Agreement

Ashburnham-Westminster
Regional School Committee

and

Ashburnham-Westminster
Teachers' Association

July 2016 - June 2019
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PART I -- CONTRACT

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of Massachusetts, this CONTRACT is made effective the 1st day of July 2016 by the ASHBURNHAM-WESTMINSTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Committee) and the ASHBURNHAM-WESTMINSTER TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Association).

A. PREAMBLE
Recognizing that our prime purpose is to provide education of the highest possible quality for the children of ASHBURNHAM and WESTMINSTER and that good morale within the teaching staffs of all schools is essential to achievement of that purpose, we the undersigned parties to the Contract declare that:

1. The Regional School Committee hereinafter referred to as the “Committee” has the responsibility to review and approve the annual budget; establish educational goals; and, establish policies in the district consistent with the requirements of law and statewide goals and standards established by the Board of Education. The Committee recognizes that the Association does not waive its collective bargaining rights in these matters.

2. The Superintendent of Schools of the Ashburnham-Westminster School Regional District has responsibility for carrying out the policies established by the Committee; all matters related to employment; and, the care and supervision of the Regional School District.

3. The education staff of the Regional School District has the responsibility for providing supervision and education of the highest quality for the students.

4. Fulfillment of these respective responsibilities can be accomplished by a free exchange of views and information between the parties.

B. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
For the purpose of collective bargaining with respect to wages, hours, and other conditions of employment, the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, and any question arising hereunder, the Committee recognizes the Association as the exclusive bargaining agent and representative of the following employees of the Regional District:

1. Teachers employed on contract year basis;
2. Adjustment Counselors;
3. Early Childhood Coordinator;
4. Guidance Director and Counselors;
5. Health Coordinator;
6. Librarians;
7. Life Skills Program Director;
8. Psychologists;
9. Reading Specialists;
10. School Nurses and Nurse Supervisor;
11. School to Career Coordinator;
12. Special Education Chairperson;
13. Speech and Language Pathologist;
14. Transition Coordinator
15. Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

C. DURATION
This Contract shall continue in effect to and including June 30, 2016, with the following provisions:

1. Before October 15th next prior to the expiration date of this contract, either the Committee or Association may give the other written notice of its desire to modify or terminate this contract as of the expiration date thereof.

If after any such notice the Committee and the Association shall have failed to reach agreement on a new contract by the following April 1st, either party or the parties jointly may petition the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration to initiate fact finding in accordance with Section 9 of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

2. The Committee and or Association may open the contract for discussion of one non-monetary item each year.

3. Any portion of this contract may be opened for discussion prior to the expiration date thereof by mutual agreement of the Committee and Association. This request will be made in writing.
D. COMPENSATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

1. Wages, hours, and other conditions of employment shall be as provided hereinafter in this Contract.

2. A rate of forty dollars ($40.00) an hour shall apply for all hours of after-school or summer work requested by an administrator:

3. PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Part-time employees, who are required to attend professional development programs (during times that extend beyond days that are already built into part-time salaries) will be compensated at the per diem rate. Partial days will be pro-rated.

The actual number of days required to teach, and the number of days for professional development programs will be determined during the hiring process by the superintendent.

Example: 0.5 FTE= 92.5 full days broken down as follows:

88.75 days of classroom teaching time
2.50 days of full-day professional development.
1.25 days of half-day professional development.

Therefore, 3.75 total days of professional development are included in the salary schedule of a 0.5 FTE teacher.

4. The Committee and the Superintendent are vested with powers provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or any rule or regulation of any agency of the Commonwealth and nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to derogate from or impair any power, right or duty conferred upon the Committee or the Superintendent by statute or any rule or regulations of any agency of the Commonwealth. As to every matter not specifically mentioned or provided for in this Agreement, the Committee and the Superintendent retain all the powers and rights, and duties they have by law and may exercise the same at their discretion without any such exercise being made the subject of a grievance and proceeding hereunder.

As to every matter not specifically mentioned or provided for in this Contract, the Committee retains the powers and duties conferred upon it by Law and may act upon the same without being subject to mediation, fact finding or arbitration under this Contract, provided however, this article shall not be construed to mean that any employee who may be aggrieved by the exercise of any such power by the Committee shall be prevented from protesting and taking up such matter with any superior including the School Committee with a view toward securing a modification or revocation of the action protested, provided further however, that any decision thereafter made by the School Committee which does not involve the interpretation or application of any specific provision of the contract with respect to such matter shall be final. The procedure to be followed by an employee who may feel aggrieved by exercise of the Committee's powers referred to in this paragraph is as follows:

E. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

1. **Definition**--Any claim or complaint by the Association or one or more members thereof that there has been a violation, misrepresentation, or misapplication of this Agreement relating to wages, hours, or other conditions of employment shall be a grievance, but, matters covered by applicable law or by regulation of any agency having jurisdiction over the parties hereto shall not be deemed a grievance.

2. **Purpose**--The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible administrative level, equitable solutions to problems, which may from time to time arise under this Agreement affecting the working conditions of employees covered by this Agreement. Both parties agree that these proceedings shall be kept as informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.

3. **Informal Procedure**--Nothing herein contained shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee covered by this Agreement having a grievance to discuss that matter informally with any
appropriate member of the administration, and to have the grievance adjusted on such a basis without bringing in the Association, provided the adjustment is not inconsistent with the terms of the Agreement. A written copy of the adjustment shall be forwarded to the AWTA President and AWTA Grievance Chairperson and the Superintendent from both parties within five (5) school days of the decision. At the option of the employee covered by this Agreement, a representative of the Association will be given the opportunity to be present at the conclusion of the informal procedure and to state its views. It is understood that only by the procedure delineated in Section 4. below may a party proceed to Level Four Arbitration.

4. Formal Procedure

Level One: Principal

An employee covered by this Agreement who has a grievance will first set forth his/her grievance in writing on the Grievance Report attached to this Agreement and submit to the principal within ten (10) school days from the date of the event or events giving rise to the grievance or within ten (10) school days from the date the grievant was aware of or reasonably should have been aware of the event or events giving rise to the grievance, but not to exceed sixty (60) school days from the event or events giving rise to grievance. For the purposes of this Article, a school day is defined as a day school is actually in session. The principal has five (5) school days to meet with the grievant. Following this meeting, the principal has five (5) school days to render a written decision.

Level Two: Ashburnham-Westminster Grievance Resolution Committee (AWGRC)

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One or if no written decision has been rendered within the time limits set forth in Level One, the grievant may appeal to the Ashburnham-Westminster Grievance Resolution Committee (hereinafter referred to as the AWGRC). Such appeal must be filed within ten (10) school days after the written decision was due at Level One. Said AWGRC shall meet within fifteen (15) school days after the grievance is referred to Level Two.

The AWGRC shall consist of two (2) full time bargaining unit members chosen by the Association and two (2) administrators selected by the Superintendent, no two members on either side shall be from the same work location and/or department. Whenever possible, no representative on either side should be from the same work location. For example, a grievance filed by a bargaining unit member from Overlook should not be heard by staff members employed at Overlook; no grievance filed by an Oakmont math teacher should be heard by a member of the Oakmont math department. The nonvoting co-conveners of the AWGRC shall be the President of the Association, the AWTA Grievance Chairperson and the Superintendent or designee.

The AWGRC shall investigate the grievance and attempt to achieve a resolution. Decision of the AWGRC shall be by agreement of three (3) or more members of the AWGRC voting by secret ballot. Decisions of the AWGRC shall be final and binding upon all parties for that particular grievance on a no precedent basis. The AWGRC is not confined to accepting or rejecting the requested remedy of the grievant. The AWGRC may determine by majority vote of its members a mediated settlement to the grievance which would be binding but not precedent-setting on all parties.

Level Three: Superintendent

If no decision is rendered at Level Two, the appeal must be filed by the grievant ten (10) days after the decision from the AWGRC was due. If the grievant opts to proceed directly from Level One to Level Three, the appeal must be filed within ten (10) school days after the written decision was due at Level One. Such appeal shall be in writing, setting forth the details of the grievance, the applicable provisions of the Agreement, and the decision, if any, rendered at Level One. Within ten (10) school days after the receipt by the Superintendent or designee of the written grievance, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the Association and the grievant. Within ten (10) workdays, the Superintendent shall render a decision in writing.

Level Four: School Committee

If no decision is rendered at Level Three, the appeal must be filed by the grievant ten (10) days after the decision from the Superintendent was due. Such appeal shall be in writing, setting forth the details of the grievance, the applicable provisions of the Agreement, and the decision if any, rendered at previous levels. Within ten (10) school days after the receipt by the School Committee of the written grievance, the School Committee shall meet with the Association and the grievant. Within ten (10)
school days, the School Committee shall render a decision in writing.

