

A G R E E M E N T

BETWEEN

THE SOUTHGATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

AND

SOUTHGATE PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/MEA/NEA

“WE’RE HIGHLY QUALIFIED”

JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2010

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PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the terms and conditions of employment and to promote orderly and peaceful labor relations for the mutual interest of the Employer, the Employee, and the Union.

The parties recognize that the interest of the community and the security of the Employees depends upon the Employees' success in establishing a proper service to the community.

To these ends, the Employer and the Union encourage, to the fullest degree, friendly and cooperative relations between the respective representatives at all levels and among all Employees.

Both paraprofessionals and the School District recognize the need for trust and cooperation in order to deal with School Improvement activities and create a positive learning environment. The process of site based decision making and School Improvement will be a cooperative effort using problem solving and a win win philosophy. It is agreed that the basis for decisions will be the underlying standard, "What is best for students," and the participation of paraprofessionals, teachers, administrators, parents, and other community members is necessary to become an exemplary School District and to meet the goals of the District's Mission Statement.

ARTICLE I RECOGNITION

- 1.1 The Board recognizes the Michigan Education Association and its affiliate, the Southgate Paraprofessional Association, as having been designated and selected by a majority of its employees in the unit described below for the purpose of collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, hours of employment and other conditions of employment. Pursuant to Sections 26 and 27 of Public Act 176 of 139 as amended, or Sections 11 and 12 of Act 336 of Public Act 1947, as amended, the said organization is the exclusive representative of all the employees in such unit for the purpose of collective bargaining.
- 1.2 Unit: Paraprofessional Employees
- A. Library/Media Paraprofessionals (including Elementary and Secondary)
 - B. Instructional Paraprofessionals
 - C. Science Paraprofessionals
- 1.3 The unit shall exclude Vocational Education Technicians, those non-paid parent paraprofessionals who are required under Federal and State Guidelines for District eligibility for funding, Preschool Program Assistant, Summer School, and those specific education paraprofessionals whose wages are reimbursed by the State or County Special Education Funds. Instructional paraprofessionals in the general education area that may be employed K-8 shall be included.

ARTICLE 2 AID TO OTHER UNIONS

The Board will not aid, promote or finance any group organization which purports to engage in collective bargaining or make any agreement with any group or organization for the purpose of undermining the SPA/MEA/NEA.

ARTICLE 3 ASSOCIATION DUES/AGENCY SHOP

- 3.1 Each bargaining unit member shall, as a condition of employment, (1) on or before thirty (30) days from the first day of active employment or the effective date of this Agreement, whichever is later, join the Association, or (2) pay a Service Fee to the Association, pursuant to the Association's "Policy Regarding Objections to Political-Ideological Expenditures" and the Administrative Procedures adopted pursuant to that policy. The Service Fee shall not exceed the amount of Association dues collected from Association members. The bargaining unit member may authorize payroll deduction for such fee. In the event that the bargaining unit member shall not pay such Service Fee directly to the Association, or authorize payment through payroll deduction, the Employer shall, pursuant to MCLA 408.477; MSA 17.277(7) and at the request of the Association, deduct the Service Fee from the bargaining unit member's wages and remit same to the Association. Payroll deductions made pursuant to this provision shall be made in equal amounts, as nearly as may be, from the paychecks of each bargaining unit member. Moneys so deducted shall be remitted to the Association, or its designee, no later than twenty (20) days following deduction.
- 3.2 Pursuant to Chicago Teachers Union v Hudson, 106 S Ct 1066 (1986), the Association has established a "Policy Regarding Objections to Political-Ideological Expenditures." That Policy, and the Administrative Procedures (including the timetable for payment) pursuant thereto, applies only to non-union bargaining unit members. The remedies set forth in that Policy shall be exclusive, and unless and until such procedures, including any administrative or judicial review thereof, shall have been availed of and exhausted, no dispute, claim or complaint by an objecting bargaining unit member concerning the application and interpretation of this Article shall be subject to the grievance procedure set forth in this Agreement.
- 3.3 Any bargaining unit member who is a member of the Association, or who has applied for membership, may sign and deliver to the Employer an assignment authorizing deduction of dues, assessments and contributions to the Association as established by the Association. Such authorization shall continue in effect from year-to-year unless revoked according to the procedure outlined in the MEA Constitution, Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. Pursuant to such authorization, the Employer shall deduct one-tenth (1/10th) of such dues, assessments and contributions from the regular salary check of the bargaining unit member beginning with the second paycheck in September and ending in June of each year.
- 3.4 Upon appropriate written authorization from the bargaining unit member, the Employer shall deduct from the wages of any such member and make appropriate remittance for MEA-FS's MEA-sponsored programs (tax-deferred annuities, auto insurance, homeowner's insurance, etc.), MESSA programs not fully Employer-paid, credit union, savings bonds, charitable donations, MEA-PAC/ NEA Fund for Children and Public Education (formally known as "NEA-PAC") contributions or any other plans or programs jointly approved by the Association and Employer.

