



Master Agreement

BETWEEN

The Howard County Board of Education

and

**The American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees**

Beginning July 1, 2022

and

Ending June 30, 2024

Two Year Agreement

This Master Agreement was negotiated in good faith between the Board of Education of Howard County Public Schools and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 67, Local 1899. Members of the bargaining team included:

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ARTICLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT

Section 1

Purpose

It is the purpose of this Agreement is to promote and ensure harmonious relations, cooperation and understanding between the "Board/designee" and the "Union" to ensure collective bargaining on wages, hours, and working conditions.

Section 2

Definition of Terms

The Board of Education of Howard County is hereinafter referred to as "the Board/designee."

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 67-Local 1899, is hereinafter referred to as "AFSCME" or the "Union."

Class Action/Group Grievance is a grievance filed by, or on the behalf of, more than one employee within the Unit.

An emergency can be a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous incident that has the potential to disrupt operation within the school system and which requires immediate response to protect students, employees, visitors, the school system, or property.

Employee(s) refers to all permanent, non-probationary, employees occupying the unit classifications listed in Appendix A.

Seniority means an employee's continuous regular employment with the Howard County Public School System.

"Unit" refers to the negotiating Unit composed of permanent custodial, maintenance, grounds, and warehouse employees of the Board who regularly work an average of 700 or more hours per fiscal year and who are not "confidential," exempt or newly hired probationary employees.

The Board of Education is hereinafter referred to as the "Board," which refers to the administrative offices of the Board of Education.

Section 3

Renegotiations

The Board and AFSCME agree that the terms and provisions herein contained constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersede all previous communications, representations or agreements, either verbal or written, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter herein. The Board and AFSCME agree that all negotiable items have been discussed during the negotiations leading to this Agreement and therefore, agree that negotiations will not be reopened on any item, whether contained herein or not, during the life of this Agreement except by mutual consent unless otherwise specified in Article 24 or the financial provisions of this Agreement cannot be fulfilled. If the latter, the Board and Union will renegotiate the appropriate fiscal items.

Section 4

Union Recognition

The Board recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive agent for negotiating salaries, wages, hours, and other working conditions for all eligible members of the Unit.

Section 5

Non-Discrimination

- A. The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws with regard to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, color, religious or political affiliation, and country of origin, age, or disability.
- B. The Union shall share equally with the Board the responsibility for applying this Article.
- C. The provisions of this Article shall be subject to the negotiated grievance procedure. However, should the grievance procedure fail to produce a resolution of any grievance arising under this Article, the grievance shall not be subject to arbitration, but shall be referred to the appropriate governmental agency having jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 2

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Section 1

General

The Superintendent of Schools and his designees are interested in providing for an orderly method for dealing with employee grievances. Any grievance which the employee cannot resolve in an informal manner with their immediate supervisor may be submitted through the grievance procedure. A grievance is any allegation by a classified employee that there has been a violation

or misapplication of the express provisions of this Agreement that relate to wages, salaries, hours, and other working conditions. Attendance by an employee (grievant) and one (1) authorized Union representative at a grievance meeting held during work hours shall constitute authorized absence without loss of pay.

Section 2

Procedures

It is most desirable for an employee and their immediate supervisor to resolve alleged grievances through informal communications. In the event that informal communications fail to resolve the alleged grievance, the employee may pursue one or more of the steps (in sequence) outlined in sections 3, 4, and 5.

Section 3

Step I

The employee must submit a written statement regarding the alleged grievance to their immediate supervisor within ten (10) working days following the date of the occurrence (of the alleged grievance). The employee's written statement must include:

- Name (and signature)
- Job assignment (and location)
- Description of grievance (including section of Negotiated Agreement allegedly violated)
- Remedy sought the immediate supervisor shall offer to meet with the employee within ten (10) working days after receiving the written statement from the employee.

The immediate supervisor shall respond to the employee in writing within ten (10) working days as to their disposition of the grievance. In the event that the employee is not satisfied with the supervisor's response, they may appeal the decision by following the procedures set forth in Step II. If the immediate supervisor does not respond within ten (10) working days, the employee may appeal to Step II of the grievance procedures. If the employee does not appeal to Step II within ten (10) working days, the grievance shall be deemed settled.

Section 4

Step II

Within ten (10) working days of receipt of the supervisor's response (Step I), the employee may appeal the immediate supervisor's decision to the Superintendent's designee. The appeal must be in writing. The Superintendent's designee shall arrange for a meeting with the employee within ten (10) working days after receipt of the written appeal. The Superintendent's designee shall provide a written decision pursuant to the grievance within ten (10) working days after completion of the meeting.

Section 5

Step III

In the event that the employee is not satisfied with the decision at Step II, the grievance may be submitted to arbitration under the voluntary labor arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association within 40 calendar days from the date of the decision at Step II. The arbitrator's decision concerning the disposition of the grievance shall be final and binding.

The jurisdiction and authority of the arbitrator and any opinion or award shall be confined to the express provisions of this Agreement at issue. The arbitrator shall not add to, alter, detract from, amend, or modify any provision(s) of this Agreement.

The costs of aforementioned arbitration shall be equally divided between the Union and the Board.

Section 6

Disciplinary Appeals

An employee may participate in either the grievance process regarding a disciplinary matter defined in Article 22 Employee Discipline and Discharge or participate in a 4-205 Appeal.

ARTICLE 3

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

Section 1

Terms

All new and rehired employees shall serve a probationary period of at least six (6) working months. During this period of probation, an employee may be terminated without cause. The Executive Director of Human Resources reserves the right to extend the probationary period. Written notification will be provided to the employee whose probationary period is extended beyond the normal six (6) month period. An employee's probationary period may not be extended more than six (6) months. Employees may not use earned annual or personal leave during their normal probationary period. Employees on extended probation may utilize their earned annual or personal leave.

The initial evaluation will take place no more than six (6) months from the date of hire. Any probationary employee whose performance is less than satisfactory shall be informed in writing. At least one conference identifying areas of weakness shall be held with the employee prior to the first evaluation. For an evaluation less than satisfactory, the evaluator shall provide written suggestions for improvement. Probationary employees in this context do not include those employees who are serving a new re-evaluation period due to promotion or transfer.

Section 2

Re-evaluation for Promotion

A current employee promoted into a new position or entering a new position from another bargaining unit will serve a re-evaluation period of 60 working days in the new position.

ARTICLE 4

LAYOFFS AND RECALL

Section 1

Layoffs

In the event it becomes necessary to layoff employees the layoff order shall be as follows:

1. Temporary employees, within the grade/classification
2. Probationary employees, within the classification

If a layoff involves more employees than noted in (a) and (b) above, the following criteria will be utilized:

- Needs of the school system
- Qualifications and ability of the individual
- Seniority in the school system

If the Board contracts out for work performed by Union employees and this action results in a reduction-in-force, any employee affected will be placed in the next available position in the Unit for which they are qualified. Any qualified employee's placement will occur within 30 days from when the position becomes available. An employee's salary under this provision will not be reduced for the first 12 months if the position assigned is a lower paying position.

Section 2

Surplus Employees

If an employee is declared surplus because of a school closing, the employee, if qualified, shall be placed in the first available position before a non-school system person is hired.

