

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT



BY AND BETWEEN THE

**HOEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

AND THE

**HOEWELL VALLEY NETWORK
ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION**

FOR

JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2023

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THIS AGREEMENT

entered into this **8th day of June, 2020**

By and Between

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, with offices at
425 South Main Street, in the Borough of Pennington, County of Mercer and State of New Jersey,
hereinafter referred to as the "Board";

and

HOPEWELL VALLEY NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION as Collective
Bargaining Representative for those employees of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District
as hereinafter specifically designated, being hereinafter referred to as provided in Article I.

**ARTICLE I
RECOGNITION**

- A. The Hopewell Valley Regional Board hereby recognizes the Hopewell Valley Network Administrators Association as the exclusive representative for purposes of collective negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment for the following non-certified titles of the Board:

Desktop Specialist
Elementary Lead
Active Directory/Windows Specialist
Database Administrator

- B. The Association does not represent certified technicians. The Association does not represent employees in titles not listed in this Article unless is provided written notice of such claim to the Board, and is declared to be such representatives in accordance with law.
- C. Unless otherwise specifically indicated, the terms “Technicians” shall refer to all personnel represented by the Association in the bargaining unit as above defined.
- D. The parties affirm their intent, as required by existing statutes, to follow a policy of not discriminating against any employee on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or membership in an association with legal activities of any employee organization.
- E. The Association accepts the requirement of the New Jersey Employer- Employee Relations Act as amended to represent equally all members of the above-defined unit.

ARTICLE II NEGOTIATION PROCEDURE

- A. The parties agree to enter into collective negotiations concerning the terms and conditions of employment for a successor agreement in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. Upon notification of intention to enter into collective negotiations by either party, the Board shall establish a mutually agreeable meeting date with the President of the Association.
- B. The parties agree to commence negotiations no later than February 1. Proposals shall be exchanged at the initial meeting. Proposals not submitted in the original exchange shall not be a subject to consideration or discussion unless they are counter-proposals or substitute proposals.
- C. During negotiations the Board and the Association shall present data, exchange points or view and make proposals and counterproposals. The Board shall make available to the Association for inspection at reasonable times that information which is available to the public.
- D. It is acknowledged and understood that the negotiation teams representing the association and the Board have been empowered and authorized to discuss all terms and conditions of employment subject to negotiation. It is also understood that the negotiation representatives of the Association and the Board are authorized to reach tentative agreement on the terms and conditions of employment. A tentative agreement shall be reduced to writing. The Board shall complete a draft of the agreement and shall submit it to the Association for ratification. Upon ratification by the Association, the agreement shall be presented to the full Board for ratification at its next public meeting. No agreement shall become effective and binding upon the Board until formally ratified by both parties.
- E. Any issue pertaining to procedures not outlined by this Agreement shall be resolved by the mutual agreement of the parties.
- F. This agreement incorporates the entire understanding of the parties on all issues, which were or could have been the subject of negotiation.
- G. Neither party shall have any control over the selection of the negotiating representatives of the other party.
- H. One representative for each party shall be the spokesperson-negotiator. Those representatives shall be responsible for all procedural details including fixing dates for negotiating sessions, requesting caucuses, initial presentation of proposals and counter proposals, requesting information, clarification, and tentative acceptance of proposals. The spokesperson-negotiators may recognize other members of the negotiating team or call upon resource personnel to present or discuss pertinent data.

- I. Either party shall have the right to call for a caucus or private conference during the course of negotiating sessions; provided, however, that no such caucus or private conference shall be longer than forty-five (45) minutes in duration without mutual agreement.
- J. During negotiations the Board and the Association shall present data, exchange points of view, and make proposals and counter proposals. The Board shall make available to the Association for inspection at reasonable times that information which is available to the public.
- K. It is acknowledged and understood that the negotiation teams representing the Association and the Board have been empowered and authorized to discuss all terms and conditions of employment subject to negotiation. It is also understood that the negotiation representatives of the Association and the Board are authorized to reach tentative agreement on the terms and conditions of employment. A tentative agreement shall be reduced to writing. The Board shall complete a draft of the agreement and shall submit it to the Association for ratification. Upon ratification by the Association, the agreement shall be presented to the full Board for ratification at its next public meeting. No agreement shall become effective and binding until it is formally ratified by both parties.
- L. Any issue pertaining to procedures not outlined by this Agreement shall be resolved by the mutual agreement of the parties.
- M. All subjects, items, and matters proposed or discussed during these negotiations which are not ultimately contained or provided for in the final agreement shall in no way be binding upon either party. With the exception of their use as parole evidence all subjects, items, and matters so discussed shall be without prejudice to either party.
- N. This agreement incorporates the entire understanding of the parties on all issues, which were or could have been the subject of negotiation.