ASSOCIATION DUES/AGENCY SHOP (Continued)

- 3.5 Due to certain requirements established in court decisions, the parties acknowledge that the amount of the Service Fee charged to non-members along with other required information may not be available and transmitted to non-members until mid-school year (December, January, or February). Consequently, the parties agree that the procedures in this Article relating to the payment or non-payment of the representation Service Fee by non-members shall be activated no earlier than thirty (30) days following the Association's notification to non-members of the Service Fee for that given school year.
- 3.6 In the event of any legal action against the Employer brought in a court or administrative agency because of its compliance with this Article, the Association agrees to defend such action, at its own expense and through its own counsel, provided:
- A. The Employer gives timely notice of such action to the Association and permits the Association intervention as a party if it so desires, and
 - B. The Employer gives full and complete cooperation to the Association and its counsel in securing and giving evidence, obtaining witnesses, and making relevant information available at both trial and appellate levels.
 - C. The Association shall have complete authority to compromise and settle all claims which it defends under this section.

ARTICLE 4 REPRESENTATION AND BARGAINING UNIT RIGHTS

- 4.1 The SPA/MEA/NEA is required under this agreement to represent all paraprofessionals in the bargaining unit fairly. The terms of this agreement have been made for all paraprofessionals in the bargaining unit who are the recipients of the benefits and are represented by the SPA/MEA/NEA.
- 4.2 Nothing contained in this agreement shall deny the SPA/MEA/NEA and its designated representative from assisting or carrying out any provision within this Agreement.
- 4.3 The Association reserves as its right the development of its constitution, by-laws, and the election of its officers. The Association agrees to provide the administration with a list of officers and to update that list as changes occur. The Association shall provide the administration with a description of its officers so that any problem arising out of the implementation of this contract can be resolved through an established contract procedure.
- 4.4 The Association President shall be notified in writing whenever there will be a regular or special Board of Education meeting pertaining to the SPA/MEA/NEA.
- 4.5 The Union President or designee shall be granted a maximum of three (3) school days each year of this agreement, without loss of salary, for the purpose of attending to Union business. The Union President must, however, notify the Personnel Office of the Union business two school days prior to the absence and no more than three consecutive school days may be taken at one time.
- 4.6 The District and the SPA/MEA/NEA agree not to discriminate against any paraprofessional, as established by law, on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, disability, age or sex. An alleged violation of this section shall be processed in accordance with Board policy. It is not the intent of this section to limit the member's right to seek redress under any civil or criminal statute.

ARTICLE 5 UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS

5.1 Classification I - The following positions shall be considered in Classification I for purposes of assignment issues in the unit such as, but not limited to: layoff, recall, and transfers:

- A. Library/Media Paraprofessionals
- B. Instructional Paraprofessionals
- C. Science Paraprofessionals

In an emergency, paraprofessional employees may temporarily be assigned duties different than those normally performed. Any such assignment will not exceed thirty (30) work days unless mutually agreed by the assigning administrator and the Union President. If such assignment is necessary, the affected employee and Union President shall be informed of the reason for the assignment.

5.2 Job Descriptions

The Paraprofessional is under the direct supervision of the Building Principal. The Paraprofessional, under hire, shall be assigned to those positions that are defined in Article 5 - Unit Classification. The assigned duties shall be consistent with the classification of Article 5.

No Paraprofessional employee shall be assigned to assume duties other than the normal duties of their position except in case of short-term emergency. A short-term emergency is defined as one (1) hour or less, in length.

If the emergency exceeds one (1) hour, the paraprofessionals will be compensated according to the terms of Article 17.4.