Level Five: Arbitration
If the grievant is not satisfied with the decision of the School Committee or the School Committee has rendered no decision, the Association may, within fifteen (15) school days thereafter, submit the grievance to arbitration by notifying the School Committee in writing of its desire to have the grievance arbitrated.

5. Miscellaneous

a. All written grievance communications, documents and records shall be maintained in a file separate from the personnel file of any employee involved in a grievance proceeding. Unless requested in writing to do otherwise by all employees named in such records, any documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of the grievance will be kept in the strictest confidence.

b. The Superintendent will, upon request in writing, make available to the Association, school district records, including employee personnel files when authorized by the employee whose file is requested and documents in its possession necessary to the processing of any grievance.

c. Every effort will be made by all parties in interest to schedule grievance and/or arbitration sessions in the participants’ non-working hours or after school. However, arbitration proceedings may be scheduled by the District or its agent during the school day. Two (2) Association representatives will be released from assigned duties to attend arbitration hearings scheduled during the school day. Employees will be released from assigned duties without loss of pay as necessary and as required by any party in interest, to permit participation in the proceedings as a witness. Such witness will be covered for the amount of time necessary to travel to and from the hearing and to testify at said hearing.

d. Any grievance initiated by the Association itself may be submitted directly at Level Three.

e. The District and the Association view the grievance and arbitration procedure as a problem solving procedure, which may be used with impunity.

f. If the grievant fails to present the grievance at each level in writing within the specified time, said grievance shall be considered to be waived.

g. No Reprisal
No reprisal of any kind will be taken by the Committee, Superintendent, Administrator or the Association against any employee covered by this Contract for participating or failing to participate in the grievance or arbitration process set forth in this Contract.

h. Release time for Association President
During each school year, half days will be granted to the President of the Ashburnham-Westminster Teachers Association to conduct Association business for a maximum of five (1/2 days). A substitute will be hired to provide coverage for the half-day period of time for each of the five days that the President is conducting Association business.

F. NO STRIKE – NO LOCKOUT

1. During the term of this Agreement the Association agrees that it will not engage in, condone or otherwise support any work slowdown, stoppage or strike against the District.

2. During the term of this Agreement, the District agrees that it will not lock bargaining unit members out of the buildings in response to a dispute arising out of the relationship between the Association and the District.
G. AGENCY SERVICE FEE

1. Commencing on September 1, 2001, all employees who are members of the bargaining unit shall be required as a condition of their employment to pay an agency fee unless they become members of the Association within thirty (30) days. Said fee will be an amount determined in accordance with all state and federal laws and regulations, and shall reflect the costs of collective bargaining, contract administration and other permissible charges except that in no case shall the fee be greater than the annual combined dues of the Ashburnham-Westminster Teachers’ Association, the Massachusetts Teachers’ Association and the National Education Association.

2. The collection of the fee shall be solely the responsibility of the Association, and the School Committee shall not be responsible for the implementation, collection or enforcement of the fee, except that it will supply, on demand, any required documentation to establish that an individual refusing to pay is a member of the bargaining unit.

3. The sole remedy available to the Association to enforce payment of the fee shall be to proceed to court for the collection of the fee. The Committee will not be required to take any action regarding the employment status of an individual who refuses to pay the agency service fee.

4. The Association shall save harmless and indemnify the Committee from any damages and legal fees arising out of compliance with this provision, provided that the Committee will agree to an attorney selected by the Association to represent the Committee against any and all claims made and against any lawsuit initiated against the Committee on account of this provision. Failure of the Committee or its agents to cooperate with the Association or its attorney shall relieve the Association of any obligation under this section.

H. DUES DEDUCTION
The Committee hereby accepts the provisions of Section 17C of Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts and, in accordance therewith, shall certify to the TREASURER OF REGIONAL DISTRICT #610 all payroll deductions for the payment of dues to the Association duly authorized by employees covered by this Contract.

I. LIMITATION

1. In no event shall any present or future member or members of the School Committee have any personal obligation for payment under any provision of this Contract or under any arbitration award.

2. In the event that any provisions contained herein are in conflict or are not in conformity with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, such provisions shall be invalidated. All other provisions not so invalidated shall remain in force and be binding on the Parties.

PART II - SALARY REGULATIONS

A. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Program
The Superintendent will provide a professional development program each year that is designed to advance the goals of the Board of Education and the Committee.

2. Individual Professional Development Plans
Each employee will have an Individual Professional Developmental Plan (IPDP). This plan will be developed with the objective of advancing the goals of the Board of Education and the Committee and will be approved by the employee’s principal.

   a. The principals’ approval of teachers’ Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDP) for
purposes of recertification shall not be unreasonably withheld.

b. Following receipt of an IPDP, the principal shall respond within fifteen (15) school days. Failure on the part of the principal to respond within the fifteen (15) school days shall be deemed to be an approval of the plan. Any rejection of an IPDP must state, in specific terms, the reason(s) for the plan’s rejection. The principal may make recommendations, which would make the IPDP acceptable.

c. A teacher whose IPDP is not approved by the principal may, within five (5) school days, appeal to the Superintendent who shall have ten (10) school days in which to respond in writing. Failure of the Superintendent to respond shall be deemed to be a decision in favor of the teacher and shall be considered an IPDP approval.

3. Credit
Employees shall receive credit for participation in professional development activities consistent with the regulations of the Board of Education. All matters pertaining to certification/recertification are between the applicant and the state.

4. Conditions for Courses
The School Committee will require that the following conditions be fulfilled relative to all courses taken in compliance with the Professional Improvement requirement of the salary schedule:

a. Approval of the institution and of the course to be studied will be at the discretion of the Superintendent. All courses to be considered for professional improvement credit shall normally be limited to the subject matter area of the teacher’s assignment and must be of a graduate nature. Other courses may be approved at the discretion of the Superintendent.

b. Graduate credit(s) from an accredited college or university which a teacher may have earned prior to employment in the District will be honored towards progression on the salary scale.

5. Tuition Reimbursement

a. Teachers who take a graduate level course, beginning no earlier than July 1, 2001, shall be entitled to full reimbursement of the cost of tuition and fees for the course in an amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and fees for a course of equal credit at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

b. Payment shall be made to the teacher within thirty (30) days of the submission of evidence of successful completion of the course.

c. The maximum number of credits for which a teacher can be reimbursed in a fiscal year shall be six (6).

d. A budget will be agreed to that refers to the UML rate which will increase in the future. Hopefully, the number of courses requested will be covered by this budget. If the budget were insufficient, all teachers taking a single course would be paid regardless of the budget (195 individuals’ maximum). Those individuals taking two (2) courses would be added up and the balance of the budget, if any, would be divided equally among those teachers without exceeding the actual cost of the course.

e. Course approval and request for tuition reimbursement must be made prior to the start of the coursework.

f. Courses completed during the summer shall be paid in September to teachers who continue to be employed with the District after September 15th.

B. PROGRESSION ON THE SALARY SCHEDULE
1. A teacher normally will advance annually to the next step on the salary schedule subject to the following conditions:
a. The teacher will meet the requirements set forth in Part II, A. 4. a., for In-Service Professional Improvement.

b. The teacher, in the current year, has maintained high standards of teaching performance satisfactory to the Principal, the Superintendent and the Committee.

c. The Committee retains the right to withhold all or part of any increment for reasons of inefficiency or substandard performance.

2. Before a teacher is considered eligible to move to a different group on the salary schedule, proof of eligibility, shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools on or before September 15.

3. The terms “eligible” and “proof of eligibility” and “credits earned” shall mean proof of actual attainment of the pertinent credit or degree by means of an official transcript which demonstrates attainment prior to the determination dates set forth below.

The determination dates shall be September 15th and December 15th. Proof of eligibility prior to the September 15th determination date shall entitle movement for the entire school year; and proof of eligibility after September 15th but prior to December 15th shall entitle movement effective on the 92nd day of the school year.

In addition, and for budgeting purposes, each employee shall provide the Superintendent with written notice of advanced credits or degrees which they expect to attain during the next school year by January 15th of the current school year. Failure to do so will not prohibit movement on the salary schedule provided the conditions in the two paragraphs above are met.

C. LONGEVITY

After completion of fourteen (14) years of credible service to the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, the following will be paid:

<table>
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<th>Years</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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Said sum will be paid in 21 equal prorated installments which shall begin with the first paycheck of the school year and shall conclude with the twenty-first payment of the year in June of each school year. Said sum will be considered a stipend to the teacher’s total compensation for that year, and will also become part of the teacher’s total compensation in subsequent years.

