollar (\$1.00)

On July 1, 2027: One dollar (\$1.00)

On July 1, 2028: One dollar (\$1.00)

Employees who begin work between January 1 and June 30 preceding a July 1 salary increase will receive an increase to the starting hourly rate identified in Section 11.1.1 for the appropriate position effective that July 1. It is agreed that this provision is not intended to result in a reduction in any employee's hourly rate.

11.2 Payroll.

All employees will be paid twice each month on the fifteenth (15th) day and the last day of the month. If the pay day falls on a weekend, or teacher non-attendance day, the check will be available on the last teacher attendance day prior to that pay date.

Unless an employee otherwise elects by May 1 of each school year, each less than 12-month employee shall receive his/her summer pay on regularly scheduled pay dates. The Board shall provide an election form to each employee by April 1 of each school year which offers the option of receiving the balance of pay on the last regular school day.

11.3 Retirement Severance Award.

An employee who is at least fifty-five (55) years of age (for Tier One Retirees) or sixty-two (62) years of age (for Tier Two Retirees) and retires from the District with at least fifteen (15) continuous years of full-time service will receive a severance bonus equal to \$110.00 for each year of continuous full-time service in the District. An employee may declare his/her intention to retire up to two (2) years prior to the actual retirement date. If notice of the intent to retire is received by the June 1st of the year before or two years before the retirement date, the District will apply as much of the severance bonus as possible to increase the employee's salary up to a maximum of 6% over the previous year's salary. If there is any of the severance bonus remaining after increasing the employee's salary to 6% that money will be paid in a single lump sum to the employee between 35 and 60 days following the date of retirement.

ARTICLE 12
FRINGE BENEFITS

12.1 Health, Medical and Dental Insurance.

The Board shall offer a medical, health, vision, and dental insurance program for full-time employees, as follows:

- a. The Board shall offer a medical, health, vision, and dental insurance program for full-time employees identical to the program offered to the Teachers' Bargaining Unit; and
- b. The cost of the insurance premiums for such coverages shall be shared by the Board and the full-time employee in the following percentages:

Until the employee completes three (3) full school years of employment with the District:

Coverage	Board Contribution Toward Premium
Single	80%
Single +1	60%
Family	50%

After three (3) full school years of employment with the District:

Coverage	Board Contribution Toward Premium
Single	90%
Single +1	70%
Family	60%

For purposes of the above rates, an employee's first year of employment will count as a full school year if the employee begins work on or before August 31.

The Insurance Committee shall meet annually or as needed to review the District's insurance program and make recommendations to the Board and Union. The Union may appoint two (2) members of the bargaining unit to participate on the District's current Insurance Committee.

12.2 Term Life Insurance.

The Board of Education shall offer term life insurance for full-time employees, with a benefit amount equal to each employee's salary, but not to exceed \$50,000. Premiums will be paid by the Board.

12.3 Long Term Disability.

The Board shall offer, at no cost to the full-time employees, a Long Term Disability policy as provided to other classified employees in the District.

12.4 Employees with Regular Workweeks of Less than Thirty-Five (35) Hours.

For an employee whose regular workweek is less than thirty-five (35) hours, the Board shall contribute towards health, medical and dental insurance, term life insurance, and long-term disability insurance on a pro-rata basis, subject to eligibility for coverage as determined by the insurance carriers.

12.5 Flexible Benefit Plan and Annuities.

All members of the bargaining unit shall be eligible for participation in the Flexible Benefit Plan in accordance with the provisions of IRC Section 125 and 129. The cost of administering this plan shall be borne by the Board, and the Board shall have the right to select the provider of the plan. Information on 403(b) and 457(b) annuities are available on the intranet.

12.6 Extra Duty Assignments.

Employees shall be eligible to apply and accept Extra Duty Assignments enumerated in the collective bargaining agreement between the Board and the Elmwood Park Educational Team ("E.P.E.T."). Bargaining unit members will be considered for an open Extra Duty Assignment after consideration is given to E.P.E.T. unit members and before the Extra Duty Assignment is offered to an outside applicant.

Employees who accept such Extra Duty Assignments and are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act's ("FLSA") overtime requirements will fulfill all of the requirements of the Extra Duty Assignment and shall be paid the stipend enumerated in the Board- E.P.E.T. agreement.