ARTICLE 6 VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS

- 6.1 A. A vacancy shall be defined, for purposes of this Agreement, as a position previously held by a bargaining unit member, or a newly created position within the definition of the bargaining unit. No vacancy shall be filled on a permanent basis until it has been posted for at least five (5) working days in all buildings. A posted vacancy shall be filled within ten (10) working days after the expiration of the posting unless the School District chooses to eliminate the position.
- B. If a vacancy occurs, for whatever reason, the Office of Personnel shall immediately notify the Association President so the job can be properly posted and bid on in a timely manner.
- C. The Board declares its support of a policy of filling vacancies from within the bargaining unit, provided the applicant is qualified. Therefore, vacancies shall be filled on the basis of seniority, experience and past performance.
- 6.2 A. Requests for transfer shall be made in writing to the Personnel Office. The request shall be specific, indicating position and building.
- B. Qualified bargaining unit members who have requested transfers shall be given preference over new employees.
- C. No bargaining unit employee shall be required to work or transfer outside his/her bargaining unit.
- D. An employee in the bargaining unit who elects to transfer to a temporary job outside of the bargaining unit, but within the District, shall retain but not accumulate seniority. Within the first sixty (60) days after the effective date of the transfer, the employee may elect to return to the bargaining unit to his/her previously held assignment without penalty. During the interim period, the bargaining unit position which opens as a result of the transfer shall not be posted and a substitute shall be hired to fill the position. After said period, the position shall be posted as provided under Article 6, Section 6.1. After sixty (60) days, if the employee transfers back to the bargaining unit, he/she may exercise his/her frozen seniority credits and displaces the last senior member of the unit provided the employee with frozen rights has greater bargaining unit seniority.

The right of an employee to exercise his/her seniority to return to a bargaining unit position shall be limited to two (2) years.

In the event the temporary position becomes permanent, the employee shall have sixty (60) days to exercise his/her right to return to the unit as provided above.

VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS (Continued)

An employee who elects to transfer to a job position as a vacancy (permanent) outside of the bargaining unit, but within the District, shall retain but not accumulate seniority for a period of ninety (90) days. During this ninety-day period, the employee may elect to return to the bargaining unit by exercising his/her frozen seniority credits and displaces the least senior member of the bargaining unit seniority. This clause shall not be construed to limit the employer's right to terminate the employee for just cause.

- E. No redeployed full time bargaining unit member will be required to assume a part-time position. In the event a part-time position is the only employment opportunity available, the least senior paraprofessional in the bargaining unit shall be assigned that position provided no other employee bids on the part-time position.
- F. Paraprofessionals who have been involuntarily transferred and who were reassigned as a result of section 2E of this article shall be given an opportunity for a period of two (2) years to return to the previously held position before transfer requests are granted.

6.3 **Promotion**

- A. Any employee who is a member of the bargaining unit shall not be restricted in applying for positions outside the bargaining unit.
- B. When promotional positions within the bargaining unit shall occur in the future, such positions shall be filled from within the bargaining unit after posting for five (5) working days.

ARTICLE 7 SENIORITY AND LAYOFF - RECALL

- 7.1 A. All new employees hired in the unit shall be considered as probationary for the first sixty (60) actual working days of their employment. When an employee completes the probationary period, he/she will be entered as a seniority employee on the seniority list and the seniority date shall be established sixty (60) working days prior to the date of completion of the probationary period.
- B. There shall be no seniority among probationary employees. No employee shall bring their seniority from a previous occupation within or outside the School District.
- C. The employer shall prepare, maintain and post the seniority list. A copy of the seniority list and subsequent revisions shall be furnished to the Association by March of each school year.
- D. In circumstances with more than one individual beginning employment on the same date, seniority shall be determined by a drawing to be held at a general meeting with their membership and the Union shall inform the Personnel Office of the order of the seniority drawing. Such notice will be submitted to the Personnel Office within three (3) working days following the drawing.
- E. An employee shall lose all seniority rights for: Resignation, discharge and failure to return to work within fifteen (15) working days when recalled from layoff without an excuse acceptable by the District.
- F. An employee who elects to transfer to a non-bargaining unit position and who later returns to bargaining unit status shall be entitled to such rights he/she would have accrued at the time of departing from the unit as provided under Article 6, Section 6.2 of the Agreement.
- 7.2 A. Layoff means a reduction in the working force.
- B. If it becomes necessary to reduce the number of employees in the Paraprofessional unit due to a lack of finances, decrease in the student enrollment, or closing a facility, the Superintendent or his designee agrees to discuss with the Association the possibility of a reduction in staff prior to the date of the layoff. The Association will be provided with facts, rationale, and reasons for the need to lay off.
- C. In the event of a layoff, probationary employees shall be laid off first. If further reduction is necessary, then the layoff shall be in reverse order of seniority, with the employee with the least seniority being laid off first.