Any teacher who retires, or otherwise leaves the District’s employ before the end of the school year, shall be ineligible to receive any of the remaining longevity installments.

D. MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT

1. In order to assist a teacher who has had military service to reach the maximum step on the salary schedule sooner, the teacher may be placed on the salary schedule at a step commensurate with previous teaching experience plus one-half year of credit for each year of military service up to a maximum of one (1) year credit for completion of one (1) or two (2) years military service; and two (2) years credit for completion of three (3) or more years of military service and receipt of an Honorable Discharge from the military.

2. Military credit will not advance the teacher beyond the maximum step of the schedule.

E. WITHHOLDING INCREMENTS DUE TO ADJUSTMENTS OF SALARY SCHEDULES

The committee retains the rights to withhold all or part of any increase in salary resulting from adjustments in the salary for reasons of inefficiency or substandard performance.

F. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Each teacher shall be given two (2) copies of his/her annual contract.
PART III--OTHER PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

A. GUIDANCE PERSONNEL

1. All new guidance personnel will be hired under the appropriate step of the teachers' salary schedule.

2. For guidance personnel, all conditions of employment will be the same as those for the classroom teacher, except:
   a. For short periods of illness a substitute may not be required.
   b. When required by the Guidance Department Coordinator and/or the Administration, guidance personnel will be present at other times not required of the classroom teachers. In this event compensation for such time will be at a per diem rate.

3. High School Guidance Department Coordinator

   1. Compensation: Appendix F
   2. Duties and Responsibilities
      • Serves as liaison between the Administration and the Guidance Department
      • Prepares and submits the budget for the Guidance Department
      • Oversees the department’s development of student schedules in conjunction with the school administration.
      • Oversees the department’s preparation of college admission packages, military and job related materials for students
      • Attends all Department Coordinator meetings and reports back to department members
      • Conducts department meetings
      • Supports department members
      • Facilitates department communication with administration, guidance and parents
      • Manages and develops department budget
      • Attends monthly department coordinator meeting with administration
      • Oversees the guidance curriculum and department activities
      • Plans guidance activities such as financial aid planning night, scheduling nights, class night, and undergraduate awards
      • When required by the administration the guidance coordinator, or designee, will be present at other times not required of the classroom teachers or other department coordinators. In this event compensation for such time will be at the per diem rate.

B. SCHOOL NURSE

1. Salary
   Upon hire, nurses will be placed on the appropriate teacher’s salary schedule. (See APPENDIX C).

2. Hours and Duties
   a. In the event the nurse has to perform any work required beyond the scope of the school day, payment will be at the nurse’s daily rate of pay.
   b. The Oakmont nurse will make him/herself available for athletic physicals in August. The rate of compensation will be at the nurse’s daily rate of pay.

C. CURRICULUM COORDINATORS

1. Organization
   The number of curriculum coordinators will be determined by the Committee and the Superintendent. Their areas of responsibility will be interdisciplinary and they normally will not be assigned to specific subject areas. Their scope of responsibility may include more than one (1) level (i.e., Elementary, Middle School, and High School).

2. Compensation: Appendix F
3. Duties and Responsibilities
   • Insure that the curriculum being taught is consistent with the Common Core of Learning and Curriculum Frameworks.
   • Observe classroom teachers and provide oral input to teachers and unit administrators.
   • Serve as leaders of curriculum development groups.
   • Review and make recommendations relative to proposals for new curriculum offerings.
   • Facilitate the review of textbooks and other instructional material in use, as well as those being proposed for use.
   • Assist the Principal(s) in the preparation of the annual budget.
   • Assist in selection and assignment of teachers.
   • Prepare proposals for external funding designed to advance the goals of the Board of Education and the Committee.
   • Teach no more than one-half time and be assigned no duties.

3. Appointment
   Curriculum coordinators will be appointed annually by the Superintendent.

D. HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT COORDINATORS (ten positions in total beginning 2008-2009)
   1. Compensation – Appendix F

2. Duties and Responsibilities:
   • Serves as instructional leader of the department with the primary focus on improving student achievement in a standards-based environment
   • Conducts department meetings
   • Supports department members (assist with curriculum, instruction, assessment, parents and students)
   • Facilitates department communication with administration and guidance
   • Manages and develops department budget
   • Notifies guidance of award recipients and presents awards at Class Night and Undergraduate Awards Ceremony
   • Observes non-professional status high school department teachers and provides feedback concerning curriculum and instructional matters when requested by administration. Release time will be provided by the principal for class observation.
   • At the request of the middle school principal, the high school principal may request the high school department coordinator to observe a non-professional status middle school teacher in the coordinator’s content area. This request would only be made in a critical situation and only occur one time during the school year. If another observation is necessary, that observation must be mutually agreed upon by the middle school principal, high school principal and the content specific high school department coordinator.
   • Attends monthly department coordinator meetings with administration
   • Coordinates discussion of student issues
   • Plans periodic discussions on curriculum, assessments and best practice
   • Assists in the selection and assignment of teachers
   • Assists and supports substitutes in department
   • Acknowledges the alignment of field trips with the curriculum frameworks by signing the field trip request submitted by the teacher in their department.
   • At the request of the high school principal, the department coordinator, or a mutually agreed upon designee, will analyze MCAS and/or other assessment data at the contractually agreed upon hourly rate as compensation.

E. MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM COORDINATOR
   Each academic teaching team at the middle school shall have a paid team coordinator.
   1. Compensation – Appendix F
2. Duties and Responsibilities:

As the instructional leader of the team with the primary focus on improving student achievement in a standards-based environment, the team coordinator:

- Coordinates discussions of student issues.
- Facilitates discussion and implementation of integrated/interdisciplinary units with the team and how to best integrate frameworks in the various disciplines.
- Plans periodic discussions on instruction, student work and work load, best practices and flexible scheduling during team time.
- Supports team members.

As the facilitator of team communication, the team coordinator:

- Facilitates communication with the administration and creates a weekly summary of daily team meetings on the Middle School Team Agenda/Summary Form (See Appendix G).
- Facilitates communication with the enrichment staff.
- Facilitates communication with special education staff.
- Facilitates communication with guidance.
- Facilitates communication with parents through telephone calls, e-mails or the scheduling of parent meetings (excluding fall conferences).

As the team manager, the team coordinator:

- Conducts team meetings.
- Attends monthly team coordinator meetings with administration.
- Assists and supports substitutes on their team.
- Organizes team activities.
- Manages the team budget.
- Facilitates the distribution of quarterly progress reports.

F. MIDDLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT TEAM COORDINATOR

The enrichment team at the middle school shall have a paid team coordinator.

1. Compensation – Appendix F

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

As the instructional leader of the team with the primary focus on improving student achievement in a standards-based environment, the Enrichment Team Coordinator:

- Coordinates discussion of student issues.
- Facilitates the inclusion of special needs students.
- Collaborates with special education team coordinator and administration regarding classroom support.
- Facilitates discussion and implementation of integrated/interdisciplinary units with teams.
- Supports team members.

As the facilitator of team communication, the Enrichment team coordinator:

- Facilitates communication with the administration and creates a weekly summary of team meetings on the Middle School Enrichment/Sped Agenda/Summary Form. (see Appendix H).
- Facilitates communication with academic teachers.
- Facilitates communication with special education staff.
- Facilitates communication with guidance.

As the team manager, the Enrichment team coordinator:

- Conducts team meetings.
- Attends monthly team coordinator meetings with administration.
- Assists and supports substitutes on their team.
- Prepares and distributes weekly requests for special education support in enrichment classes.
G. MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM COORDINATOR

The special education team at the middle school shall have a paid team coordinator.

1. Compensation – Appendix F

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

   As the instructional leader of the team with the primary focus on improving student achievement in a standards-based environment, the Special Education Team Coordinator:
   • Coordinates discussion of student issues.
   • Facilitates the inclusion of special needs students.
   • Collaborates with enrichment team coordinator and administration regarding classroom support.
   • Supports team members.

   As the facilitator of team communication, the team coordinator:
   • Facilitates communication with the administration and creates a monthly summary of team meetings on the Middle School Enrichment/Sped Agenda/Summary Form. (See Appendix H).
   • Facilitates communication between special education director and special education staff.
   • Facilitates communication with guidance.

   As the team manager, the Special Education team coordinator:
   • Conducts team meetings of special education staff.
   • Attends monthly team coordinator meetings with administration.
   • Facilitates the distribution of special education quarterly progress reports.