ARTICLE III GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Definition

A "grievance" shall mean a claim by an employee or the Association that there has been a misinterpretation, misapplication or a violation of any of the provisions of this agreement. It is agreed that binding arbitration as provided for in this Article does not apply to a misinterpretation or misapplication of Board Policy or Administrative Regulation; provided, however, that no claim shall constitute a grievance to be processed in accordance with the following procedure which pertains to:

1. Any matter for which a detailed method of review is prescribed by law;
2. Any rule or regulation of the State Commissioner of Education unless the Commissioner of Education shall first specifically determine that the Board has exclusive jurisdiction therein;
3. Any policy or bylaw of the Board or administrative decision;
4. Any matter which according to law is beyond the scope of the legal authority of the Board;
5. Any matter for which a grievance has been filed under a special purpose grievance procedure provided by Board policy.
6. A complaint of a non-tenured employee which arises by reason of his/her not being re-employed;
7. A complaint by any non-certificated personnel occasioned by lack of appointment or lack of retention in any position for which tenure is either not possible or not required.

Further provided; that in order for a grievance to be considered under this procedure, Step One must be commenced by the grievant within thirty (30) calendar days, of either its occurrence or when the grievant could have or should have reasonably known of the occurrence. Failure to act shall constitute abandonment.

B. Procedure

Any employee who has a grievance shall discuss it first with his/her Immediate Supervisor in an attempt to resolve the matter informally.

Step One: If, as a result of the discussion with the immediate supervisor, the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, the grievant may set forth his/her grievance in writing to his/her immediate supervisor on the grievance forms provided. The grievant shall have the right to request a hearing before the immediate supervisor upon the grievance form provided. In the event that an informal hearing is not requested by the grievant, the immediate supervisor may conduct such a

hearing to assist in the consideration of the grievance. The immediate supervisor shall communicate his/her decision to the grievant in writing, with reasons, not later than ten (10) schooldays from the receipt of the written grievance or of the close of the hearing whichever is later.

Step Two: Not later than ten (10) school days after receipt of the Step One decision, the grievant may appeal the decision to the Superintendent or his/her designee. That appeal must be in writing upon grievance forms provided, specifying the nature of the grievance, the nature of the injury, loss or inconvenience claimed, the results of prior discussions with the immediate supervisor and the grievant's dissatisfaction with the decision previously rendered. On the grievance form, a hearing may be requested before the Superintendent or his/her designee by indicating this request in writing upon the grievance form provided. If a hearing is not requested by the grievant, the Superintendent or his/her designee may conduct such a hearing to assist in the consideration of the grievance. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall render a written decision not later than fifteen (15) school days from the receipt of the appeal. The written decision shall be sent, with reasons, to the grievant, immediate supervisor, and the president of the Association.

Step Three: If, as a result of Step Two, the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant, said grievant may request a review by the Board of Education. This request shall be submitted on a grievance form provided through the Superintendent. All related papers shall be attached and forwarded to the Board Secretary. Any grievance appeal to the Board of Education must be filed with the Board Secretary not later than ten (10) school days or fourteen (14) calendar days; whichever is less, from the receipt of the Step Two decision. The grievant may request a hearing before the Board of Education on the form provided. The Board of Education shall render a written decision, with reasons, upon said appeal not later than sixty (60) calendar days following its receipt of the grievance. The Association may move the grievance to the arbitrator step after forty-five (45) days if the Board has not rendered a decision. Copies of the Board's written decision shall be forwarded to the aggrieved, the immediate supervisor and the president of the Association.

Step Four: If the grievant is not satisfied with the Step Three decision, a request for the appointment of an Arbitrator may be made by the Association within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the Board's decision. A copy of the request shall be forwarded to the Board Secretary at the same time. The Board and the Association agree to adhere to the rules of the American Arbitration Association or the Public Employment Commission in the selection and the performance of the Arbitrator. The selection of AAA or PERC is to be decided by the moving party. The Arbitrator shall be limited to the issues submitted by both parties and shall consider nothing else; he/she can add nothing to nor subtract anything from, nor modify in any way, this Agreement between the parties. All proceedings shall be conducted in the Board of Education Administrative Office or at any other mutually agreeable location. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding to the extent mandated by law; otherwise, the decision shall be advisory. As to any advisory determination issued by an Arbitrator pursuant to this section, within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of said advisory determination, each party shall notify the other whether and to what extent it is willing to accept the terms of the determination as a final resolution of the grievance.