SENIORITY AND LAYOFF-RECALL (Continued)

In the event that an employee is displaced, the employee shall receive 14 days written notice of the decision to displace. The affected employee shall have five (5) working days from receipt of the notice to choose one of the following options:

1. Transfer to a paraprofessional vacancy, or
2. Bump the least senior paraprofessional in the district.

Once the affected employee makes this election, employees affected by the election shall have the same right to choose from among the same options, provided the election is made within five (5) working days of notice of displacement.

- D. A displaced paraprofessional who chooses another position shall have the right to return to her displaced position if the position is re-instated. She will be given one opportunity to go back to a same classification position that she was displaced from not to exceed two years from displacement.
 - E. Paraprofessionals who are subject to impending layoff shall be notified in writing fourteen (14) days prior to the actual day of layoff.
 - F. Employees to be laid off for a definite period of time due to school closings caused by emergencies or unusual conditions, will be given forty-eight (48) hours notice prior to layoff.
- 7.3
- A. When the working force is increased after a layoff, employees will be recalled in the reverse order of layoff; that is, the most senior person on the layoff list will be recalled first until all laid off employees have been returned. An employee shall have the right to be recalled to any classification in the bargaining unit regardless of previous assignment.
 - B. Notice of recall will be sent via registered mail with a return receipt requested. If an individual cannot be contacted and a fifteen (15) day period has passed and no adequate excuse can be provided by the employee or Association, the person's employment will be terminated.
 - C. Refusal of an employee to accept recall to full employment status shall result in termination of employment provided the employee has been given notice of fifteen (15) days prior to filling the vacancy.
 - D. Vacancies of sixty (60) calendar days or less, excluding recess periods, shall be filled on a substitute basis.
 - E. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to notify the employer of any change of address or telephone number. The employee's address and telephone number, as it appears in the Employer's records, shall be conclusive when used in connection with layoffs, recalls, or other notices to employees.

**ARTICLE 8 NEW EMPLOYEES, PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES,
SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES**

8.1 Probationary Employees

- A. New employees will serve a probationary period of sixty (60) working days. Employees whose work is deemed satisfactory by the supervisor and the Assistant Superintendent shall be considered as permanent on the sixty-first (61st) day.
- B. The Association shall represent probationary employees for all purposes except as limited by the provisions of this agreement. Effective December 1, 1994, new employees shall be eligible for union membership as of the first day of work or subject to the provisions of Article 3.
- C. The discharge of a probationary employee shall not be subject to the grievance procedure. Upon request, the probationary employee will be given the reasons for the discharge.

8.2 Substitute Employees

- A. Substitute employees may be hired to fill a temporary vacancy in the bargaining unit caused by the illness or short-term leave of a bargaining unit member. Such employee will be told at the time of hire that the job is on a daily basis and is not entitled to permanent status.
- B. Substitute work will be offered to laid-off employees on a seniority basis. The rate of pay shall be twenty-five cents (25¢) per hour less than the rate of pay for which the employee would be eligible if that employee were on full employment status.
- C. Refusal of a laid-off employee to do substitute work will not affect the seniority status of the employee for recall.
- D. Laid-off employees shall receive priority for substituting.
- E. Substitutes may be employed to fill a vacancy of sixty (60) work (excluding recess periods) days or less. In the event that the vacancy is more than sixty (60) work days, then the position will be filled by recalling a laid-off person to full employment status for the duration of that vacancy.

NEW EMPLOYEES, PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES, SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES (Continued)

If, during a substitution period, a laid-off employee works in the same position for sixty (60) work days (excluding recess periods), that employee shall be treated as though a recall had been issued at the time the vacancy first occurred.

- F. During the course of substituting, a laid-off employee shall not be allowed the use of fringe benefits frozen at the time of layoff.