Section 3

Recall

Employees shall be recalled from layoff in reverse order of their layoff. No new employees within the classification of employees in the layoff status shall be hired until all employees have exercised their recall right or have been recalled.

Recall rights shall be for a period of time not to exceed two (2) years. Employees on recall status have ten (10) days from the date of notification by the Human Resources office to accept or reject a position. Rejection of the position offered constitutes an immediate forfeiture of recall rights. The employee on recall may request the option to pay 100% of health insurance premiums to continue coverage for the first 18 months on recall. Remittance of premiums shall be made on a monthly basis in advance.

Section 4

Termination or Breaks in Seniority

An employee's seniority shall be terminated for the following reasons:

- Discharge,
- Voluntary resignation,
- Retirement,
- Failure to return to work within seven (7) consecutive scheduled workdays after due notification of recall from layoff by the County, and

Layoff in excess of twenty-four (24) consecutive months since the employee's last day worked for the County or a period exceeding the length of the employee's seniority, whichever is less.

Section 5

Continuous Service Report

The Board shall maintain and submit to the Union a continuous service roster on a quarterly basis. The roster shall include the following information:

- Employee name (first and last)
- Continuous Service Date
- Job classification
- Department

ARTICLE 5

HOLIDAYS

Section 1

Holidays Recognized and Observed

Eligible employees shall receive their regular rate of pay for the holidays listed below.

- 4th of July
- Labor Day
- Rosh Hashanah (if approved in the school calendar)
- Yom Kippur (if approved in the school calendar)

- General Election Day (if approved in the school calendar)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
- Day before or day after Christmas Day as established in the school calendar
- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Presidents' Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Primary Election Day (if approved in the school calendar)

Holidays will be observed on the dates on which they fall unless noted otherwise.

If one of the holidays listed above is changed to a scheduled workday for the school system, the employee will receive a "floating" holiday for that fiscal year.

To be eligible to receive pay for a holiday, the employee must be on approved pay status on the workday immediately preceding and, on the workday, immediately following the holiday.

Section 2

Holiday Work

If an employee works on any of the above listed holidays, they shall be paid one and one-half times their hourly rate for all hours worked in addition to the regular holiday pay.

Section 3

Holidays During Leave

When a holiday falls during an employee's vacation leave, the employee shall not be charged vacation leave for said holiday. A Unit employee who accepts assigned duties or under emergency conditions is assigned duties on an observed holiday and fails to report to work without an acceptable reason, shall forfeit their holiday pay.

ARTICLE 6 VACATION/ANNUAL LEAVE

Employees eligible for annual leave shall earn annual leave based on the following schedule:

<u>Length of Service/Years</u>	<u>Number of Annual Leave Days</u>
1	12
2	15
3-6	18
7-9	19
10+	22

Annual leave shall be earned on a monthly basis according to the following schedule:

Leave Days/Annually

	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>
July	1	1	1.5	2	2
August	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.75
September	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.75
October	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2
November	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.75
December	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.75
January	1	1	1.5	2	2
February	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.75
March	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.75
April	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	2
May	1	1	1.5	1.5	1.75
June	1	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.75

Newly hired employees shall not be eligible to use annual leave until the initial probationary period has been satisfactorily completed.

Annual leave must be requested at least 24 hours in advance through the manner prescribed by the Board and approved. The 24-hour notification may be waived in emergency situations as determined by the Superintendent/designee. The disposition of leave requests shall be issued in a timely manner on the form prescribed by the Board.

Employees must request and use vacation/annual leave beginning with one (1) full hour increment and then in increments of one-half (.5) hour.

Employees on annual leave may be called back from leave for emergency reasons as determined by the Superintendent/designee. Any unused leave will be credited to the employee.

On June 30 of each year employees shall be allowed to have accrued up to two (2) times the number of annual leave days allotted. Any additional days accrued shall be converted to sick leave. Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for any unused annual leave not to exceed the aforementioned limit.

ARTICLE 7 SICK LEAVE

Section 1 Rate

Employees shall earn one (1) day per month of paid sick leave, the annual total of which shall be available at the beginning of the first duty day of the work or school year. Employees who vacate their position and who have used more sick leave than earned shall be required to reimburse the Board and/or have their pay adjusted for the appropriate number of days.

Accumulation - Unused sick leave shall accumulate from year to year without limit.

Up to ten (10) days of sick leave may be used for illness in the immediate family which also includes domestic partners registered in the state of Maryland.

Employees must request and use sick leave beginning with one (1)-full hour increment and then in increments of one-half (.5) hour.

Recognition and credit will be given for prior sick leave accumulation from a Maryland public school system, not to exceed the amount of days the employee would have been eligible to earn during a like period with the Howard County Public School System. If a Superintendent/designee has reason to believe that sick leave privileges are being abused, they may require the employee to furnish a medical certificate stating the need for leave or any period of sick leave.

Previously accumulated sick leave will be restored to all employees who return to the Howard County Public School System.

Section 2
Sick Leave Bank

Employees who have successfully completed the required probationary period shall be entitled to contribute to and belong to a sick leave bank. The enrollment period for employees shall be from September 1 to October 31 of the current year.

**ARTICLE 8
CHILD REARING LEAVE**

Members with two (2) or more consecutive years' experience with HCPSS, at their request, shall normally be granted a leave of absence for child rearing, without pay, for such a period of time as the employee requests, but not to exceed three (3) years per child and six (6) consecutive years in total. When a member returns from such leave they must work for a minimum of one (1) year before being granted an additional leave under this section.

Non-probationary Employees - Child rearing leave shall be limited to non-probationary Unit employees. Probationary employees in this context do not include those employees who are serving a new reevaluation period.

Return From Leave - The employee shall inform the Superintendent's designee, in writing, thirty (30) days prior to the time the employee wishes to return from child rearing leave or thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the child rearing leave.

Assignment After Leave - Employees returning from child rearing leave shall be assigned before new persons are hired. If assigned to an equal position, the employee will be placed on the salary step and grade achieved at the time of departure. If the employee returns to a different position, the employee will be reinstated at the appropriate grade and step for which the employee is qualified.

**ARTICLE 9
OTHER LEAVES**

Section 1
Military Leave

Leave requests for military service should be submitted to the Office of Human Resources and will be reviewed and approved in compliance with current federal law/regulation.

Eligible employees will also receive up to 15 days of paid leave per year for military training.

Section 2 Bereavement Leave

An employee shall be granted five (5) consecutive duty days of paid bereavement leave for a death in the immediate family. Immediate family shall include child, parent, spouse, sibling, domestic partner, registered in the state of Maryland parent-in-law, child-in-law, sibling-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, step-child, step-parent, step-sibling, grandparent of spouse/domestic partner registered in the state of Maryland, biological parent of the employee's child, or of anyone who has lived regularly in the household of the employee for at least two (2) years within the last five (5) years.

Upon the death of an uncle, aunt, niece or nephew the employee will be granted two (2) consecutive duty days of absence at any one time without the loss of salary.

Employees may use two (2) days of the allowable bereavement leave within 100 workdays of the relative's death.