C. General Provisions

1. Time Periods

- a. All time periods herein specified shall be strictly adhered to unless both parties mutually consent, in writing, to the extension or waiver.
- b. If the grievant fails to proceed to the next level within the time period specified, the grievance shall be deemed abandoned and the most recent decision shall be considered binding. If a decision is not rendered within the prescribed period of time at Step One or Two, the grievance may automatically proceed to the next step.
- c. When the grievance procedure extends into or occurs during the summer, school day shall be construed to be 'calendar days' exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

2. Procedures

- a. No employee shall have the right to refuse to follow an administrative directive or Board policy upon the grounds that a grievance has been filed. All employees shall continue to comply with directives or Board policies as requested by the Superintendent and/or administrators until the grievance is properly and finally determined.
- b. Forms for filing grievances and requests for review are referenced to in this Agreement and no grievance shall be processed unless the forms are utilized. (See Appendix A.)
- c. All hearings conducted under this grievance procedure shall be conducted in private and in confidence. Details of these proceedings shall be available only to persons needing such information in the performance of official duties.
- d. In the event that a grievance involves more than one employee and only one supervisor, those employees processing the grievance shall comply with the grievance procedure as outlined above.
- e. If a grievance involves a group of employees who do not have a common principal or immediate supervisor or more than one employee with more than one immediate supervisor, the grievance shall be processed in accordance with Step One before one of the principals or immediate supervisors involved selected by the Superintendent.
- f. If the Association files a grievance it shall comply with the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.

- g. No reprisals shall be taken by the Board or Administration against any party in interest in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.
- h. All documents, communications and records original to the grievance file shall be not kept in the personnel file of any of the participants.

3. Representation

- a. Following the filing of a formal written grievance at Step One, an employee may be represented at all stages of the procedure by him/her self or representative of his/her choosing.
- b. The grievant shall have the right to legal counsel, or representation, at all stages of the grievance procedure as outlined above. Legal counsel for the Board of Education may likewise be in attendance at any stage of the grievance procedure.
- c. The Association may have a representative present at grievance hearings held in accordance with Step One herein. The Association shall have a representative present at grievance hearings held in accordance with Steps Two through Four herein.

4. Costs

- a. Each party will bear the total cost incurred by them.
- b. The fees and expenses of the arbitration are the only costs to be shared equally by the parties.

ARTICLE IV BOARD RIGHTS

The Board, on its own behalf and on behalf of the electors of the District hereby retains and reserves unto itself all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the laws and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, including all decisional law and rules and regulations of the State Department of Education and Commissioner of Education of the State of New Jersey, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights; subject however, to the provisions of this agreement and the policies as formally established and promulgated by the Board.

1. To the executive management and administrative control of the school system and its properties and facilities, and the activities of its administrators and Supervisors in the performance of their employment;
2. To hire, direct, promote, transfer, assign and retain Technicians in positions within the school district, and to determine their qualifications and the conditions for their continued employment or their dismissal or demotion, and to relieve Administrators and Supervisors from duties because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons pursuant to rules and regulations of the Board;
3. To maintain the efficiency of the school district operations entrusted to the Board, and to determine the methods, means and personnel by which such operations are to be conducted;
4. To decide upon the means and methods of work;
5. To determine schedules, and the duties, responsibilities, and assignments of Administrators and Supervisors with respect thereto;
6. To take whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the mission of the school district in situations of emergency.

ARTICLE V
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

- A. Pursuant to Chapter 303, Public Laws of 1968, as amended by Chapter 123, Public Law of 1974, the parties agree that every employee of the Board shall have the right freely to organize, join and support the Association and the Hopewell Valley Network Administrators Association for the purpose of engaging in collective negotiations concerning the terms and conditions of their employment or refrain therefrom.
- B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deprive any Hopewell Valley Network Administrators in the Hopewell Valley Regional School District of any rights now enjoyed by Technicians and Coordinators as conferred and guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and of the United States, and all duly enacted laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant thereto, including but not by way of limitation Chapter 303, Public Laws of 1968, as amended by Chapter 123, Public Law of 1974, commonly known as the New Jersey Employer Employee Relations Act.
- C. Whenever any Technician is required to appear before the Board of Education, or any Committee or member thereof, concerning any matter which could adversely affect the continuation of that Technician in his/her office, position or employment, or the salary or any increments pertaining thereto, then he/she shall be given prior written notice of the reasons for such meeting or interview and shall be entitled to have a person of his/her own choosing present to advise and represent him/her during such meeting or interview.
- D. All personnel shall have forty-eight (48) hours to read over any written annual evaluation prior to a conference about the evaluation being held.
- E. No personnel of the unit shall be subject to discipline, disciplinary reprimands, or reductions in compensation for disciplinary reasons, except in accordance with this paragraph and for reasonable cause. All such actions shall be subject to review under the grievance procedures established by this contract. Arbitration for major discipline shall be binding; arbitration for minor discipline shall not be binding but advisory. Formal written reprimands shall be considered major discipline. Written admonitions accompanied by re-direction of an employee's job performance shall not be considered written reprimands, but may be reviewed as minor discipline if accompanied by a sanction. Minor discipline for this purpose consists of a suspension or of five (5) days or less or a lesser equivalent, or an aggregate of less than fifteen (15) or more days during a calendar year or fewer than three separate suspensions during a calendar year. The Board shall be permitted to use whatever disciplinary sanctions are permitted by law for minor discipline.
- F. No material derogatory to an employee's conduct, character, or personality shall be placed in his/her personnel file unless he/she has had the opportunity to review the material. Each such employee shall have the right to submit a written answer to such material within twenty days of being afforded the opportunity to review the material. The material and the employee's written answer, if any, shall be reviewed by the Superintendent, and the existence of the answer shall be noted on the file copy of the material.