ARTICLE 9 PERSONNEL FILES

- 9.1 The official personnel file of all material relating to a bargaining unit member's employment shall be maintained by the Personnel Office.
- 9.2 An employee shall have a right to review the contents of his/her personnel file. Material pertaining to initial employment by the employer, including letters of recommendation, shall be excluded at the time of review.
- 9.3 When an employee requests to review his/her personnel file, such review is restricted to the Personnel Office and must be in the presence of the Assistant Superintendent or designee, and a representative of the Association if the employee so desires.
- 9.4 An employee may request to have material placed in his/her personnel file.
- 9.5 An employee shall be notified when material that is of a disciplinary nature is placed in a personnel file and shall be given a copy thereof. The employee shall have the right to make attachments to this material, if the employee desires.
- 9.6 All inclusions in the file must be signed and dated by the individual indicating knowledge of existence thereof.
- 9.7 Information from the personnel file released to a third party at the request of the employee must be with the written permission of the employee.

ARTICLE 10 EVALUATION

- 10.1 The evaluation of the work of the paraprofessionals is the responsibility of the administration. In order that each Paraprofessional may be aware of the personal strengths and weaknesses, a written evaluation will be given to each first year Paraprofessional with prior notification of intent to evaluate by the supervisor. After the first year, paraprofessionals will be evaluated at least once a year with the Paraprofessional having prior notice of the evaluation. The written evaluation will include a statement of the improvements desired. Conference shall take place with the Paraprofessional and supervisor following each evaluation. If a Paraprofessional receives an adverse evaluation, a follow-up evaluation, based on the improvements desired, shall be done as needed. The Paraprofessional has the right to respond in writing to the evaluation and have the response attached to the evaluation.
- 10.2 A Paraprofessional's signature denotes that the evaluation has been seen. The signature does not necessarily mean that the Paraprofessional agrees with the contents of the evaluation.
- 10.3 Evaluations shall take place prior to May 1 of each work year.
- 10.4 Contents of the evaluation shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 11 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 11.1 A grievance is defined to be any difference or complaint based upon an event or condition which is claimed or considered to be a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of the Agreement. This grievance procedure shall not be applicable to any situation where the employee has a remedy to a governmental agency, where the Board is without legal authority to take the action sought, or to remedy a complaint where the matter complained of is not covered by this Agreement.
- 11.2 Nothing contained herein will be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance, to discuss the matter informally with any supervisory or administrative personnel and having the grievance adjusted without intervention of the Union, provided the Union is given the opportunity to be present at such adjustment.

11.3 A. **Step I**

An employee or the union having a grievance shall first present the grievance in writing, on form provided by the District, to the immediate supervisor within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the alleged violation of the contract. The grievance shall state the facts giving rise to the grievance, the date the grievance occurred, the articles and sections of the contract alleged to be violated, and shall be signed by the employee and local Union Steward. Within ten (10) days following receipt of the grievance, the supervisor shall mail or deliver to the employee a written answer.

B. **Step II**

If the employee or the union is not satisfied with the supervisor's written answer, or if no answer was given by the supervisor within the time limit, the employee may appeal the grievance to the Superintendent or a designee, by filing the grievance with the Superintendent's office within five (5) days following receipt of the Supervisor's answer, or if no answer is given within five (5) days from the date the answer should have been given. Within ten (10) days, the Superintendent or a designee shall meet with the Steward, SPA/MEA/NEA representative and the grievant upon request to discuss the grievance and the Superintendent or a designee shall answer the grievance within ten (10) days following the meeting or the receipt of the grievance, whichever is later, by mailing or delivering the answer to the aggrieved and SPA/MEA/NEA representative.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Continued)

C. **Step III**

If the employee or the union is not satisfied with the Superintendent's or designee's answer, the Union may appeal the grievance to the Board of Education by delivering to the Superintendent's office the appeal within seven (7) days after receipt of the Superintendent's or designee's answer. The appeal should state the reason why the Union does not agree with the Step 2 answer and shall be signed by the SPA/MEA/NEA representative. The Board of Education shall consider the grievance at its next regularly scheduled meeting, or twenty (20) days, at the Board's option, and shall answer the grievance in writing by mailing to the Union its answer within five (5) days after reaching its decision.