Requests for exceptions to the provisions cited above may be submitted to the Department of Human Resources and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Section 3 Juror/Witness Leave

An employee called to serve on jury duty shall be granted paid leave of absence for the days required to perform jury duty. The employee shall notify their immediate supervisor in advance concerning dates of absences for jury duty. The Superintendent/designee may request certification of jury duty.

An employee shall be granted paid leave for a court subpoena as a witness provided the subpoena is not related to:

- any suit or litigation brought against the Board or its employees by the employee requesting leave.
- criminal charges brought against the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.
- non-work related civil or administrative proceedings wherein the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family is a party to the proceedings.

Section 4

Worker's Compensation Leave

Whenever an employee is absent from work as a result of personal injury occurring in the course of their employment, they will be paid their full salary for a compensable injury for a period not to exceed 90 workdays and with no loss of fringe benefits, and no part of such absence will be charged to their accumulated personal, annual, or sick leave. The 90-day period must occur within one year of the date of compensable injury.

The parties acknowledge that payment of workers' compensation leave under this section fully satisfies the Board's obligation to pay temporary total disability benefits under workers' compensation law, so no duplication of benefits may occur. If a workers' compensation award is made which does cover time lost during the aforementioned 90-day period, the employee will not be entitled to that award, and shall endorse it over to the Board.

If during the 90-day period the employee was granted leave from the sick bank, and it is subsequently determined that the employee was absent as a result of a compensable personal injury, the Board shall restore any used sick bank leave occurring during the aforementioned 90-day period. An employee shall not be permitted to use time granted by the AFSCME Sick Leave Bank during the period they are being paid temporary disability under the workers' compensation law.

If the employee continues on temporary total disability from workers' compensation beyond the 90 workday period, or the employee is denied the benefit of the 90 work-day period but granted temporary total disability payments, these options shall be available to them.

The employee may elect to use their earned leave or sick leave to make up the difference between Workers' Compensation benefits and their full regular salary, including any amount paid as temporary disability under workers' compensation law. The Board shall provide a supplement to the standard Workers' Compensation benefit so that the gross pay of the employee is equal to their regular gross pay. This supplemental pay will be charged against available sick leave on a pro-rated basis.

The employee may apply for General Leave under Article 9 of this agreement without affecting any benefits which may be due under the workers' compensation law.

Section 5

Personal Leave

Four (4) days of paid personal leave per year shall be provided to each employee.

Accumulation - Unused personal leave shall be allowed to be accumulated, up to a maximum of five (5) days, with no more than four (4) days to be used consecutively. Any personal leave accumulated beyond five (5) shall be converted to sick leave.

Notice - The employee will notify their supervisor twenty-four (24) hours in advance of their absence except in cases of emergency. Employees shall not be required to give reasons.

Personal leave may not be taken on the day preceding or following a holiday or vacation except upon approval of the Superintendent's designee.

Employees must request and use personal leave beginning with one (1)-full hour increment and then in increments of one-half (.5) hour.

An employee on probation shall earn personal leave. Beginning the first day of duty. Eligibility to use personal leave takes effect after completing three (3) months of probation.

Section 6 General Leave

The Superintendent/designee may grant leave without pay for up to two (2) years for unusual or imperative reasons. Employees returning from leave under this section shall be assigned before new persons are hired. Employees must have completed the required probationary period to be eligible for general leave.

Reassignment will be made when there is a vacancy for which the employee is qualified.

When the employee is reinstated, it shall be with no loss of accumulated benefits. If the employee returns to the same position, they will be reinstated at the same grade and step as prior to the leave. If the employee returns to a different position, they will be reinstated at the appropriate grade and step for which they are qualified and based on the position's pay scale.

Section 7 Study Leave

The Superintendent/designee may grant Study Leave without pay. To be eligible for Study leave without pay the employee must work two (2) years without a break in service for any reason other than FMLA. The employee can be granted up to 24 months of leave during the entire length of service.

Employees returning from leave under this section shall be assigned before new persons are hired. Employees must have completed the required probationary period to be eligible for Study Leave. Reassignment will be made when there is a vacancy for which the employee is qualified.

When the employee is reinstated, it shall be with no loss of accumulated benefits. If the employee returns to the same position, they will be reinstated at the same grade and step prior to the leave. If the employee returns to a different position, they will be reinstated at the appropriate grade and step for which they are qualified, based on the position's pay scale.

Section 8
Benefits While on Leave Without Pay

The employee on an approved leave without pay may request the option to pay 100% of health insurance premiums to continue coverage. Remittance of premiums shall be made on a monthly basis in advance.

ARTICLE 10
HOURS OF WORK

Section 1
Regular Hours

The regular daily hours of work shall be consecutive except that they may be interrupted for a lunch period. The daily hours of work shall include two (2) fifteen-minute paid breaks during the 8 hour shift, and if the normal hours are less than five (5) hours, then the daily hours of work shall include one (1) fifteen-minute paid break.

Section 2
Work Week

The regular workweek shall consist of five (5) consecutive eight (8) hour days Monday-Friday within a seven (7) day period. The regular work week may be adjusted for emergency reasons or for personnel assigned less than full time. The Superintendent/designee may also adjust the workweek to meet school system needs and shall provide the employee with two (2) weeks' notice of the change, except for emergency situations.

Any bargaining unit member assigned to work Saturday in addition to their five (5) day work week shall be compensated at an hourly rate 1-1/2 times their normal hourly rate provided that the hours worked on Saturday are above 40 hours in the work week. The Superintendent/designee shall assign volunteers for Saturday duty.

Section 3
Meal Period

All employees shall be granted a minimum of a thirty (30) minute unpaid meal period during each work shift. Whenever possible, the meal period shall be scheduled near the middle of each shift. With supervisory approval, an employee may include one of their paid fifteen (15) minute breaks with their meal period.

Section 4 Callback Time

Employees called back to work outside of their regularly scheduled shift, excluding work that is an extension of the normal workday, shall be paid for a minimum of four (4) hours' work. Callback time provisions, including the four-hour minimum compensation, will only apply when an employee handles an assignment for which they did not receive notice of prior to the end of their current work shift.

Section 5 Inclement Weather or Other Emergency

If all schools and the central office are closed for inclement weather or other emergency, employees, except for "emergency employees," shall receive their regular wages for the day and not be required to report for work. "Emergency employees" are designated by the Superintendent/designee. If an "emergency employee" has a legitimate, verifiable reason for not reporting to work they will receive their regular rate of pay for the day. A "legitimate, verifiable reason" will be determined by their supervisor.

This section is subject to the grievance process.

In the event of an individual school or office closing due to inclement weather or other emergency, members of the bargaining unit of that school or office shall be allowed to report up to one (1) hour late without loss of pay. Employees reporting to work at their regular time may be dismissed up to one (1) hour early without loss of pay.

In the event an employee is scheduled to report to work before the Superintendent/Designee announces that all schools and the central office are open for emergency employees only and does so, such employees shall receive premium pay for all hours worked.

When schools and central offices are open for emergency employees only because of inclement weather or other emergency reasons, 12-month unit members designated as emergency employees are expected to report or remain on duty unless directed not to do so by the Superintendent/designee. The supervisor in consultation with the appropriate manager will determine appropriate local staffing levels on inclement weather or emergency situations.