ARTICLE VI ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

- A. The Association shall have the right before the opening of school or after the close of school on school days, to use school and office equipment as may be in each school upon reasonable notice to and approval by the building principal or his/her designee, which approval shall not be withheld unless such equipment as is desired is in use, or about to be used for other authorized purposes. The approval may be revoked if the equipment is required for school use after the association has begun using it. No equipment shall be removed from the school building. All use of computer equipment shall be subject to and consistent with district policies governing the use of such equipment as a means of communication. Such equipment shall be operated only by members of the Association experienced in its use, and the association shall bear full financial responsibility for its misuse or damage while so being used. In the event of damage to school equipment occurring during the time that said equipment is in use by the association, the Association agrees to reimburse the board of education for costs of repair or replacement of said equipment. The Association shall inventory and, upon request, pay for the reasonable cost of all materials and supplies incidental to such use.

- B. The Association and its representatives shall have the right to use school buildings for professional meetings upon request after the close of school on school days, provided that all requests for such building use shall conform to existing applicable rules and regulations of the board. Any requests by the Association for the use of a school building for a professional meeting shall be made in advance, in writing, to the business administrator, who shall have the authority to approve a reasonable time and place for such meeting within the building so as not to interfere with other regularly scheduled meetings and activities being held therein; provided, however, that if the use of the said school building by the Association results in any expenses to the Board for utilities, custodial services or any other services, the Association shall, upon request, reimburse the Board for such expense, and further provided that the Association shall leave any premises so used by it in a suitable condition for the next user thereof.

- C. No meeting, hearing or conferences as defined, specified or provided for in the within agreement shall be held or conducted during normal school hours except in emergency situations by mutual agreement.

- D. The Association may distribute to employees of the unit within each school building by use of the existing school mailbox facilities or electronic facilities materials dealing with appropriate and legitimate business of the Association provided, however, that such materials shall be distributed before or after normal school hours. The Association shall have the right to utilize such interschool distribution facilities as may exist, provided, however, that in no case shall the Board be liable for any loss or damage that may result to any materials so distributed by the Association.

- E. The rights and privileges of the Association and its representatives as set forth in this agreement shall be granted only to the Association as the exclusive representative of the bargaining unit, and to no other organization.

F. Due Deduction and Representation Fees:

1. New Employees – On or about the last day of each month, beginning with the month this agreement becomes effective, the Board will submit to the Association, a list of all employees who began their employment in a bargaining unit position during the preceding thirty (30) day period. The list will include names, job titles, and dates of employment for all such employees.
2. Upon receipt by the Board of an appropriate dues deduction authorization card, the Board will withhold and pay over to the Association the dues of the member of the bargaining unit providing such authorization.
3. If an employee in the bargaining unit does not become a member of the Association during any membership year, which is covered in whole or in part by this Agreement, said employee may be required by the Association to pay a representation fee to the Association for that membership year. In accordance with law, the purpose of this fee will be to offset the employee's per capita cost of services rendered by the Association as majority representative.
4. Amount of Fee – Notification – Prior to the beginning of each membership year, the Association will notify the Board in writing of the amount of the regular membership dues, initiation fees and assessments charged by the Association to its members for that membership year. The representation fee to be paid by nonmembers up to eighty-five (85%) percent of the regular dues will be determined by the Association in accordance with the law and any change(s), thereafter shall be brought to the attention of the Board by the Association.
5. Deduction and Transmission of Representation Fee – The Board will deduct the representation fee thirty (30) days after the employee begins his/her employment, but only upon receiving written notice from the Association that the employee has not in fact become a member. Once during each membership year covered in whole or in part by this agreement, the Association may submit to the Board a list of those employees who have withdrawn as members of the Association for the then current membership year. The Board will deduct from the salaries of such employees the full amount of the representation fee and promptly will transmit the amount so deducted to the Association.
6. Changes – The Association may notify the Board in writing of any changes in the amount of the dues and/or the representation fee, and such changes will be reflected in any deductions made in the pay period next succeeding the pay period during which, such notice is received by the Board.
7. The Board shall pay eighty (80%) percent of the cost of membership in NJPSA. The remaining twenty (20%) percent shall be borne by the employee through a payroll deduction.

- G. Indemnification – The Association shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Board against any and all claims, demands, suits and other forms of liability, including liability for counsel fees and other legal costs and expenses, that may arise out of, or by reason of, any action taken or not taken by the Board regarding the representation fee.

**ARTICLE VII
LONG TERM LEAVE**

Leave of absence without pay may be authorized to Technicians upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and approval of the Board of Education. If granted, such leave will be without compensation and without benefits except that the employee may continue health coverage at his/her sole expense as may be required or permitted under COBRA.