Employees who accept such Extra Duty Assignments and are not exempt from the FLSA's overtime requirements will be compensated at their normal hourly rate for the Extra Duty Assignment work, subject to the FLSA's overtime rules. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Superintendent, such employee shall cease performing an Extra Duty Assignment when the hours worked by the employee for such assignment, compensated at his/her regular hourly and overtime rate, meets the stipend amount specified in the Board- E.P.E.T. agreement. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to accurately record and timely report his/her hours worked as directed by the Business Office.

ARTICLE 13
OVERTIME & SUBSTITUTIONS

13.1 Overtime.

Overtime shall be any work performed after forty (40) hours actually worked per week. Overtime shall be paid at a rate of one and one-half times the employee's regular rate or paid at double the employees' rate for overtime work on a Sunday or holiday. Overtime must be pre-approved by an employee's supervisor.

13.2 Internal Substitution.

Any employee substituting in a position with a higher classification than his/her own shall receive the higher pay grade commencing on the fifth (5th) consecutive working day in that position and for as long thereafter as he/she continues to substitute in that position.

ARTICLE 14
VACATION

14.1 Twelve (12) month full-time employees shall be awarded vacation days in accordance with the following schedule:

For purposes of this section, a fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.

No vacation is accrued by or awarded to an employee until the employee completes two full months of service (measured from the first day of work performed in a bargaining unit position as an employee of the District, regardless of whether the employee was previously serving in a position within the District but outside of the bargaining unit).

Vacation Accrual Period:

- a. For employees who begin work on or after July 1 and before January 1: After the employee completes two full months of service and until the following July 1, the employee will accrue vacation time at the rate of one (1) vacation day per full month worked, not to exceed ten (10) days in one fiscal year.
- b. For employees who begin work on or after January 1 and before July 1: After the employee completes two full months of service and until the following July 1, then continuing through the following April 30, the employee will accrue vacation time at the rate of one (1) vacation day per full month worked, not to exceed ten (10) days in one fiscal year.

After the employee completes the Vacation Accrual Period, vacation days are awarded on July 1 as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation Days</u>
After one (1) through five (5)	10
Six (6) to twelve (12)	15
More than twelve (12)	20

- 14.2** Employees who are assigned to a twelve (12) month position who were previously employed as a 200+ day employee will receive vacation credit in their new assignment for the years they have worked in District 401 at 74%.
- 14.3** Employees who are assigned to a twelve (12) month position who were previously employed as a –200 day employee shall receive vacation credit in their new assignment for the years they have worked in District 401 at 60%.
- 14.4** On June 30, up to five (5) unused vacation days may be rolled over to the subsequent fiscal year. Vacation days rolled over but unused by the following December 31 will be forfeited. Otherwise, vacation days may not be accumulated and must be used in the year in which they were awarded or will be forfeited.
- 14.5** Holidays shall not be charged as vacation days when they occur during a vacation.

ARTICLE 15 **HOLIDAYS**

Twelve (12) month employees will be paid for fifteen (15) holidays annually as designated and approved by the Superintendent.

Employees working two hundred or more days will be paid for ten (10) holidays annually as designated and approved by the Superintendent.

Employees working less than two hundred days will be paid for nine (9) holidays annually as designated and approved by the Superintendent.

The District may require an employee to work on a school holiday during an emergency or for the continued operation and maintenance of facilities or properties.

ARTICLE 16 **SAVINGS**

Should any article, section or clause of this Agreement be declared illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction over the Board and the Union or in the event the Congress or the Legislature enacts a law in conflict with any article, section or clause of this Agreement, said article, section or clause, as the case may be, shall be deleted from this Agreement to the extent that it violates the law; but the remaining articles, sections or clauses shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement, if not affected by the deleted article, section or clause.

ARTICLE 17
TERMS OF AGREEMENT

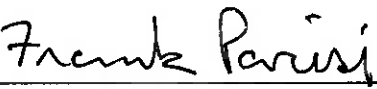
This Agreement shall become effective on July 1, 2025 and continue in effect through June 30, 2029.

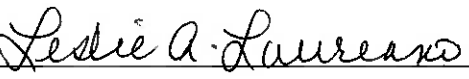
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their hands and seals as of the day and year first above below.

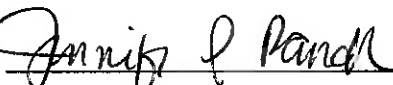
ELMWOOD PARK PSRP COUNCIL,
WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS' UNION
LOCAL NUMBER 571, IFT-AFT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELMWOOD PARK COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT 401

By: 
President

By: 
President

By: 
Secretary

Attest: 
Secretary

Date: 5/28/2025

Date: 5/28/2025