D. **Step IV**

If the Union is not satisfied with the Board's written answer, it may appeal the grievance to binding arbitration by filing a demand for arbitration with the American Arbitration Association, and delivering a copy to the Superintendent or designee's office, within thirty (30) days after receipt by the Union of the Board's written decision.

11.4 In the event of a discharge or a suspension of a non-probationary employee, a grievance shall be initiated at Step 2 of the grievance procedure by the employee filing a grievance with the Superintendent's office within (5) days of the discharge or suspension. Thereafter, Step 2 and all other steps of the grievance procedure shall apply.

11.5 The Arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association governing labor disputes. The costs for the service of the Arbitrator, including per diem expenses, shall be borne equally by the parties and all other expenses shall be borne by the party incurring them, and neither party will be responsible for the expense of witnesses called by the other.

11.6 **Powers of the Arbitrator**

It shall be the function of the arbitrator, except as limited below, after due investigation, to make a decision in cases of alleged violation of specific articles or sections of the Agreement; but, the arbitrator shall not add to, subtract from, disregard, alter, or modify any of the terms of this Agreement or any practice, policy or right of the Board not in violation of this Agreement. Either party may request a decision on the arbitrability of the grievance before proceeding to a hearing on the merits. Both parties agree to be bound by the arbitrator's award.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Continued)

- 11.7 Any grievance not advanced to the next step by the employee and/or Union within the time limit in that step shall be deemed withdrawn with prejudice.

Time limits may be extended by the Employer and the Union in writing; then the new date shall prevail.

- 11.8 Any agreement reached between the Employer and the Union representative is binding on all employees affected and cannot be changed by an individual.
- 11.9 Grievances arising under this Article shall be processed during non-working hours unless agreed otherwise. If an arbitration hearing is scheduled during working hours those employees whose attendance is required as a party or a witness shall have no loss of pay.
- 11.10 All claims for back wages shall be limited to the amount of wages that the employee would otherwise have earned, less any unemployment or other compensation that he/she may have received from any source during the period of back pay. The Employer shall not be required to pay back wages prior to the date a written grievance is filed. No decision in any one grievance shall require a retroactive wage adjustment in any other grievance, unless such grievance has been designated as a representative grievance by mutual written agreement by the parties.
- 11.11 No more than one such grievance or dispute may be submitted in one arbitration proceeding except by written agreement of the parties.

ARTICLE 12 SPECIAL CONFERENCES

Special Conferences for important matters will be arranged between the president and the employer or its designated representative, upon the request of either party. Such meetings shall be held with at least two (2) representatives of the Association present. Arrangements for such special conferences shall be made in advance and an agenda of the matters to be taken up at the meeting shall be presented at the time the conference is requested. Matters to be taken in special conference shall be confined to those included in the agenda. The members of the Association shall not lose time or pay for time spent in such conferences. This meeting may be attended by representatives of the SPA/MEA/NEA.

ARTICLE 13 DISCHARGE, SUSPENSION, REPRIMAND

- 13.1 Paraprofessional employees are expected to comply with rules and regulations that are adopted by the Board and do not conflict with the terms of the Agreement.
- 13.2 A Paraprofessional shall be entitled to have present a representative of the Association when an infraction of the rules, regulations or delinquency in performance merits a written reprimand or disciplinary actions that may result in suspension.
- 13.3 The School District has the right to dismiss or suspend seniority employees for the following reasons:
 - A. Undesirable conduct
 - B. Violation of policy or regulations
 - C. Unsatisfactory evaluations
- 13.4 No Paraprofessional shall be disciplined, reprimanded, or reduced in rank or compensation without just cause. Written reprimands two (2) years, or more, old shall not be used against an employee and shall be destroyed.
- 13.5 Discharge or suspension of any employee not on probationary status will be automatically referred to special conference. Such special conference shall be held within five (5) working days from the date of discharge or suspension. Disposition of conference shall be issued in writing. If disposition of conference is not satisfactory, case shall go to Step 3 of the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 14 COMPUTATION OF BACK WAGES

No claim for back wages shall exceed the amount of wages the employee would otherwise earn at their regular rates.

ARTICLE 15 LEAVES

- 15.1 Seniority employees shall receive ten (10) sick leave days at the beginning of each school year, five (5) of these days shall be advanced at the beginning of each semester. Paraprofessionals who terminate their contract before the end of the school year and use more sick days than would be accumulated at the rate of one (1) day per month (September to June) shall reimburse the School District for the extra days used.