A. Length of Period

Leaves may be granted for twelve (12) months or less. So that instructional and/or building programs are not disrupted, all leaves must be terminated on a date determined by the Superintendent of Schools that is least disruptive to instruction and agreed to as a condition of the leave grant. If granted, such leave will be without compensation and without benefits, except that the employee may continue health insurance coverage at this/her sole expense as may be required or permitted under COBRA.

B. Medical Examination

If an application for a leave of absence is favorably considered by the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education may require a medical examination upon the return of the applicant. If the employee chooses to go to a physician of his/her choice, approved by the Board, rather than the school physician, the employee will pay all expenses. This examination is for the purpose of determining either the extent of illness, injury, or the necessity of recuperation, or for the purpose of determining whether he/she is medically fit to return to service, and to carry on such prescribed work as may be assigned by the administration.

C. Number of Employees on Leave

The Board of Education reserves the right to determine the number of employees who may be granted a leave of absence in any one year.

D. Longevity

The period of a leave of absence without pay shall not be counted as a period of service for the purpose of determining placement on any salary guide.

E. All members of the unit shall have the option to join AFLAC or other Board approved carrier.

F. Family Leave

The Board shall comply with applicable provisions of state and federal law for eligible employees requesting family leave pursuant to such laws.

**ARTICLE VIII
WORK YEAR**

- A. Vacations: Technicians shall be entitled to vacation at a time approved by the immediate supervisor and the Superintendent.

Technicians shall be eligible for vacations on the following basis:

Years of Service Completed as of July 1	Number of Vacation Days_____
0- 1	1 day earned for each month worked prior to July 1, not to exceed 11 days.
1-5	16
6-8	19
9-10	21
11-15	23
16 or more	25

A Technician, with the approval of the Superintendent or designee, may use his/her earned vacation when school is in session. No more than five (5) days may be taken consecutively when school is in session. However, if additional consecutive days are requested to be added to the first five (5) consecutive days, such request may be approved by the Superintendent or designee provided that such usage shall not interfere with the operational necessities of the technician's unit, or of the District as a whole.

Up to twenty-five (25) unused earned vacation days may be accumulated and accrued over for use in the subsequent year. Upon retirement or other separation from service, a member will be compensated for accumulated days at his/her current per diem rate of pay.

- B. All holidays are scheduled on the premise that classes are not in session. When a holiday (excluding Christmas Eve) falls on a weekend, employees who do not work on that holiday will be granted one additional vacation day.

Scheduled holidays are:

Labor Day	New Year's Day
Rosh Hashanah	Martin Luther King Day
Yom Kippur	Presidents' Day
Veterans Day	Good Friday
Thanksgiving	Memorial Day
Day after Thanksgiving	Independence Day
Christmas Eve	
Christmas Day	

C.

1. The regular workday for the employee of this unit shall consist of eight (8) hours per day, Monday through Friday, exclusive of lunchtime.
2. The starting time, lunch period starting time, and duration of the lunch period shall be established upon hire and may be revised upon two (2) weeks written notice to the employee, after consultation with the Director of Human Resources.

Any employee called to return to work, after leaving the premises upon completion of a regularly scheduled shift, shall be paid for a minimum of two (2) hours.

Employees called into work prior to the start of a regular scheduled shift may take time off at the end of the shift in lieu of other compensation with the approval of the immediate supervisor.

When school opening is delayed or school is dismissed early due to hazardous travel conditions, the times and duration of required attendance to work by the employees of this unit shall be determined by the Superintendent, based upon the operational needs of the district and considerations of safe travel.

4. a. All work performed above forty (40) hours per week by employees of this unit shall be compensated in accordance with appropriate labor laws relating to overtime compensation. The parties understand and declare that none of the titles listed in the recognition clause of this agreement are exempt from such laws.
- b. All work above forty (40) hours weekly shall be approved by the Director of Human Resources prior to the work actually being performed.
- c. Any work performed on Sunday or on a scheduled holiday under this contract shall be compensated at a rate of double the employee's regular hourly rate and may by mutual agreement be taken as additional vacation time in lieu of cash compensation.
- d. The payment of overtime shall be governed by applicable federal and state law.
5. All Technicians are scheduled for a twelve (12)-month work year from July 1 through June 30 except for paid holidays as noted in section B above.
6. A member who dies before his/her contract is completed shall have payment for cumulative earned unused vacation paid to his/her estate.