In the event of inclement weather or other emergency during the night shift, members of the bargaining unit may be allowed to leave work early without loss of pay if approved by the Superintendent/designee.

When the Superintendent/Designee decides that an employee who has been designated as an emergency employee has become stranded overnight at their work site due to inclement weather or other emergency, the employee shall receive an additional leave day.

The Board will make every effort to ensure that an employee is not required to operate a motor vehicle during inclement weather for more than sixteen (16) consecutive hours. Should an employee be required to operate a motor vehicle during inclement weather for sixteen (16) consecutive hours, the Board will, at its discretion, send the employee home for an eight (8) hour unpaid break or provide a place on site for the employee to rest for a minimum of four (4) hours. The hours an emergency employee is required by the Board to remain on call at the work site shall be considered time worked and paid at the premium pay rate.

The Board will make every effort to assign at least two (2) employees at a site to clear pathways and sidewalks, but it is recognized that circumstances and staffing may not make this feasible

In the event of inclement weather operations or other identified emergencies, meal allowances for Grounds, Fleet, Custodial, and Building Maintenance employees will be provided when:

1. An employee is required to work scheduled or unscheduled overtime beginning two (2) hours or more before their normal shift or lasting two (2) hours or more after their normal shift.
- or
2. Is required to work scheduled or unscheduled overtime of two (2) hours or longer on a day when they are not normally scheduled to work.

Employees may be allowed to purchase meals at a nearby location for an unpaid meal break. With the appropriate receipts, employees shall be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$18 per meal, including tips and taxes (as reflected in the MD State per diem for Lunch in Howard County determined for 2022). For operational purposes, a supervisor may require employees to eat at designated locations.

A memo identifying the reimbursement process and allotted meal allowance will be issued annually by the Office of Facilities and Operations.

The premium pay rate for inclement weather or other emergencies will be one and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's regular rate of pay.

Section 6 Filling Vacancies

The Board will make a reasonable effort to fill vacancies. The duties or work required of a unit member will not be increased unreasonably above those normally required because of staff shortage. The Board will notify the union president whenever vacancies for unit members covered by this agreement are advertised outside of the school system.

ARTICLE 11 OVERTIME/NIGHT SHIFT CLASSIFICATION

Section 1 Rate of Pay

Time and one-half the employee's hourly rate of pay shall be paid for work as follows:

- a. All work in excess of forty hours in any pay week.
- b. Any work on a holiday recognized by the Board and approved in advance.
- c. Employees shall receive a minimum of 4 hours at the overtime rate for scheduled overtime.

Section 2 Conditions

Overtime shall be voluntary except in situations as determined an emergency by the immediate supervisor. Employees assigned overtime must report for overtime duty and must fulfill the work obligation. Qualified employees at the same work site shall be provided with an opportunity, when possible, to become eligible for overtime on an equitable basis. Selection for overtime shall be made by the Superintendent/designee.

Section 3 Night Shift Premium

In addition to the regular wage rate, there will be a payment of a premium of \$.75 for hours worked by an employee on the night shift (any scheduled shift beginning between 1:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.; \$.85 for any scheduled shift beginning between 9:01 P.M. and 5:00 A.M)

Section 4 Shift Changes

The Board shall provide at least 48 hours' notice to employees whose shift will change for one (1) week or more. This notification provision may be waived by the Board under emergency situations.

Section 5 Classification

When an employee is temporarily assigned to perform the duties of a higher classification and they are officially designated for the higher classification or leadman by the Superintendent/designee, a change of pay rate to the higher classification or leadman will be paid if such assignment extends beyond four (4) consecutive workdays, to include holidays, regardless of the occurrence, with pay made retroactive to the first day of the new assignment.

Section 6 Weekend Premium

Hours worked on the weekend will be paid at the premium pay rate. Management may not alter or change a work schedule to avoid the payment of overtime.

ARTICLE 12 SAFETY AND HEALTH

Section 1 Board-Union Cooperation

The employee and the Union shall cooperate in the enforcement of safety. Unit employees shall use equipment and tools solely for the purpose for which they were designed. Employees shall exercise proper care in handling, storage, and maintenance of equipment and tools to prevent damage to the tools and injury to themselves and others.

Buildings occupied by employees will be well-maintained, properly lighted, clean, properly ventilated (adequate heating, cooling and ventilation in buildings occupied by employees), safe and healthful. The parties agree that Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health laws will be adhered to.

The Board shall provide employees with appropriate safety equipment as required by local, state and/or federal agencies for the specific job responsibilities assigned.

Section 2 Safety and Health Committee

The Board and Union will establish a joint safety committee that will focus on the safety and health of Unit employees. The committee should be represented by members of each Chapter and at least one member of management. The joint committee will meet no less than twice a year to discuss safety protocol and recommendations. The meetings will be held during working hours and participants will not be required to use Union Business leave to attend the meetings.

ARTICLE 13 DELIVERY SERVICES

Section 1 Delivery Service/Pony

The Union may utilize the inter-school courier (PONY) service and the Howard County Public Schools' email system for the distribution of its newsletter and for membership material, provided that such use does not interfere with the operation of the school system. Copies of all materials will be given to the Superintendent/designee twenty-four (24) hours prior to distribution.

However, the Union agrees not to use the inter-school courier or HCPSS' email system for the following:

- Advocacy or action on the part of employees which is contrary to policies, regulations and directives of the Board or its staff;
- Political materials or endorsements; or
- Advertising materials for business establishments or brand name materials not contained in official Union publications.

ARTICLE 14 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Section 1 Health-Medical Insurance

Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance

For employees with a start date on or before June 30, 2011, the Board shall pay eighty-six percent (86%) of the premium cost of a group medical plan including prescription drugs for the employee and covered eligible dependents(s).

For employees with a start date on or after July 1, 2011, and on/or before June 30, 2021, the Board shall pay eighty-five percent (85%) of the premium cost of a group medical plan including prescription drugs for each employee and eligible dependent(s).

For employees with a continuous service date on or after July 1, 2021, the Board shall pay eighty-four percent (84%) of the premium cost of a group medical plan including prescription drugs for the employee and covered eligible dependents(s).

The co-pay for medical specialists will increase by \$5 beginning in plan year 2022.

For reference purposes only - Effective January 1, 2022, the Board intends to offer a “high-deductible” health plan in addition to HMO and PPO plans.

The selection and removal of health, dental, and/or vision carriers and their respective plans is at the Board’s discretion.

The Board will establish a committee, to include representation from all bargaining units, to provide input on the HCPSS health benefits program. See Appendix B “Benefits Advisory Committee”

Information on health, dental, and/or vision plans will be made available to eligible employees during the Open Enrollment Period.

The selection of optional benefits is an irrevocable election for the entire Plan Year except the election may be revoked and a new selection of benefits made if the employee has a qualifying life event. This applies not only to participation in the insured programs, but also to the level of participation in the Dependent Care Account and the Health Care Spending Account.

Each open enrollment period is established by the Board.