H. MENTOR TEACHERS

1. Principals must post mentoring positions as they become available. Individuals who are interested in becoming a mentor must complete a mentor application of interest.

2. Mentors shall be selected from among all qualified applicants by the Superintendent after consultation with the building principals. A qualified applicant is an educator who has at least three full years of experience under an Initial or Professional license and who has successfully completed a mentor training program.

3. Mentor teachers shall serve for one (1) year and may apply for subsequent years of mentoring subject to approval of the principal. The principal shall approve the subsequent years a mentor wishes to so serve, but there shall be no limit to the number of years one is eligible to serve as a mentor.

4. Mentor teachers shall be required to meet with the teachers they are mentoring for one (1) day prior to the beginning of the school year.

5. Mentor teachers shall be responsible for mentoring one (1) person a year unless there are no other qualified mentors. A mentor shall receive a stipend of $1,800 per mentee.

6. Mentor teachers shall not evaluate the teacher assigned to them.

7. Mentors shall be provided with time during the school day to observe the classes of their mentee.

8. A mentor teacher shall meet a minimum of seven (7) times outside the school day or during preparation periods with teachers assigned to him/her and shall submit to the Superintendent by June 1st a Mentor Meeting Report which indicates the dates of the meetings and a summary of the topics discussed.

9. A list of qualified mentors will be updated annually by the principal. Newly qualified mentors must submit proof of qualification to their respective principal.

10. Mentors will perform their duties as established by the DESE Guidelines for Induction and Mentoring Programs.
PART IV-EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Salary schedule for advisors and activities coordinators -see APPENDIX D 1-2

1. The Principal will make every reasonable effort to distribute impartially and equitably among all teachers, assignment of extra duties or co-curricular assignments for which there is no additional compensation over and above the contracted salary.

2. The Principal will attempt to make assignments of extra or co-curricular activities commensurate with the abilities and interests of the teacher.

3. Positions in paid activities will be filled by interested teachers. In the event there are no interested teachers, the Committee and/or Administration has the right to appoint any teacher to the position for one year.

4. Whenever practicable the Administration will make every effort to see that the assignment of these necessary functions is handled equitably.

5. High School music personnel are responsible for the extracurricular activities of the High School music department.

6. The School Committee will not require teachers to go to Environmental Week, but, since students will be gone, teachers will be assigned other bargaining unit work.

PART V--ATHLETIC POSITIONS' SALARIES
Salary schedule and formula for coaches -see APPENDIX E

1. Annually the Superintendent will appoint the interscholastic athletic coaches.

PART VI--CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

A. SICK LEAVE

1. For personal illness, a teacher with non-professional teacher status shall be entitled to one (1) day per month for a total of twelve (12) days per year. These may not accumulate except as follows:

   a. When a teacher achieves professional teacher status any of the sick leave days not used while serving as a teacher with non-professional status, will be accumulated.

   b. Should a teacher with non-professional status have an extended illness or injury, sick leave not used in prior years may be used subject to the discretion of the Superintendent.

2. For personal illness, a teacher who has achieved professional status shall be entitled to fifteen (15) days sick leave per year.

3. For illness of a member of the teacher’s immediate family which necessitates the teacher’s absence from school, days used may be charged to the teacher’s personal sick leave.

4. The Superintendent, at his/her discretion, may require certification of illness or injury by a physician.

5. Accumulation of sick leave will start with the beginning of the most recent period of continuous full-time employment in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District.
B. SICK LEAVE BANK
The Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee and Ashburnham-Westminster Teachers Association have established a sick leave bank for the use of members covered under the bargaining unit who have exhausted their accumulated sick leave days and require additional leave to make full recovery from illness.

1. Membership
   a. Any actively employed member of the bargaining unit covered by this agreement may be eligible to receive benefits from this bank.
   b. Membership in this bank shall be voluntary and each member shall make an initial non-returnable contribution of two (2) days and one (1) each successive year, until such time the member has contributed a total of five (5) days. If days fall below 1200 days, two (2) sick days shall be contributed.
   c. When the number of unused days in the bank becomes critically low, the Sick Leave Bank Committee may require an additional contribution from members who wish to continue their membership.
   d. Unused days at the end of each year shall remain in the bank and accumulate from year to year.
   e. The enrollment period shall be limited to the month of September. Personnel wishing to become members must request in writing. The Sick Leave Bank Committee may grant exceptions to those employed after September.
   f. Qualification for membership - the Applicant must have achieved professional teacher status and have accumulated the following sick days by enrollment period: 34 days.

2. Sick Bank Committee
   a. The bank shall be administered by a committee formed of two (2) representatives from the Committee and two (2) active, full-time representatives of the Association. The Superintendent can be a substitute for a school committee member.
   b. One member of the Sick Bank Committee shall be elected to serve as chairman and preside over bank meetings.
   c. The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall establish a form for application to the bank.
   d. Approval of an applicant's request will be by majority vote of the Sick Bank Committee.

3. Benefits
   a. To be eligible, the applicant must be incapacitated for fifteen (15) consecutive school days.
   b. Applications by the incapacitated or his/her representative may be made prior to exhaustion of personal sick leave. Adequate medical certification must be provided. The committee may require an applicant to have a physical examination by an independent physician at the committee's expense.
   c. Applications must be made to the Chairman of the bank. This must be accompanied by a statement from the attending physician stating the projected time of recovery beyond the member's own accrued sick leave.
   d. No more than fifteen (15) days may be granted at any one time. Requests for additional days must be accompanied by a new application.
   e. The Sick Bank Committee may use its discretion to make exception with regards to benefits.
C. SENIOR-TEACHER STATUS ENHANCED LONGEVITY PROGRAM-(begins July 2007)

In addition to the foregoing longevity payments referred to in Part II, Section C, there shall also be an enhanced longevity payment that will be available only to those employees who have met the following criteria:

1. The teacher must have completed seventeen (17) years of uninterrupted service in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District (including service in the Ashburnham-Westminster Public Schools prior to K-12 regionalization); and approved leaves of absence shall not be considered a break in uninterrupted service.

2. The teacher shall have an accumulated sick leave balance of not less than one-hundred (100) days prior to accessing the benefit, except that sick days used for leave time that would be permissible under the Family and Medical Leave Act shall not be deducted from a teacher’s total accumulation for the purposes of this provision only.

3. Only once during their career, any such employee shall be eligible to receive an enhanced longevity payment in the amount of sixteen and one-quarter percent (16.25%) of his/her base pay (one’s base pay is the amount contained in his/her pay column on Appendix C) per year for any single period of three (3) consecutive years, subject to the following conditions. Teachers approved for participation in enhanced longevity program prior to July 1, 2016, shall receive the benefit as stated above. After July 1, 2016, new participants shall receive an enhanced longevity payment in the amount of ten thousand ($10,000) per year for any single period of three (3) consecutive years, subject to the following conditions.

   a. The employee must give written notice of his/her intent to access this enhanced longevity payment (herein after referred to as the “benefit”) to the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to October 1st preceding the contract year in which the employee desires to begin receiving this benefit.

   b. Once given, the written notice will be irrevocable.

   c. Once the three (3) year period for this enhanced longevity payment has been completed, the enhanced longevity payment will terminate and the employee will no longer receive this enhanced longevity payment and the employee will revert to the salary level that he/she would be at under terms of the collective bargaining agreement then in effect.

   d. The enhanced longevity payment will be paid in a lump sum, less normal payroll deductions, in the last pay period in June.

   e. A maximum of six (6) teachers may elect commencement of the benefit in any given year. The Superintendent may, in his/her sole discretion, allow more than six (6) new people to enter into this program in any given year, where doing so, in his/her sole opinion, is in the District’s best interest. Teachers will be awarded the benefit in order of seniority. Should there be a tie in seniority dates for the available benefit(s), then a lottery will be held. The lottery will take place at the Superintendent’s office on the first Monday after October 1st. The President of the Association or his/her designee will select the names through a blind lottery process. This will be done on an annual basis as needed.

   f. Any bargaining unit member who has opted into the enhanced longevity program who leaves the District’s employ prior to the conclusion of the third school year to which this benefit is tied will, alternatively, have the remainder of the money the District would have paid him/her in enhanced longevity paid-out in two (2) equal installments over the two (2) fiscal years following the fiscal year in which he/she left the District’s employ, provided that he/she has not been employed in another position in the public sector during any portion of the remaining year(s) to which the enhanced longevity is tied.

   g. Teachers who have begun to receive their benefits, or are scheduled to receive their first payment in June of 2007, pursuant to the provisions of Part VI, Conditions of Employment, Section C, of the July 2004-June 2007 agreement, will remain participants in the Senior-Teacher Status Program of said agreement as determined by their enrollment prior to the
revision of the Senior-Teacher Status program and the January 2006 actions taken by the Massachusetts Retirement Board.

h. In the event that the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board, a Massachusetts court, or the Massachusetts legislature take action which results in the diminution of value or the elimination of all or some of the benefits under this senior teacher status program, the parties will timely thereafter enter into negotiations for the purpose of restoring benefits to a level comparable to the benefits in place prior to the creation of the senior teacher status program.

D. BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

1. In the event of death in the immediate family of the teacher, leave of up to five (5) days may be granted without loss of pay or other leave benefits.

2. Immediate family of the teacher is construed as a teacher’s spouse, domestic partner, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, someone for whom the teacher is a legal guardian, or someone for whom the teacher is the primary caregiver.

3. In the event of the death of a grandfather, grandmother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, leave of up to three (3) days may be granted without loss of pay or other leave benefits.

4. For bereavement leave other than for those mentioned above, an unused sick day may be available upon request.

E. PERSONAL LEAVE

1. Each teacher shall be entitled to two (2) personal leave days per year.

2. Such personal leave will not accumulate, if not used, but will be added to accumulated sick leave up to one hundred fifty (150) days.

3. Leave may be used at the discretion of the teacher with forty-eight (48) hours or more notice in writing or at the discretion of the Principal.

4. Personal leave will not be used for recreation or vacation purposes, nor will it be used to extend holiday or vacation periods.

5. Normally no more than three staff members in one school shall be on personal leave in any one day.

F. DISBURSEMENT OF SALARY

Salaries of teachers will be disbursed in twenty-six (26) equal installments on the first or second Thursday in September and every second Thursday thereafter.

G. HEALTH INSURANCE

1. For the school year 2016-2017, the District shall pay seventy percent (70%) of the individual and family plan premiums for HMO Blue and Blue Choice. After July 1, 2017, the school committee shall be able to bid the teachers health care plan with bids solicited from at least the following carriers if in existence: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Fallon, Tufts and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. In the event the decision is made to move teacher’s health insurance to either-a benchmark or GIC-like plan or invoke MGL Chapter 32B Sections 21-23, the District will, upon the effective date of the change, increase to seventy five percent (75%) the portion of the individual and family health plan premiums that the District pays.

2. Any material changes in the carriers and/or material changes in one or more aspects of the health plans provided to current employees, if desired by the District and not required to be made by the carrier, will be made only after the District has received a recommendation, for or against the change, from the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC). The IAC will be notified and consulted at least 30 days before bids. The final plan design prior to going to bid shall be accepted by both the AWTA and District. In the event that the health insurance carrier imposes mandatory changes in one or more material aspects
of the health plans it provides to the District’s employees, the District will afford the Teachers Association an opportunity to bargain, if it so requests, over the impacts that those mandatory changes will have on their members.

3. The District will afford the Association at least sixty (60) days advance notice prior to the planned effective date of any contemplated or mandated changes in the benefit structure referred to in Paragraph 2 above.

4. To the extent permitted by law, employees covered by this agreement will be allowed to make their health insurance premium contributions in pretax dollars.

5. The District School Committee shall vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L., c. 32B, sec. 9A and 9D, and thereafter shall provide to each retired employee or the surviving spouse of any retired employee group health insurance with the District contributing 50% of the premium cost.

6. The District will require that those retired employees and surviving spouses who are eligible for Medicare elect Medicare as the primary carrier. The District will then pay the same percentage of premium cost for a Medicare supplement purchased through the District as it contributes for retired employees who remain in the District’s group health insurance program.

7. MITIGATION FUND
The District will budget $5,000 for each of the three (3) years of this contract, July 1, 2016-June 30, 2019, to reimburse co-payments for MRI’s, CAT scans, PET scans and emergency room visits. Expenses will be paid out according to Appendix G. In the event, MGL Chapter 32B Section 21-23 is invoked, the amount shall be increased to $7,000.

8. INSURANCE OPT-OUT:
Any employee covered by this collective bargaining agreement who is enrolled in a health plan offered by the School District on or after June 30, 2016, and who thereafter opts out of his or her school district health plan and provides the School District with evidence that the employee has obtained health insurance elsewhere, shall become entitled to $100 stipend each pay period -- annualized to an $2,600 stipend for each full insurance plan year in which he or she remains not enrolled in a district sponsored health plan. If an employee opts out of health insurance during an insurance plan year the employee shall be entitled to a prorated portion of the stipend based on the 12 month plan year. This Opt-Out payment section will be in effect beginning on July 1, 2016 and will expire on June 30, 2019.

H. LIFE INSURANCE
The Life insurance program provides for a ten thousand ($10,000.00) dollar life insurance policy with the Boston Mutual Insurance Company.

I. DENTAL INSURANCE
The district shall provide a Dental Plan of which individuals pay 100% of the premium.

J. DEPENDENT CARE ACCOUNT PLAN (D-CAP) and MEDICAL ACCOUNT PLAN (MED-CAP)
Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 697 of the Acts of 1987 (the Public Employee Pension Reform Act) effective January 12, 1988, the Ashburnham-Westminster School Committee agrees to implement the above plans beginning on September 1, 1999, pay for the establishment and maintenance cost for the plan and the third party service fees for the employees. The District as the plan manager establishes a minimum annual deduction of $312.00 ($12.00 per pay period).

K. DEFINITION OF THE SCHOOL DAY

1. Teachers will be at their schools 10 minutes before the start of the school day and 15 minutes after the end of the school day. While “professional obligations” cannot be defined completely, the term is generally understood to include the duration of the students' school day, but it is also understood to mean corridor, bus or other supervisory duties, assigned extracurricular activities, professional meetings, and normal and necessary conferences with students and/or parents commonly associated with teaching. Under the current block scheduling format, high school teachers will not be assigned duties.
2. Nothing in the definition of the school day is to be construed in such a way as to limit the number of scheduled periods or the length of classroom periods within the normal school day as herein before defined.

3. Nothing in the definition of the school day is to be construed in such a way as to prevent the Administration from requiring the presence of teachers on occasion at functions and/or to perform duties of a reasonable nature other than those specified above. The administration will make every reasonable effort to distribute duties equitably.

4. Similarly, the Principal may dismiss or excuse any teacher or teachers without regard to the above hours of specified duties.

L. DEFINITION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

1. The normal school year will be the number of days students are scheduled to be in attendance plus three (3).

2. Computation of Per Diem Pay:
   a. Additions to and deductions from compensation for the school year will be made at the rate of 1/183.
   b. This applies only to the employment of the full-time staff above and beyond the normal school year and to individuals working less than the normal school year.

3. These provisions will apply only to district teachers who are employed on a School Year Contract.

4. A teacher in his/her first year of teaching in the Ashburnham-Westminster school district may be required by the Administration to attend up to three (3) days of orientation workshops prior to the opening of school.

5. Elementary teachers may be required to spend four (4) evenings during the school year (no more than two (2) at any one marking period) to meet with parents for pre-scheduled parent-teacher conferences at the end of a marking period.

6. Elementary teachers may be required to attend one (1) evening meeting each year (Open House). The date for the Open House will be included in the school calendar. Necessary changes will be made well in advance.

M. TRANSFERS AND VACANCIES

All transfers and the filling of vacancies shall be made only where the best interests of the pupils, the school, and the teachers are given consideration. Therefore, the parties agree to the following definitions:

A vacancy is an opening of any position in the bargaining unit.

A transfer is any voluntary or involuntary change of position within a school or between schools. A change of position is a change in schools, grade levels, or disciplines.

1. Vacancies
   a. Staff vacancies or new positions will be made known simultaneously via: 1: a District email which is addressed to the “all staff” email database maintained by the District internally for ten (10) workdays; 2: posted on the District website or other public domains.

2. Voluntary Transfers
   a. A teacher desiring a transfer will submit a written request to the Superintendent with a copy to the teacher's principal stating the assignment preferred and reasons for the transfer. Such requests will be submitted between September 1 and April 1 of each school year. Requests must be renewed each school year and all requests must be acknowledged in writing.
b. Transfers normally will become effective at the beginning of the next school year.

c. In the determination of assignments and transfers, the convenience and wishes of the individual teacher shall be honored to the extent that those considerations do not conflict with the instructional requirements and the best interests of the school system and pupils as determined by the Superintendent.