**ARTICLE IX
SICK LEAVE**

- A. All Technicians are entitled to one (1) sick day per month per year of work without loss of pay. All days not used shall be cumulative. The Board of Education may require a physician's certificate to be filed with the Director of Human Resources in the case of sick leave claimed.
- B. The Board shall comply with applicable provisions of state and federal law for eligible employees requesting family leave pursuant to such laws.
- C. If a Technician should suffer an extended illness and has exhausted all current and accumulated sick leave time, he/she may request additional sick leave which request shall be considered by the Board of Education on a case-by-case basis.
- D. When a Technician is retired from active duty in accordance with New Jersey State Pension and Annuity requirements after ten (10) years of continuous service in Hopewell Valley, the Board of Education will pay the employee for accumulated unused sick leave days. For all such employees retiring during the 2013-2014 school year or length of this agreement, the rate of compensation will be \$70.00 per day to a maximum of \$6,400.00. Any monies granted by the Board of Education under Paragraph C above will be deducted from the payment for unused sick leave days.
- E. A member with ten (10) or more years of services in Hopewell Valley who dies before his/her contract is completed shall have payment for unused sick leave paid to his/her estate in accordance with the provisions of section D above.

**ARTICLE X
PERSONAL LEAVE**

Personal leave with pay not to exceed a total of six (6) days per year (three (3) additional days per year for each death in the immediate family) may be granted by the Superintendent of Schools for the following reasons;

- A. Serious illness in immediate family. Family shall mean spouse, domestic partner, child, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparent, or other relative who lives within the household of the staff member.
- B. Absence due to death in non-immediate family. Non-immediate family shall mean grandparent, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, uncle, cousin, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter- or son-in-law not living in the household of the staff member. Absence in such cases shall be allowed with pay for the day of the funeral.
- C. Death in the immediate family. Family shall mean spouse, domestic partner, child, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparent, or other relative who lives within the household of the staff member. The leave of absence may precede, include, or follow the death of the family member.
- D. Legal Request Absence from school by reason of subpoena or jury service by summons will be allowed. In the event an employee is compensated for their service as a witness or juror, compensation paid by the school district under this provision shall be reduced dollar for dollar. Any employee receiving a subpoena or summons that requires the employee to be absent under this leave provision shall provide the superintendent with written notice of same within two business days after the subpoena or summons for jury services is served upon or received by the employee. The failure to give timely notice may result in a denial of leave hereunder. Nothing herein shall affect the right of the school district or of the employee to seek an excuse or deferral of jury duty to a time more convenient in accordance with law.
- E. Personal Reasons
 - 1. Non-Cumulative
 - a. Marriage of employee (3 days)
 - b. Graduation, the day of graduation of the employee, spouse/civil union partner, or their children (1 day per year)
 - c. Examination for a degree
 - d. Marriage in immediate family (1 day)
 - e. Educational Leave - a Technician may be granted up to two days non-cumulative leave of absence with pay as may be required to attend summer school classes and/or travel to the places where such classes are to be held, upon recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the Board.

2. Cumulative. Request by a Technician, for time without reason, should be submitted through the Superintendent three school days prior to the date requested. Three personal days may be applied for and granted without a reason, but the number would be limited to five (5%) percent of the eligible staff on any given day. These days without a reason shall not be granted immediately before or immediately after a long weekend, holiday or vacation. If unused, these days shall accumulate as sick leave at the end of the school year.

ARTICLE XI
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Professional Development Plan. On or before September 1 of each school year, each member of the unit shall submit to the Superintendent a proposed program of professional development for that school year, and as may be pertinent, for subsequent school years. The plan shall identify the professional development activities the member wishes to participate in, the extent to which the proposed activities satisfy regulatory mandates for continuing licensure or certification and any evaluative requirements, the manner in which the proposed activities serve the interests of the district's programs, an explanation of the member's time commitment to the activities, and approximate dates and times of attendance if known. The plan may include any elements reasonably related to professional development including attendance at courses of instruction approved for graduate or undergraduate credit at institutions of high learning, other courses approved for professional development credit by competent regulatory authority, memberships in professional or erudite societies, publications, and reasonably-related travel. The plan shall specify the anticipated expenses associated with each element and activity.

Expenses for Professional Development. In accepting any plan, the Superintendent shall specify which expenditures shall be paid from district funds, either directly to third parties or by way of reimbursement of the member. The Superintendent shall be authorized by the Board to approve reasonable expenditures in amounts not to exceed in total \$2,500.00 for any member during each year of this contract. In extraordinary constraints, or where a demonstrably greater benefit will result in doing so, the Superintendent with the advice of the Business Administrator may authorize a greater expenditure for one contract year, provided that there shall be an equal reduction in the maximum reimbursable expense for such member during another year or years of this contract. Such authorization may be withheld where the request was not made in sufficient time for necessary district budget adjustments to be made. The following limitations shall also apply:

All expenses reimbursed shall be supported by signed vouchers with accompanying receipts, in accordance with existing business practice.

Tuition reimbursement for courses at institutions of higher education are subject to approval of the course in advance by the Superintendent, the attainment of a grade of "B" or higher for all credit courses, and shall not exceed \$298 per credit hour.

Reimbursement for dues or fees to professional associations shall not be made for the portion of such dues or fees that are utilized to support representational, collective bargaining or dispute resolution activities of such associations.