Participants in the Dependent Care Account must meet tax law requirements in order to participate in this plan. Contributions may only be used to reimburse an employee for expenses actually incurred during the Plan Year for which they were contributed. Any amounts remaining in the Dependent Assistance Account at the end of the Plan Year will be forfeited.

The Health Care Spending Account will operate similar to the Dependent Care Account. The most important facts are that amounts contributed may only be used to reimburse expenses incurred during the Plan Year for which they were contributed, and amounts remaining at the end of the Plan Year will be forfeited.

Total employee contributions to the Dependent Care Account and/or Health Care Spending Account will be prorated on a per-pay basis.

Employees hired during the Plan Year will have thirty (30) days from their date of hire to enroll in benefit options. This election will be in effect for the remainder of the Plan Year (except for a qualified life status change creating a special enrollment period for individuals who did not enroll in a group health plan when they were first eligible due to the existence of alternative coverage.

Employees with at least 15 years of cumulative service with HCPSS, are retiring with the Maryland State Retirement Pension System, and are enrolled in one of the school system’s medical, prescription, dental, and/or vision plans for at least one full year immediately prior to retirement date, are eligible for a Board contribution towards the cost of retiree coverage in accordance with the HCPSS Benefits Enrollment Guide for Retirees.

Section 2

Group Life Insurance

The Board shall pay the full cost for group life insurance protection equal to an employee's base salary (to the nearest thousand), with a minimum of ten thousand (\$10,000) to the employee's designated beneficiary upon death, and, in the event of accidental death, a sum not less than two times the amount.

Section 3

Uniform Allotment

Upon the completion of their probationary period, an employee shall be provided eight (8) sets of uniforms, of which up to three (3) pairs of pants may be winter (lined pant leg). Employees may substitute a sweatshirt for an item or items of equal value. Additionally, the Board will provide an annual \$135 allowance for approved inclement weather apparel (i.e., snow boots, insulated gloves, and insulated overalls) for Grounds, Fleet, Custodial, and Building Maintenance employees that perform snow removal duties. The Board shall make provisions to have these uniforms tailored. Employees issued uniforms shall be required to wear the uniforms to work and maintain them in good order. Uniforms found by the Board to be unserviceable due to fair wear and tear shall be replaced at no cost to the employee. In the event that uniforms are not available to a particular employee, the union president shall be notified in writing. Employees who have uniforms that have been determined by the Board to be unserviceable that have not been replaced, shall not receive any disciplinary action. In the event that the Board adopts a "Casual Friday Policy," the Board will adopt provisions that will accommodate employees required to wear uniforms.

Section 4

Tuition Reimbursement

The Board shall reimburse tuition costs for courses employees take to improve skills necessary for their job and/or advancement if the courses are approved in advance and completed satisfactorily. The total lifetime maximum amount of reimbursement that any employee shall be eligible for will be \$10,000.

ARTICLE 15 UNION RIGHTS

Section 1 Dues Deduction

For those employees who become members of the Union and who properly execute payroll deduction authorization cards, the Employer agrees to withhold from their paycheck each pay period the regular Union dues, P.E.O.P.L.E deductions, Union authorized supplemental insurance, or other Union authorized deductions in the amount certified to the Employer by the Union. Such withholdings are to be transmitted via electronic fund transfer to the account authorized by the comptroller of AFSCME Council 67, on a bi-weekly basis. The Union will notify the Employer at least 30 days prior to any change in such dues or fees. Membership lists and bargaining unit lists shall be remitted monthly via email, in excel format, to an email authorized by the Comptroller of AFSCME Council 67.

Payroll deduction of dues is continuing, and cancellation of individual dues can be affected only by written notice to the Union via certified mail postmarked between June 1 and June 10 to be completed for submission to the HCPSS on or before June 30 in the last year of the Agreement.

Membership shall be for the duration of the Agreement. The Union's mailing address is:

Executive Director
AFSCME Council 67/Local 1899
1410 Bush Street, Suite A
Baltimore, MD 21230

The Union shall indemnify and hold the Employer harmless of any and all claims, grievances, actions, suits, or other forms of liability or damages that arise out of or by reason of any action taken by the Employer for the purpose of complying with any provision of this Article, and the Union assumes full responsibility for the disposition of the funds deducted under this Article as soon as they have been remitted by the Employer to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Council 67.

Section 2 Non-discrimination

The Board agrees not to discriminate or take reprisals against any member solely for the reason of their membership or participation in the Union. The Union agrees to represent all eligible employees in a fair and equitable manner.

The Union recognizes its responsibility as bargaining agent and agrees to represent all employees in the Unit in a fair and equitable manner.

The Union shall indemnify and save the Board harmless of and from any and all claims, grievances, actions, and suits or other forms of liability or damages arising out of, or by reason of, any action taken by the Board for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of this article.

Section 3 Visitation Privileges for Union Representatives

Authorized representatives of the Union, after showing the proper credentials to the principal or to the person in charge at a work location, shall be permitted to meet with unit members on school grounds provided these visits are before or after required working hours. AFSCME shall provide the Board with the names of these authorized representatives prior to the effective date of this agreement and shall advise the Board in writing of changes in these names after the date.

Section 4 Use of Equipment/Supplies/Facilities for Union Business

Union representatives and Unit members shall be prohibited from utilizing Board equipment, supplies, and materials for Union business. The Union may utilize school facilities without cost for meetings at reasonable times provided application is made and approval is granted, and the use of the building shall not result in any additional cost to the Board. The principal/supervisor of the building in question will be notified in advance of the time and place of all such meetings.

Section 5 Union Business

The Superintendent/designee recognizes no more than a total of eight (8) shop stewards and the Union president and their designees in matters relating to this agreement provided that any Union business conducted during the assigned workday is:

Approved in advance by the Superintendent/designee.

Deducted from an annual allocation of fifty (50) Union business leave days.

The Superintendent/designee may also communicate with employees represented by the Union with regard to this agreement or other matters of mutual interest.

Section 6 Union Business Leave

The Board shall grant leave with pay and benefits for employees designated by the Union for approved Union business. On or before July 1 of each year the Union shall furnish a list of employees to the Board who are designated as shop stewards or the Union president.

Section 7 Leave Allocation

Any additional Union business not noted previously and conducted during the employee's assigned workday shall be charged to the employee's annual or personal leave allocation, if approved in accordance with the approval provisions of annual or personal leave.

Section 8 Unit Employees

The Board shall provide the Union with a list of all Unit employees with work locations and assignments on or about the first of each month.

Section 9 Board Materials

The Board shall electronically make available Board agendas, minutes, and/or other Union-related materials that are available to the public.

Section 10 Bulletin Boards

The Board shall provide bulletin boards at each worksite or establish a means for the Union to share an existing bulletin board.

Section 11 Regulatory Provisions

The Superintendent/designee shall electronically make available regulatory provisions that change during the agreement period.

Section 12 Employee Orientation

A Union representative shall be permitted to address new employees at a designated time and place provided that the time, place, and duration of the meeting are approved by the Superintendent/designee. Attendance by the employee is voluntary.

Section 13
Other Provided Material

1. The Union president or their designee shall receive a copy of all circulars.
2. Bargaining unit members shall be provided with a copy of their job description at the time of their initial employment.
3. The Superintendent/designee shall electronically post any Board of Education policy that has been revised.