3. Involuntary Transfers

a. When a reduction in the number of teachers in a school is necessitated by a change in the school population or other unusual circumstances, qualified volunteers from that school for other positions in the district will be sought by the Superintendent prior to taking steps toward an involuntary transfer.

b. Involuntary transfers will not be used when a reduction in force is being implemented.

c. When transfers are necessary, criteria employed for involuntary transfer shall include teacher qualifications, areas of competency, certifications, major and minor field of study, and length of service. The determination of transfers shall be made by the Principal with the approval of the Superintendent.

d. An involuntary transfer will be made only after a meeting between the employee involved and the Superintendent. At that meeting the employee will be notified of the reasons for the transfer. The employee is entitled to have an Association Representative at said meeting.

e. Notice of transfer shall be given to employees as soon as possible, and under normal circumstances not later than June 1 of the year immediately preceding the transfer.

f. Employees involuntarily transferred shall be given an assignment, which is the most comparable to their present position.

N. DEVIATIONS FROM THE SALARY SCHEDULE

1. The President of the Association will be notified of any deviations made from the salary schedules, which are part of this Contract.

2. Placement of New Appointees:

a. A teacher shall be assigned to the appropriate salary class determined by his/her preparation and previous experience.

b. New teachers with previous experience may be given credit up to six (6) years of experience and shall be assigned to the salary step they would have attained if all their experience up to six (6) years had been in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District.

c. When the needs of the District and the current availability of teachers require, the Superintendent may, at his/her discretion, grant credit for actual teaching experience beyond six years or for experience outside the teaching field if said experience is determined to be of value to the teacher's intended assignment.

d. In the event that it becomes necessary or desirable to change the basic school day schedule, the impact of said change will be bargained before implementation.

3. The Athletic Director for the District will be appointed annually by the Superintendent. Stipend will equal a combination of the two highest paid coaches on the stipend schedule. The Athletic Director will be responsible for the evaluation of head coaches.

4. Cafeteria supervisors at Oakmont will be paid at the following rate:
5. Nature’s Classroom stipend of $100 per night for up to six (6) elementary teachers per building (John R. Briggs Elementary School and Westminster Elementary School/ Meetinghouse School).

6. Up to twelve (12) Middle School teachers will receive a stipend of $100.00 per night to attend the Washington DC trip. If there are more than 12, the $1,200 will be divided equally among them.

O. USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

1. The Association will have the right to use school buildings without cost at reasonable times for meetings, provided, however, that the Association will be required to pay for additional custodial costs by reason of said meetings. The Principal shall be notified in advance of the time and place of all such meetings.

2. The Association will not use any other school facilities, equipment and/or supplies, without first obtaining permission of the Principal and making arrangements to pay a reasonable fee for such use as necessary, provided however, that all costs for the preparation of any written documents mandated by this Contract will be shared equally by the School Committee and the Association.

P. PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS

1. Teachers shall be responsible for student behavior within their classrooms or under their supervision wherever that may be, at whatever time, while engaged in school sponsored activities.

2. Teachers shall be responsible for the proper use and care of school property entrusted to their care.

3. However, no teacher who has made a just and prudent endeavor to fulfill these responsibilities shall be held personally liable for conditions or circumstances beyond his/her control.

4. Material and Equipment:

   a. Audio-visual material or other equipment constructed on school time or with school materials or supplies will remain the property of the School District even if the preparing teacher leaves the District.

   b. However, this provision shall apply in no way to the creative ideas or concepts involved in the preparation of said materials. Such ideas remain the property of the individual teacher.

5. Personnel Files Statement:
Teachers have the right, upon request in writing, to review the contents of their personnel file. The teacher will acknowledge this review by affixing his/her signature to the copy to be filed with the express understanding that such signature in no way indicates agreement with the content thereof. The teacher will have the right to submit a written answer to such material and his/her answer will be reviewed by the Superintendent and attached to the file copy.

6. Teachers shall dress in a manner befitting their profession and in a manner befitting the activities in which they happen to be engaged. Extremes in dress shall be avoided.

7. Medical Examinations:

   a. A medical examination shall be required of new teachers at his/her expense as a condition of employment.

   b. Other teachers may be required to undergo a medical examination upon request of the Committee at the School Committee's expense.

8. Due Notice of Termination of Employment:
Teachers shall give sixty (60) days’ notice, in writing, of employment termination except in cases of
emergency, such as long-term illness or injury, pregnancy, or spouse's change of employment requiring change of residence.

The Association and the District agree that mid-year retirements can be disruptive (and not in the best interest of District children) and, that mid-year retirements should be avoided.

9. All elementary teachers will have a duty free lunch and duty-free lunch recess.

Q. PREPARATION PERIOD
Except in a situation, which would be of an emergency nature, each teacher will be provided a minimum of one preparation period per full school day.

A preparation period will be at least:

- 70 minutes for elementary teachers
- 80 minutes for middle school teachers
- 83 minutes for high school teachers

R. TEACHER EVALUATION

1. PURPOSE OF EDUCATOR EVALUATION
   Educators are at the core of the educational process. Educator performance makes a difference in students' achievement, sense of fulfillment and feeling of well-being. The word “educator” is a generic word which in this case refers to all members of the bargaining unit referred to in this collective bargaining agreement. AWRSD Teacher Evaluation Handbook is an addendum to that agreement.

   The regulatory purposes of evaluation are:

   a. To promote student learning, growth, and achievement by providing Educators with feedback for improvement, enhanced opportunities for professional growth, and clear structures for accountability, 603 CMR 35.01(2)(a);
   b. To provide a record of facts and assessments for personnel decisions, 35.01(2)(b);
   c. To ensure that every school committee has a system to enhance the professionalism and accountability of teachers and administrators that will enable them to assist all students to perform at high levels, 35.01(3); and
   d. To assure effective teaching and administrative leadership, 35.01(3).

Evaluation can encourage and facilitate professional growth while assessing performance. It is a cooperative process with the responsibility for accomplishment shared by teacher and evaluator. Educators will be active participants in all phases of the evaluation process.

2. STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE
   The Standards of Performance that follow represent the standards that educators will be evaluated on. It is not intended that all performance standards are exhibited all of the time. It must be understood, however, that proficiency, or a “proficient rating” is the desired goal.

   The Educator’s overall performance rating is based on the Evaluator’s professional judgment and examination of evidence of the Educator’s performance against these four Performance Standards and the Educator’s attainment of goals set forth in the Educator Plan, as follows:

   - Standard 1: Curriculum, Planning and Assessment
   - Standard 2: Teaching All Students
   - Standard 3: Family and Community Engagement
   - Standard 4: Professional Culture
   - Attainment of Professional Practice Goal(s)
   - Attainment of Student Learning Goal(s)
3. **EDUCATOR PLANS**

   a. Educator Plans shall be designed to provide Educators with feedback for improvement, professional growth, and leadership; and to ensure Educator effectiveness and overall system accountability. The Plan must be aligned to the standards and indicators and be consistent with district and school goals.

   b. The Educator Plan shall include, but is not limited to:

      i. At least one goal related to improvement of practice tied to one or more Performance Standards;

      ii. At least one goal for the improvement the learning, growth and achievement of the students under the Educator’s responsibility;

      iii. An outline of actions the Educator must take to attain the goals and benchmarks to assess progress. Actions must include specified professional development and learning activities that the Educator will participate in as a means of obtaining the goals, as well as other support that may be suggested by the Evaluator or provided by the school or district. Examples may include but are not limited to coursework, self-study, action research, curriculum development, study groups with peers, and implementing new programs.

   c. It is the Educator’s responsibility to attain the goals in the Plan and to participate in any trainings and professional development provided through the state, district, or other providers in accordance with the Educator Plan.

   d. The four types of Educator plans are as follows:

      i. **Developing Educator Plan**
         
         The Developing Educator Plan is for all Educators without PTS, and, at the discretion of the Evaluator, Educators with PTS in new assignments.

      ii. **Self-Directed Growth Plan**
         
         A Two-year Self-Directed Growth Plan is for those Educators with PTS who have an overall rating of proficient or exemplary, and after 2013-2014 whose impact on student learning is moderate or high.

      iii. **Directed Growth Plan**
         
         A Directed Growth Plan is for those Educators with PTS whose overall rating is needs improvement.

      iv. **Improvement Plan**
         
         An Improvement Plan is for those Educators with PTS whose overall rating is unsatisfactory.