Other Business Expenses. The district will reimburse members of the unit for expenses incurred for authorized travel on school business and for fees or other expenses incurred in representing the district at authorized workshops, conferences or other business meetings. Mileage for personal auto use will be reimbursed at the rate established by the State and/or Department of Education for school districts.

**ARTICLE XII
INSURANCE AND HEALTH**

A. Health Insurance. The Board shall arrange for group medical insurance coverage to be available to members of this bargaining unit in accordance with the following terms:

1. Coverage shall be available and premiums quoted for the categories: individual, husband & wife/civil union partners, parent and child, and family.
2. The Horizon Direct Access 15 plan will be the base plan for all employees hired on or before June 30, 2017. For all employees hired on or after July 1, 2017, the Horizon Direct Access 20/30 plan will be the base plan. Employees who wish to take more expensive coverage will pay the full cost of the difference in premium, in addition to any other percentage contribution required by Tier 4 of c. 78, P.L. 2011.
3. All employees' contributions to premium shall be paid by payroll deduction and/or section 125 medical spending account disbursements, which shall be authorized by each employee at the time coverage is selected.
4. All employees hired on or before June 30, 2017, who voluntarily choose (or have previously chosen) to enroll in Horizon Direct Access 20/30 plan will receive the following lump sum payment for each school year in which they remain enrolled in the plan:

SINGLE	2 PARTY	FAMILY
\$350	\$500	\$800

Payment will be prorated if the employee does not remain in the 20/30 coverage for the entire school year. Payment will be made in June of each year.

5. Effective July 1, 2020; all employees who voluntarily choose to enroll in the Horizon Omnia plan will receive the following lump sum payment for each full school year in which they remain enrolled in the plan:

SINGLE	2 PARTY	FAMILY
\$1200	\$1800	\$2400

Payment will be prorated if the employee does not remain in the Omnia coverage for the entire school year. Payment will be made in June of each year.

6. The Board reserves the right to change health insurance carriers and leave Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. In that event, the new carrier's plan shall not be required to match the benefits in the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield plan, but must provide benefits equal to or better than the health coverage in effect during the 2011-2012 school year.

B. Prescription Drug Insurance: Board shall arrange for group prescription drug insurance coverage to be available to members of this bargaining unit in accordance with the

following terms:

1. Coverage shall be made available and premiums quoted for the categories: individual, husband and wife/civil union partners, parent and child, and family.
 2. Effective July 1, 2017, the co-pay for each prescription covered shall be \$30 Brand Name/\$15 Generic/1x Retail Mail Order.
 3. The Blue Cross Prescription Drug Plan is approved for use in satisfaction of this coverage requirement for the term of the Agreement. Any change or substitution of plan during the term of this Agreement must be mutually agreed upon between the Board and the Association.
 4. All employee contributions to premium shall be paid by payroll deduction and/or section 125 medical spending account disbursement, which shall be authorized by each employee at the time coverage is selected.
- C. Dental Insurance: The Board shall arrange for full family group dental insurance coverage to be available to members of this bargaining unit in accordance with the following terms.
1. Coverages will be available under the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield Dental Program, a “traditional” plan known as Direct Dental Network. In addition, coverage shall be made available under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan known as “Managed Dental Care,” a preferred provider style plan, and under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan known as “Total Care,” a facility based HMO style plan. These plans are approved for use in satisfaction of this coverage requirement for the term of the Agreement. Any change or substitution of plan during the term of this Agreement must be mutually agreed upon between the Board and the Association.
 2. Services covered under the Direct Dental Network and heretofore reimbursed at 70% shall for the duration of this Agreement be reimbursed at 80%.
 3. Orthodontia shall be provided in the Managed Dental Care and Total Care plans providing 50% and 100% coverage, respectively.
 4. All employee contributions to premium shall be paid by payroll deduction and/or section 125 medical spending account disbursement, which shall be authorized by each employee at the time coverage is selected. Employees may select the particular plan desired during open enrollment periods by filling out appropriate enrollment forms. An employee must be employed by contract for 20 hours or more per week to be considered eligible for this dental insurance coverage.
- D. Retired Employees: Any employee who retires from the district may continue any of the above health insurance benefits, if available from the carrier. Employees shall be responsible for the payment premium costs at the available group rate.

- E. Premium Charges. The Board shall annually provide the Association with a written letter from its insurance broker, or in lieu of a broker, from its insurer(s), indicating the premium charges for each plan and category quoted for the coming fiscal year, prior to the Board's adoption of or approval of the plan contract for the coming year.
- F. For each year of this Agreement, employees shall contribute to the insurance coverage under this Article through a payroll deduction plan at the "Tier 4" level required by c. 78, P.L. 2011.
- G. Waiver of Insurance Coverage.
- Employee shall have the option to waive either health or prescription coverage or both. Employees electing such waiver must provide proof of having comparable coverage elsewhere.
 - An employee waiving both health and prescription coverage shall receive a waiver payment in an amount equal to twenty-five (25%) percent of the month single coverage premium costs for the employee's base plan.
 - Payment shall be made monthly by (a) paying said amount into the employee's Section 125 flexible spending plan; or (b) contributing said amount to an existing tax-sheltered annuity; or (c) paying the same to the employee. Employees will be responsible for any federal or state taxes due as a result of the payment option selected.
 - The award of each individual's benefit shall last as long as his or her waiver is in effect, he or she remains an employee of the district, and this contract or its successor containing this plan, is in effect. In the event an employee wishes to re-enroll to obtain insurance coverage and forego the waiver of benefits; he/she may do so at any time permitted by the insurance carrier's enrollment policies.