Section 14
Changes in Position or Salary

The Union shall be notified of any new position in the bargaining unit and any existing position that is reclassified.

All Board of Education policies, regulations and procedures will be made available electronically.

ARTICLE 16
PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS

Section 1
Promotion

All vacant promotional jobs shall be advertised in writing, posted on the HCPSS website and/or email system. All current employees shall be eligible, depending upon their qualifications, to be considered for any promotional position. The Board will encourage supervisors to interview current employees, depending upon their qualifications, for any promotional position. Consideration will be given to at least the following in determining promotions:

- Needs of the school system
- Qualifications and ability of the individual
- Seniority
- Satisfactory Performance Evaluation

If an employee is denied a promotion more than two (2) times during a 12-month period, the employee at their discretion, may request a meeting with the Superintendent/designee to discuss means to improve the employee's opportunity for future promotions.

Any employee who is promoted to a position of higher pay who must remain in their current position because a replacement is pending shall receive the new salary ten (10) working days from the date of the promotion.

Section 2 Involuntary Transfer

If it becomes necessary for the Superintendent/designee to transfer an employee, the selection of employees for transfer shall be made by the Superintendent/designee provided that in making such selection the Superintendent/designee shall give consideration to:

- Needs of the school system
- Qualifications and ability of the individual
- Seniority

Employees selected for involuntary transfer shall have no reduction to their base pay.

Section 3 Voluntary Transfer

Employees who desire to transfer to another building or department must request a transfer on the prescribed form. Voluntary transfer requests will be processed within 30 days of receipt and the employee will receive notification from the Office of Human Resources or the appropriate department concerning the request. In the voluntary transfer selection process involving more than one (1) employee, consideration shall be given to:

- Needs of the school system
- Qualifications and ability of the individual
- Seniority
- Satisfactory Performance Evaluation

ARTICLE 17 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Unit members' use of a private automobile for authorized and approved transportation while on duty shall be reimbursed for mileage in accordance with the established IRS rate, regulations and the HCPSS Employee Expense Reimbursement Manual. Day chief floaters may request reimbursement for the use of their private automobile for mileage between the assigned school/department and any different location assigned by the Custodial Department Manager. Day chief floaters assigned to retrieve keys shall also be eligible for reimbursement for the appropriate mileage upon approval.

ARTICLE 18 WORK STOPPAGE

For the duration of this Agreement neither AFSCME nor any Union member shall engage in, direct, or sponsor a strike and/or participate in any work stoppage, sickout, or work slowdown.

ARTICLE 19 PERSONNEL FILES

All items entered in a Unit member's personnel file in the Human Resources office after July 1, 1987, except confidential references, shall be open for inspection to that employee by appointment. The file in the Human Resources office shall be designated as the official personnel file. Employees have the right to respond in writing to information contained in their file. The employee, upon request, shall be entitled to one (1) copy of the information provided that the information was not previously made available.

ARTICLE 20 EVALUATION

Section 1 Purpose

The parties agree that the primary purposes of the evaluation process are to measure and improve employee performance in accordance with performance standards established by the Superintendent/designee. The Board and the Union agree that any change in the evaluation instrument and/or system shall be developed collaboratively.

Section 2 Timeline

Within five (5) workdays of the completion of the employee's evaluation, a copy of the evaluation shall be provided to the employee. The employee will have five (5) days to review their performance appraisal and provide questions and/or comments to management.

Section 3 Comments

The employee shall have the right to attach any comments they want to attach to the evaluation materials.

Section 4 Performance

The initial evaluation will take place no more than six (6) months from the date of hire. Any employee whose performance is less than satisfactory shall be informed in writing. At least one conference identifying areas of weakness shall be held with the employee prior to the initial or year-end evaluation. For any evaluation less than satisfactory, the evaluator shall provide written suggestions for improvement.

Section 5 Evaluation Signature

The evaluation must be signed by the immediate supervisor and the second-line supervisor. The employee is only required to sign the evaluation as an acknowledgment of receipt. Once an evaluation has been signed by all Parties, the evaluation is deemed final and cannot be changed without written consent from all Parties.

ARTICLE 21 WAGES

Section 1 Wage Schedule

During FY23 employees shall be compensated in accordance with the salary schedules attached to this Agreement and marked Appendix B-2 and Appendix B-3. The attached wage schedule shall be considered a part of this Agreement.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 2012, will receive credit for related work experience as determined by the Superintendent/Designee up to the midpoint on the appropriate salary scale. Employees hired on or after April 1 shall not be eligible for any increment negotiated for the subsequent fiscal year.

Section 2 Pay Period

The salaries and wages of employees shall be paid bi-weekly. All employees hired after July 1, 2005, will be required to sign up for direct deposit or obtain a money card.

When banks are closed on the regularly scheduled pay date, the Board shall distribute checks on the nearest working day prior to the scheduled pay date.

ARTICLE 22

EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

1. No unit member will be discharged without just cause. This shall not apply to the discharge of a probationary employee.
2. Employees covered under this agreement shall be afforded due process in the handling of disciplinary actions.
3. A policy of progressive discipline will normally be utilized; however, where the offense is deemed to be serious some steps may be waived.
4. Normal progressive discipline will consist of oral warning, written warning, letter of reprimand, suspension, and discharge. When appropriate a demotion or action plan could be used in conjunction with progressive discipline.
5. Any investigation and subsequent proceedings will be handled in a manner that assures appropriate confidentiality and protection of the subject unit member.
6. An employee may be represented by the Union at any hearing or meeting that could result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee. Management will attempt to provide no less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice of a disciplinary hearing or meeting.
7. The employee and the Union (Local 1899) President/designee will be advised with written or electronic notification, that disciplinary action is being considered. Notification should include the date and time of the meeting or hearing, the right to Union representation at the meeting or hearing, and the general nature of the allegation that will be discussed at the meeting or hearing.
8. Copies of the evidence will be provided upon request by the Union and/or employee. Evidence will be released in compliance with privacy laws. If the evidence requires redaction for privacy concerns or requires technical assistance, consideration should be made. The request to preview or for copies of the evidence will not result in a delay of a disciplinary or due process meeting or hearing if the evidence is reviewed at the meeting or hearing, and the employee is given the opportunity to respond to the evidence.
9. The Board is not obligated to postpone the meeting or hearing with the employee nor to suggest or secure alternate representation if the individual union representative requested is unavailable.
10. When a suspension, demotion, or discharge is being recommended, the employee will receive written or electronic notification.
11. In the event that an employee is absolved of charges, said employee may be reinstated to their position with the Board. Such reinstatement shall be without loss of seniority, retirement credit or pay. Salary for the period missed shall be less any unemployment compensation received, salary from other sources during the period missed and any Board payment for leave during that period.

ARTICLE 23

LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose

The intent of the Labor/Management Committee is to provide a forum for discussing and attempting to resolve non-negotiated matters of mutual concern of the parties. The parties may also attempt to resolve differences of interpretation of negotiated matters. However, it is recognized that the Labor/Management Committee is not a substitute for a grievance procedure. Additionally, it is recognized that neither party will submit or otherwise seek modifications of any negotiated term or condition of the agreement through the Labor/Management Committee and no bargaining will take place.