4. **GENERAL**

   a. Building meetings will be held during September to discuss the evaluation procedure. Individual evaluators will be identified by September 20. All evaluators will be trained.

   b. The person being evaluated shall have an opportunity to respond in writing to observations, announced and unannounced, formative assessments and formative and summative evaluation reports. Correspondence will be made using “Teach Point” or an approved secure portal for evaluation,

   c. The evaluation process shall be free of gender identity, racial, sexual, religious, and other discrimination and biases as defined in the state and federal laws.
d. All monitoring, or observation of the work performance of a teacher, will be conducted openly and with the full knowledge of the teacher.

e. No material derogatory to a teacher's conduct, service, character, or personality will be placed in his/her file unless the teacher has had an opportunity to review the material. The teacher will acknowledge that he/she has had the opportunity to review such material by affixing his/her signature to the file copy. It is understood that such signature in no way indicates agreement with the contents thereof. The teacher will have the right to submit a written response to such material.

f. The teacher evaluation process is described in detail in the AWRSD Teacher Evaluation Handbook which is part of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

g. Evaluation forms that have been mutually agreed upon by the parties will be an addendum to the AWRSD Teacher Evaluation Handbook. The forms are listed below and will be added to the secure portal for evaluation.

   i. Self-assessment forms –Step 1
   ii. Goal setting forms-Step 2a
   iii. Educator plan forms-Step 2b
   iv. Educator evidence template-Step 3a
   v. Observation templates-Step 3b
   vi. Formative assessment, Formative evaluation templates-Step 4 and 5
   vii. Summative evaluation report templates-Step 4 and 5
   viii. Evaluator Evidence forms
   ix. Lesson Plan Template
   x. DESE Rubrics
   xi. Flowcharts

S. SABBATICAL LEAVE

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a sabbatical leave of one (1) school year may be funded by the Committee for advanced study or research by teachers who have completed seven (7) consecutive years in the Regional School District.

2. Personnel requesting such leave must submit their applications in writing to the Superintendent not later than November 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the leave is requested. Action shall be taken on all such requests as soon as possible and not later than April 15.

3. No more than four (4) teachers from the district will be absent on sabbatical leave during any one school year.

4. Personnel on sabbatical leave shall receive one-half (1/2) the contracted salary for the full year, provided that the amount when coupled with any scholarship, aid, grant, or extra-employment shall not exceed the salary to which the teacher is entitled contractually.

5. Personnel on sabbatical leave shall receive one quarter (1/4) of the contracted payment of Blue Cross Blue Shield for the full year.

6. Before accepting such sabbatical leave, the teacher shall enter into a written agreement in accordance with the terms of Chapter 71, Section 41A of the General Laws, to return to active service in the Regional School District for a period of two (2) years, or twice the length of such sabbatical leave.

7. Upon completion of the leave the teacher shall submit a written report to the Superintendent containing transcripts of all college and university work done on leave, together with other pertinent or interpretive material considered essential for the evaluation of his/her program.

T. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. Leaves of Absence without pay may be granted at the discretion of the Superintendent.
2. Requests for Leaves of Absence must be submitted to the Superintendent in writing at least ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the requested leave.

3. The request shall indicate the purpose for such leave of absence and the duration.

U. TEMPORARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE
Employees will be granted the following temporary leaves of absence with pay each school year:

1. Days for visiting other schools or attending meetings or conferences of an educational nature with approval by the Superintendent.

2. Time necessary for appearances in legal proceedings under subpoena, exclusive of arbitration hearings. The A.W.T.A. President will be able to attend such hearings.

V. MATERNITY LEAVE, CHILD REARING, ADOPTIVE LEAVE, AND PATERNITY LEAVE

1. As a condition of employment and retention of position, a teacher who has become pregnant may request a leave of absence without pay with a date certain, from the Superintendent, provided that up to that time she can, in the opinion of the attending physician, perform her normal duties in the School District.

2. Any teacher who is pregnant and does not wish to request a maternity leave shall submit her resignation not less than four (4) months before the expected birth of the child, unless otherwise specified by the Superintendent.

3. All such maternity leaves are terminated within eight weeks from the date of the birth of the child. However, such leave may be extended, at the discretion of the Superintendent.

4. Except for those persons exercising child rearing leave entitlements, the teacher must notify the Superintendent by the first of April of the school year in which her maternity leave expires of her intention either to return to the Regional School District (by signing a contract) or of her intention to terminate her employment in the School District.

5. Such a teacher may request and shall be entitled to unpaid child rearing leave upon completion of maternity leave provided:
   a. she provides at least sixty (60) days advance written notice of her intention to take such leave
   b. the duration of the leave is specified
   c. the leave shall end on a date that coincides with the beginning of the school year and shall in no event extend beyond the first day of school following the child's first birthday

6. Failure to comply with any of the relevant above provisions shall be considered grounds for termination of employment in the Regional School District.

7. Fathers shall be entitled to utilize available and accumulated personal leave days and sick leave days, in that order, for paternity leave, not to exceed five (5) consecutive days beginning with the birth of the child.

8. Adoptive parents of non-school age children shall be entitled to adoptive leave not to exceed eight (8) weeks from and commencing on the date of the delivery of the child; provided further:
   a. that as much advance notice as possible is required
   b. the teacher shall only be entitled to said leave if he or she has more than fifty (50) accumulated sick days at the time of commencement of the leave
   c. the first four (4) weeks shall be paid leave, thereafter pay shall be continued only by the utilization of any available sick leave
d. if both of the adoptive parents are members of the bargaining unit, only one (1) of them may utilize adoptive leave for the child

9. Maternity leave, paternity leave if available and adoptive leave if available shall be considered paid leave of absence; and teachers returning from said leave shall maintain their pay scale and shall also maintain their teaching position if reasonably possible.

10. Child rearing leave shall be unpaid, all benefits and fringe benefits shall cease unless the teacher is able to continue them by individual payments, and assignment of the affected teacher or other teachers to the pertinent teaching position and schedule shall be at the sole discretion of the Superintendent.

11. Teachers returning from maternity leave will be placed on the current salary schedule at least at the step held prior to withdrawal.

12. Conditions stipulated above are subject to amendment, modification, or revisions as prescribed by statute.

W. EXTENDED CONTRACT
Subject to mutual agreement, the School Committee may award an "Extended" contract, in addition to a "School Year" contract. Remuneration for this Extended Contract will be set at ten (10) percent of the total school year contract salary. Teachers on an Extended Contract will be obligated to an additional seven weeks of employment. That employment will generally cover the Christmas, February, and April vacation weeks, plus four weeks during the summer. No teacher may be compelled to accept an Extended Contract. Request for such a contract may be initiated either by the School Committee, the Administration, or the teacher.

X. TEACHER PROTECTION

1. Teachers will immediately report to the Principal, in writing, all cases of assault suffered by them in connection with their employment.

2. This report will be forwarded to the Superintendent who will comply with any reasonable request from the teacher for information in his/her possession related to the incident or to the person involved and will act in appropriate ways as liaison between the teacher, police and the courts.

3. If an assault on a school department employee is by an adult who is not a pupil, the principal will promptly report the incident to the proper law enforcement authorities and the Superintendent of Schools.

Y. CONTRACT LIAISON COMMITTEE

1. Purpose
To serve as an informal advisory committee to the Association and School Committee; to supervise generally the contractual obligations; to serve as an interpretative body regarding the intent of less concrete contractual items, and further, to consider additional professionally related matters not included in the Contract.

2. Membership
The Contract Liaison Committee shall be composed of the Superintendent of Schools, two members of the School Committee, a Principal, the President of the Association, the Chairman of the Associations Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee, and two additional teachers.

3. Limitations
The Contract Liaison Committee will be vested with advisory powers only.

Z. REDUCTION IN FORCE

1. The Committee retains the exclusive right to determine the number of teaching positions and other professional positions which are needed in the schools under its jurisdiction. In the event it becomes necessary to reduce the number of employees included in the bargaining unit defined in Article I,
employees with professional status shall be laid-off in the inverse order of their seniority as defined in
Section 2d below. No employee with professional status will be laid-off until all teachers without
professional status are gone unless the least senior teacher with professional status is not qualified to
perform the duties of the last remaining teacher without professional status.

2. An employee with professional status whose position is eliminated shall:
   a. Be transferred to an open position for which he or she is licensed. If no such opening exists, the
      employee shall:
   b. Replace an employee with the lowest seniority within the district in an area in which the laid-off
      employee is qualified.
   c. An employee who is bumped in Section 2b above shall be afforded the same bumping rights
      therein.
   d. “Seniority” means an employee’s continuous service to the district, excluding unpaid leaves of
      absence. Seniority is calculated in years, months and days in the bargaining unit from the initial
date of teaching. Approved paid leaves of absence, including sabbatical leaves, and unpaid family
medical leave shall not be considered a break in continuous service. Any year(s) an employee
was gone due to an unpaid leave of absence will be deducted from the total years calculated from
their initial date of teaching. An employee who has been employed part-time for any given year,
will receive a fraction of a year’s seniority equivalent to the amount of employment.
   e. "Qualified” means that the teacher holds a valid license for the position.