ARTICLE XIII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Children enrolled during or prior to the 2000-2001 school year, of presently incumbent employees of this unit may be allowed to attend school within the Hopewell Valley Regional School District according to the same terms and conditions set forth in the previous collective bargaining agreement. Children of presently incumbent or future employees, not covered by the previous sentence, may be accepted in the accordance with the district's normal practices for enrolling out-of-district residents, but in no event shall the district be responsible for any portion of the tuition or transportation costs of such students.

**ARTICLE XIV
SALARY**

A. Salary Ranges

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Desktop Support Specialist	\$45,000	\$84,000
Elementary Lead	\$50,000	\$93,500
Database Administrator	\$65,000	\$93,500
Active Directory/Windows Specialist	\$70,000	\$106,500

B. Section 125 Plan. The Board shall establish a tax qualified salary reduction plan, under the terms of which each employee may, by affirmative election, choose to apply cash compensation to fund an individual medical expense spending account and/or a dependent care spending account. The Association shall designate a representative to consult with the Board on the preparation and implementation of the plan.

**ARTICLE XV
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION AND SENIORITY**

- A. Vacancies. All vacancies occurring within the unit shall be posted prominently along with the location and level of the position and the closing date for receipt of applications for same. All members of the unit meeting the basic requirements for the position will be eligible to apply and will be interviewed if such interview is part of the selecting process.
- B. Resignations. An employee voluntarily resigning from employment shall provide two (2) weeks written notice. Individual contracts will be subject to this provision.
- C. Reduction in Force.
 - 1. Notice. If the Board intends to eliminate a position, it will provide the incumbent member and the association with two weeks advance notice of such action.
 - 2. Seniority Rights. Any employee whose position is terminated as a result of a reduction in force shall be eligible for continued employment in the same title based upon seniority. Seniority shall mean the employee's total length of service in the eliminated job title, excluding periods of leave in excess of three (3) months (unless the leave is covered under worker's compensation), suspension from employment or other hiatus due to voluntary resignation.
 - 3. Layoff procedure. An employee whose position is eliminated may claim another position in the same job title held by an employee with lesser seniority. An employee who loses his position as a result of a senior claim to it may in turn claim another position in the same job title held by another employee with lesser seniority. If as a result of this process, an employee has no position to claim and employment is terminated, he/she shall be placed upon a recall priority list for a period of two (2) years from the date of termination.
 - 4. Recall Procedure. During this recall period, whenever a vacancy shall occur in the job title, the Board shall provide written notice of same to the former employee at the last address provided by the employee, and the former employee shall have two weeks to notify the Board of his/her intention to reapply for the new vacancy. A recalled employee shall be required to establish his/her then current qualifications for the position as may be required by law, and must be available to start work within three weeks of receiving the offer of re-employment, in default of which, the former employee shall lose any right to the position and shall be removed from the recall list. Upon rehire, a member of this unit shall have their prior services credits restored.

ARTICLE XVI
DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This term of the new Agreement shall be July 1, 2020 and shall continue in effect through June 30, 2023.

**ARTICLE XVII
SIGNATURES**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the parties hereto has caused these presents to be executed by its duly authorized corporate officers and has caused its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed to the within Agreement, consisting of 30 pages, on 8TH June, 2020.

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Deborah Linthorst, President

ATTEST:

Robert Colavita, Board Secretary

HOPEWELL VALLEY NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS
ASSOCIATION

Matthew Gering, President

ATTEST:

Christopher Annese, Vice President

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRIEVANCE REPORT

- 1. Distribution of form: a. Superintendent b. HVNAA President c. Employee
- 2. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets.

Name of Grievant: _____ Assignment: _____

Building _____ Date filed _____

Step I

A. Date Cause of Grievance Occurred: _____

B. 1. Statement of Grievance: _____

2. Relief Sought: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

C. Disposition by Principal: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

D. Position of Grievant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Step II

A. Date Received by Superintendent or Designee _____

B. Disposition of Superintendent or Designee _____

Signature _____ Date _____

C. Position of Grievant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Step III

A. Date Received by President of Board or Designee _____

B. Disposition of Board: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

C. Position of Grievant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Step IV

A. Date Submitted to Arbitration _____

B. Disposition and Award of Arbitrator _____