Membership

Standing members of the Labor/Management Committee will include the president of the union, another representative of the union to be determined by the president, a representative from AFSCME Council 67, the Superintendent or designee, chief business officer and chief negotiator for the Board. At any meeting of the Labor/Management Committee, either party may be represented by up to four additional members. Both parties may rotate these members in order to accommodate discussion of scheduled agenda items at meetings.

Chairperson

The Labor/Management Committee will be co-chaired with a member of Management and the Union jointly servicing as Chairpersons.

Minutes

Management and the Union will each designate a representative to take notes/minutes or use an electronic rolling agenda that is available to all participants in attendance.

Date, Time and Agenda of the Meetings

Meetings may be called at the request of either party. Meetings will be requested a minimum of two weeks in advance along with the proposed agenda items of the requesting party. Proposed agendas should normally be limited to two hours and shall include the topics along with a brief description. Topics not on the agenda will not be discussed. However, it is recognized that either party may initiate a topic not on the agenda provided that the other party concurs that it is of an emergency nature or a current item that would be of benefit to be discussed as soon as possible.

General Guidelines

As time permits, each topic will be discussed fully and recommendations made on the topic before proceeding to another topic. Topics requiring further study may be tabled and brought for further discussion at a future meeting. If there is no mutually satisfactory decision reached on a topic, no recommendation will be made.

ARTICLE 24 EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

Section 1 Length of Agreement

This agreement shall become effective as of July 1, 2022 and shall continue in full force and effect until June 30, 2024 with a reopener for wages and one (1) section item each by the Union and Board for the 2023-24 school year.

The Board and the Union agree that with the exceptions of the Articles stated above, all negotiable items have been discussed during negotiations leading to this agreement. During the term of this agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any matter, with the exception of the Articles stated above whether or not covered by this agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both parties at the time they negotiated or executed this agreement.

On or before January 6, the Union and Board will make a reasonable effort to reopen negotiations unless a later date is mutually acceptable to both parties.

Section 2 Special Provisions

In the case of a national emergency, catastrophic event, epidemic, and/or pandemic, Management or the Union may request to reopen the appropriate revisions to safeguard the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

Section 3 Savings Clause


In the event any subject, article, section, or portion of the Agreement shall be held invalid and unenforceable by any court, the Maryland State Board of Education, or higher authority of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall apply only to the specific article, section, or portion thereof specified in the decision; and, upon issuance of such a decision, the Board and the Union may agree to negotiate a substitute for the invalidated article, section, or portion thereof except

as renegotiations are provided for in Article 1-Section 3 of this contract and/or the Public School Laws of Maryland in the event the Board cannot implement the proposed salary schedules that become effective on July 1, 2022 the Board and Union will meet to renegotiate monetary and language issues.


In witness whereof, the parties hereunto set their hands and seals this 23 day of June 2023.

Howard County Board of Education by:


Board of Education Chairperson


Superintendent

AFSCME, Council 67, Local 1899


President


Vice President

APPENDIX A

Bargaining Unit Composition

The following positions comprise the bargaining unit for AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL 67 – LOCAL 1899¹:

Boiler Burner Specialist II	Irrigation Service
Boiler/Burner Specialist I	Technician/Groundskeeper
Carpenter I	IT Asset Administrator
Carpenter I Building Maintenance	Journeyman Plumber
Carpenter II	Lead Plumber
Carpenter II Building Maintenance	Leadman Carpenter Building Maintenance
Carpentry Shop Lead	Leadman Custodian Specialist
Computer Technician	Leadman Electric Shop Building Services
Coordinator Maintenance Inv BI	Leadman Grounds
Custodial Day Floater Supervisor	Leadman HVAC Building Maintenance
Custodial Day Supervisor Floater	Leadman Mechanic Fleet
Custodial Day Supervisor I	Leadman Wiring
Custodial Floater Supervisor	Locksmith - Hardware Technician
Custodian Day Supervisor II	Maintenance Control Specialist II
Custodian Day Supervisor III	Maintenance Worker Custodial Services
Custodian Floater Supervisor	Master Electrician
Custodian Night Floater Supervisor	Master Electrician Building Maintenance
Custodian Night Supervisor I	Master Plumber
Custodian Night Supervisor II	Materials Handler
Custodian, Day Building Supervisor	Materials Handler Warehouse
Custodian, Day Supervisor I	Mechanic
Custodian, Night Supervisor I	Mechanic Preventive Maintenance
Custodian, Night Supervisor II	Mechanic Preventive Maintenance I
Day Custodian	Mechanic, School Bus Safety Inspector
Day Custodian Floater	Network Wiring/Audio Visual Technician
Day Custodian Floater Supervisor	Network Wiring/AV Technician
Electrician Building Maintenance	Night Building Supervisor II
Emergency Generator Technician	Night Custodial
Fire Extinguisher Service Technician	Night Custodial Floater
Grounds	Night Custodian Supervisor I
Grounds Work Leader	Night Custodian Supervisor II
Groundskeeper I	Night Custodian, Floater
Groundskeeper II	Night Custodian, Specialist
HVAC Apprentice	Night Leadman Custodial Specialist
HVAC Master Mechanic	Night Maintenance Worker Custodial
HVAC T	Services

Painter
Plumber Journeyman
Plumber Journeyman Building Maintenance
Plumber/Water Treatment Specialist
Press Operator II
Preventative Maintenance Mechanic I
Roof Mechanic I
Roof Mechanic II

Security & Safety Electronics Technician,
Lead Person
Security and Safety Electronics Worker
Stock Clerk
Technical Personnel
Technician AV Electronics
Technician HVAC Building Maintenance
Technician Electronics Building
Maintenance

¹ The positions listed include duplicates and position titles no longer in use. The list could contain errors, to include positions that are not part of the Union. HCPSS and the Union will work together to create an updated and more accurate list.

APPENDIX B-1

BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board agrees to establish a Benefits Advisory Committee to provide recommendations into maintaining quality and affordable benefits. It is understood that the recommendations of the committee do not constitute negotiations and are only advisory.

The focus of the committee shall be to:

- A. Make recommendations on cost containment strategies;
- B. Study, discuss and recommend possible plan design changes and rate setting;
- C. Develop strategies to educate employees regarding benefit plans;
- D. Make recommendations on the insurance fund balance/reserve;
- E. Make recommendations on the HCPSS budget mark for funding employee benefits;
- F. Evaluate insurance vendor bids;
- G. Participate in benefit bid process;
- H. Review monthly reports of claims data compared to the projection of costs to be aware of the trends.

The Benefits Advisory Committee will be provided with full access, within HIPAA guidelines, to plan utilization and vendor performance, outcome and cost data, including vendor contracts, to facilitate their work towards increasing market transparency and reducing costs.

The Benefits Advisory Committee will meet at least six (6) times per year. The committee will report to the Chief Business and Technology Officer on its work as needed. A copy of their report(s) will be forwarded to the Association/Union president for possible use in negotiations.