3. Ties for seniority list shall be broken in the following manner:
   a. One point shall be granted to the teacher or teachers in each of the following areas:
      i. The greatest number of certifications
      ii. The greatest number of degrees
      iii. The greatest number of total years of public school teaching experience earned
           outside the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District up to a maximum of
           six (6) years.
   b. All of the points awarded above shall be totaled for each teacher. The teacher with the least
      number of points will be laid-off first. The teacher with the greatest number of points will be re-
      employed first.
   c. In the event it is not possible to break a tie by applying the criteria identified above, the
      educational needs of the system as specified by the Superintendent in writing shall prevail.
   d. Other applicable guidelines include the following:
      i. "Grandfathered” personnel will receive credit for certification in disciplines in which
         they have taught for at least three (3) years (see a.i. above)
      ii. Teacher records must be updated by the individuals by written notice by February 1,
          with official verification by April 1.

4. Teachers who are to be effected by a reduction in staff during the school year must be notified in
writing no later than 30 days in advance of the date at which the reduction will take effect. Teachers
who are to be effected by a reduction in staff for the following school year must be notified in writing
no later than June 15 of the school year preceding the year in which the reduction will take effect.

5. Teachers who have been laid-off shall be entitled to recall rights for a period of twelve (12) months
from the effective date of their respective layoffs. The Ashburnham-Westminster Teacher’s
Association President shall be notified of openings in writing as they arise by the Superintendent.
These openings will also be posted on the District website. Preference for positions as they develop
will be in the inverse order of their respective layoff dates and all benefits to which a teacher was
entitled at the time of layoff shall be restored in full upon re-employment within the recall period. No credit will be given for time spent on layoff. A person recalled shall be given 14 days to commence employment.

6. For a period of 24 months after the layoff date, laid-off employees may continue the group health and life insurance coverage (provided by the District to members of the bargaining unit) by reimbursing the District for the full premium cost subject to then COBRA regulations. Failure to forward premium payments to the Superintendent’s office by the 10th of the month, or refusal to return to employment upon recall will terminate this option.

7. While members of the bargaining unit continue on layoff during the recall period, the Committee agrees not to hire any new teachers unless all qualified teachers on layoff with recall rights from this school system decline an offer to fill the vacancy within the posting period.

8. For purposes of this article, layoff will date from the last day taught for compensation as a full time or part time staff member in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District.

7. A seniority list shall be compiled and updated upon request of the AWTA President on or before October 1. A copy shall be given to the Association within 30 days of such a request and any challenge to the list shall be made within 45 days of receipt of such list. The Administration shall respond to the Association’s challenge within 30 days. If necessary, a meeting between the parties shall take place within 30 days of the Administration’s response to resolve any issues. A new list will be published after any needed corrections are made. Nothing in this section shall be read as a reason to stop layoffs during the period stated herein.
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - GRIEVANCE REPORT

Local Association: Ashburnham-Westminster Teachers’ Association

Name of Grievant: 

Home Address: 

Home Telephone: 

Position: 

Date of Grievance: 

Nature of Grievance: 

Remedy Sought: 

Association Grievance Chairperson: 

Prepare three copies for each grievance:
ONE copy for Local Association
ONE copy for MTA Central Office

First Level (Principal): 
Employer Response: 
Date: 

Second Level (Grievance Resolution Committee): 
Due Date: 
Employer Response Date: 

Third Level (Superintendent): 
Employer Response: 
Due Date: 

Fourth Level (Arbitration): 
Due Date: 
Arbitrator's Award: 

Date of Implementation of Remedy (if any): 

Association Grievance Chairperson Date
APPENDIX B

VOLUNTEER LANGUAGE

1. “Volunteer” is defined as someone who is willing to donate a significant period of time (sports season, major activity, play, course, or other specialized program) in academics, athletics, some other co-curricular activity and who does not receive a stipend. Not covered by this definition is someone who donates a short duration of time (one day, one week.)

2. A teacher/coach/principal may choose to accept or not accept the assistance of a volunteer.

3. A volunteer will not supplant a teacher’s stipend position as defined by the contract.

4. A “C.O.R.I.” (Criminal Offender) check will be performed on all volunteers.

5. All volunteers must complete an application process.

6. The principal or his/her designee must complete a reference check of the prospective volunteers.
## APPENDIX C
### TEACHER'S SALARY SCHEDULE
#### 2016-2017

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Note: Step 16 is only attainable by those who were placed there as of July 1, 2016.
Step 15 shall be considered the top step.
## APPENDIX C
### TEACHER'S SALARY SCHEDULE
#### 2017-2018

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## APPENDIX C
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#### 2018-2019

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*Note: Step 16 is only attainable by those who were placed there as of July 1, 2016. Step 15 shall be considered the top step.*
## APPENDIX D-1

### CO-CURRICULAR / ADVISOR STIPENDS**

All stipends subject to annual appropriation.

### High School

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Note: Bargaining unit members will not be required to collect money for participation in sports or other similar after school programs. This prohibition does not include such things as collecting money for the occasional class trip.
**APPENDIX D-2**

**CO-CURRICULAR / ADVISOR STIPENDS**

### Elementary

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Note: Bargaining unit members will not be required to collect money for participation in sports or other similar after school programs. This prohibition does not include such things as collecting money for the occasional class trip.
APPENDIX E

COACHING STIPENDS

All stipends subject to annual appropriation.
FY 2017, FY 2018 & FY 2019

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Note: Bargaining unit members will not be required to collect money for participation in sports or other similar after school programs. This prohibition does not include such things as collecting money for the occasional class trip.
## APPENDIX F
### COORDINATOR STIPENDS

**Middle School Team Coordinators**  
(one per academic team, six in total)  
2016-2017: $3,493  
2017-2018: $3,493  
2018-2019: $3,493

**Middle School Enrichment Team Coordinator**  
(one in total)  
2016-2017: $3,493  
2017-2018: $3,493  
2018-2019: $3,493

**Middle School Special Education Team Coordinator**  
(one in total)  
2016-2017: $3,493  
2017-2018: $3,493  
2018-2019: $3,493

**High School Department Coordinators**  
(ten in total beginning in 2008-2009)  
2016-2017: $4,030  
2017-2018: $4,030  
2018-2019: $4,030

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<tbody>
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<td>English, Math, Business Education, Science</td>
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<td>Technology Education, Social Studies,</td>
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<td>Foreign Language, Health/Fitness,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual/Performing Arts, and Special</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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</table>

**High School Guidance Department Coordinator**  
(one in total)  
2016-2017: $4,030  
2017-2018: $4,030  
2018-2019: $4,030

**Curriculum Coordinators**  
(one in total)  
2016-2017: $6,596  
2017-2018: $6,596  
2018-2019: $6,596
APPENDIX G

HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT

GENERAL STATEMENT

A reimbursement account of $5,000.00 has been established for MRI, CAT, PET scans and emergency room visits. In order to manage the account, it was decided to reimburse all MRI, CAT, and PET scans first. Itemized receipts will be totaled for all MRI, CAT, and PET scans. This total amount will be subtracted from the $5,000.00, and reimbursements will then be made. Itemized receipts will then be totaled for emergency room visits. This total amount will be subtracted from the remainder of the $5,000.00 account and reimbursements will then be made for emergency room visits. All itemized receipts, listing services rendered and indicating proof of payment for the services, must be submitted to the Central Office and the AWTA treasurer, or AWTA designee, by June 30 of that school year.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

1. A receipt of payment that lists the services rendered and indicates proof of payment, must be submitted to the Central Office and the AWTA treasurer by June 30 of that school year.

2. MRI, CAT, and PET scan receipts will be totaled.

3. If the total amount for the stated incidents is less than five thousand dollars ($5,000), each incident will be reimbursed to the full one-hundred dollar ($100.00) amount.

4. In the event the receipt total is more than five-thousand dollars ($5,000), the total fund will be divided equally per incident, and reimbursement for scans will be made in equal amounts.

5. If there is a remaining balance in the account, emergency room receipts will then be totaled.

6. Each emergency room incident will then be reimbursed to the full one-hundred dollar ($100.00) amount if the balance of the $5,000.00 account allows.

7. If the remaining balance does not allow equal payments of $100.00 for emergency room visits, the remaining fund total will be divided equally per emergency room incident, and reimbursements for emergency room visits will be made in equal amounts.

8. Reimbursement for any incident is not to exceed one-hundred dollars ($100.00).

9. Reimbursements to AWTA members will be made by the Central Office on or before July 30 of that school year.