The composition of the committee will include up to three (3) representatives appointed by and representing the Board, one (1) representative from each bargaining unit within the Association/Union (e.g., HCEA-Certificated and HCEA-ESP) appointed by the President who is a current employee or the president may appointment themselves, one (1) representative from each of the other employee groups appointed by their president or the president may appoint themselves, and one (1) person representing the retired employees' association.

The Association/Union representative appointed to the committee shall be released from their duties, if necessary, for meetings of the committee without loss of salary whenever such meetings are held during the duty day.

Once appointed, the Committee will elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from the employee/retiree representatives group. The committee shall develop operational procedures to assist them in their work, which may include subject matter experts, to support the focus of the committee as indicated above.

APPENDIX B-2

(Audio Visual / Grounds / Maintenance / Warehouse Salary Scale)

FISCAL YEAR 2023										
(EFFECTIVE July 1, 2022)										
GRADE	I	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI
Step										
1	15.88	17.34	18.13	19.00	19.83	20.71	21.68	22.64	23.62	24.72
2	16.52	18.03	18.85	19.77	20.62	21.53	22.55	23.55	24.57	25.72
3	17.08	18.78	19.58	20.51	21.45	22.41	23.44	24.49	25.57	26.74
4	17.48	19.21	20.08	21.04	21.98	22.95	23.99	25.10	26.22	27.40
5	17.72	19.51	20.36	21.28	22.21	23.21	24.26	25.37	26.47	27.71
6	17.95	19.76	20.58	21.53	22.49	23.45	24.49	25.61	26.73	27.92
7	18.17	19.96	20.85	21.81	22.76	23.76	24.88	26.00	27.17	28.41
8	18.61	20.46	21.40	22.31	23.32	24.38	25.51	26.64	27.80	29.08
9	19.05	20.94	21.85	22.83	23.89	24.95	26.12	27.23	28.50	29.80
10	20.00	21.92	22.92	23.94	25.02	26.14	27.36	28.53	29.83	31.16
11	20.96	23.05	24.15	25.15	26.32	27.50	28.74	30.04	31.42	32.82
12	22.02	24.21	25.26	26.42	27.64	28.81	30.12	31.53	32.94	34.44
13	22.88	25.12	26.29	27.47	28.72	30.02	31.41	32.79	34.28	35.75
14	23.58	25.92	27.11	28.35	29.60	30.95	32.33	33.76	35.35	36.96
15	24.50	26.96	28.17	29.44	30.80	32.14	33.60	35.09	36.67	38.34
16	25.11	27.65	28.85	30.18	31.54	32.95	34.45	35.99	37.58	39.32
17	25.40	27.96	29.20	30.51	31.91	33.33	34.74	36.38	38.12	39.67
18	26.27	28.80	30.12	31.48	32.92	34.36	35.92	37.53	39.22	40.98
19	26.51	29.08	30.42	31.78	33.22	34.72	36.23	37.89	39.61	41.37
20	26.75	29.38	30.68	32.06	33.56	35.04	36.61	38.26	39.98	41.76
21	27.03	29.67	30.96	32.33	33.83	35.32	36.89	38.54	40.27	42.05
22	27.34	29.95	31.26	32.64	34.13	35.62	37.17	38.83	40.55	42.34
23	27.88	30.55	31.88	33.28	34.81	36.34	37.93	39.61	41.37	43.19
Over 23	28.48	31.16	32.51	33.93	35.48	36.99	38.62	40.31	42.10	43.94

Leadman Responsibility: Personnel designated as leadmen will have the index outlined below applied to their salary.

- Less than 5 employees - 12%
- 5 to 10 employees - 14%
- More than 10 employees - 16%

Longevity Pay

\$.50 per hour - 15 to 19 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$.90 per hour - 20 to 24 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.25 per hour - 25 to 29 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.50 per hour - 30 to 34 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.75 per hour - 35 or more years of service with the Howard County Public School System

• Longevity payments are not cumulative from year-to-year. • Employees hired before April 1 of a fiscal year will be granted a full year toward longevity.

Licensure: Employees who hold a CDL Class A license and are required to operate vehicles that require this license will receive a payment of \$.50 per hour.

APPENDIX B-3
(Custodial Salary Scale)

FISCAL YEAR 2023						
(EFFECTIVE July 1, 2022)						
GRADE	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Step						
1	15.61	16.14	16.70	17.30	17.94	18.58
2	16.23	16.79	17.37	17.99	18.66	19.32
3	16.43	17.01	17.60	18.27	19.35	20.08
4	16.63	17.20	17.82	18.66	19.60	20.58
5	16.83	17.39	18.05	18.92	19.86	20.83
6	17.04	17.60	18.28	19.11	20.08	21.04
7	17.23	17.79	18.46	19.42	20.37	21.40
8	17.43	18.03	18.93	19.86	20.85	21.87
9	17.64	18.46	19.42	20.37	21.40	22.46
10	18.44	19.39	20.34	21.39	22.41	23.55
11	19.39	20.34	21.39	22.41	23.55	24.69
12	20.34	21.39	22.41	23.55	24.69	25.92
13	21.11	22.19	23.23	24.47	25.69	26.94
14	21.79	22.83	23.97	25.15	26.43	27.76
15	22.60	23.75	24.96	26.22	27.52	28.88
16	23.20	24.36	25.59	26.86	28.21	29.60
17	23.50	24.65	25.85	27.18	28.53	29.94
18	24.35	25.52	26.75	28.12	29.47	30.96
19	24.56	25.75	27.03	28.36	29.77	31.28
20	24.81	26.01	27.26	28.64	30.06	31.56
21	25.08	26.28	27.56	28.92	30.35	31.83
22	25.37	26.57	27.84	29.23	30.63	32.13
23	25.88	27.12	28.39	29.80	31.25	32.77
Over 23	26.45	27.68	29.00	30.41	31.86	33.41

Leadman Responsibility: Personnel designated as leadman will have the index outlined below applied to their salary.

•Less than 5 employees - 12% •5 to 10 employees - 14% • More than 10 employees - 16%

Day Building Supervisor III: Personnel designated as Day Building Supervisor III will have a 10% index applied to their salary.

Longevity Pay

\$.50 per hour - 15 to 19 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$.90 per hour - 20 to 24 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.25 per hour - 25 to 29 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.50 per hour - 30 to 34 years of service with the Howard County Public School System

\$ 1.75 per hour - 35 or more years of service with the Howard County Public School System

•Longevity payments are not cumulative from year-to-year.

•Employees hired before April 1 of a fiscal year will be granted a full year toward longevity.

Licensure: Employees who hold a CDL Class A license and are required to operate vehicles that require this license will receive a payment of \$.50 per hour.

APPENDIX B-4

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Payroll deductions will be available at the request of the individual employee for:

- AFSCME Dues
- AFSCME Member Supplemental Insurance (SF&C)
- AFSCME P.E.O.P.L.E.
- Credit Union
- Educators' Financial Group
- Hospitalization, Health, Major Medical
- MD State Retirement and Pension System
- Tax sheltered annuities as established by the Board of Education based on criteria developed by the Board of Education. It is understood the companies agree to cooperate with the Board in the collection procedures.
- United Teacher Association Insurance
- United Way (including Bright Minds Foundation)
- Voluntary Benefits