Probationary employees shall be entitled to sick leave accumulated at the rate of one (1) day per month of active work. Such days will be credited on the second day of work of each month.

In addition, upon exhaustion of sick leave, an employee may request for another member of the bargaining unit to donate sick leave days to his/her accumulation. The Board, upon written authorization from the Paraprofessional donating said days shall apply such days to the employee's accumulation and compensate the employee accordingly.

Any unused portion of these sick days shall be allowed to accumulate to a maximum of one hundred thirty (130) days in 1998/99, one hundred thirty-five (135) days in 1999/00 and one hundred forty (140) days in 2000/01, and one hundred fifty (150) days in 2007/08. Upon voluntary termination of employment with the School District, a Paraprofessional shall receive severance pay in an amount equal to the employee's per diem rate for one-fourth (1/4) of the accumulated sick days. Upon retirement, employees will be paid 1/3 of their accumulated sick leave days. Retirement shall be defined to mean an employee who is eligible to commence receiving and submits documentation that he/she will actually receive pension benefits from the Michigan School Employees Retirement Fund within thirty (30) days following termination of employment.

Upon the death of a paraprofessional, the beneficiary or estate shall be paid one-half (1/2) of the deceased's accumulated sick days.

Pay for a sick day shall be determined by multiplying the individual employee's hourly rate by that employee's normally scheduled hours of work on the day of the absence. Sick day affidavits must be submitted and approved by the employee's supervisor and proof of illness may be required at any time.

- 15.2 Personal business leave of three (3) days each year without loss of pay shall be granted in cases where such business cannot be conducted after work hours or on weekends. Personnel requesting business days shall give adequate notice together with a reason for the time off. Unused personal business days shall be accumulated as sick days.

Personal business days shall not be used to extend a scheduled break unless there are extenuating circumstances.

LEAVES (Continued)

- 15.3 A seniority employee may request a leave (subject to the other provisions of this Article) for the following reasons:
- A. Personal illness
 - B. Family illness
 - C. Education
- 15.4 Any employee whose personal illness extends beyond the period compensated under paragraph 15.1 above, and has a minimum of two (2) years continuous employment in the District, shall be granted a health leave, upon written request, and a physician's recommendation, for the time period necessary for the employee to recover from the illness or disability, but in no event shall the leave extend a maximum of one (1) year without the approval of the Board of Education, or its designee. In cases of exceptional circumstances, the Assistant Superintendent may waive the two-year requirement. Any health leave granted under this section shall be without pay or fringe benefits except as provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- 15.5 The Superintendent, or designee, may at any time require an employee, at the District's expense, to be examined by a District-appointed physician, psychologist or other professional to determine if the employee is disabled, mentally or physically, or ill to the extent he/she is unable to perform his/her normal daily duties and functions. In addition to the employee authorizing the District's appointed physician to conduct such physical or mental examinations as the physician deems necessary, the employee shall sign such documents and medical release forms which are necessary in order for the District's physician or Personnel Office to secure from the employee's physician copies of all his/her pertinent medical records.
- 15.6 In the event of an absence of an employee due to personal illness or disability in excess of five (5) consecutive working days, then, at the employee's expense, the Superintendent or his designee, may require the employee to provide a physician's statement setting forth the specific illness or disability and the expected length of the absence. Before returning to work, the employee, at his expense, shall provide a physician's statement indicating that he is able to resume his/her duties.
- 15.7 If an employee reasonably expects that he/she will be unable to perform his/her normal daily duties and functions for more than fifteen (15) working days due to personal illness or disability, he/she shall immediately notify the Personnel Office, at his/her expense, with a physician's statement setting forth the specific illness or disability, the approximate date the employee's disability will commence, and the approximate expected length of the absence. In the case of a disability due to pregnancy, it is expected that an employee will comply with this section at least three (3) months before the expected date of birth.

LEAVES (Continued)

- 15.8 In the event an employee is unable to perform his/her normal duties or functions, then the Superintendent or designee may require the employee to submit physicians' statements, at his expense, prior to the expiration date of the leave of absence.
- 15.9 Upon recovery from the illness or disability within the time limits granted in the leave and upon submission of the physician's statements, the employee will be assigned to his same classification.
- 15.10 In all cases where an employee is ill or disabled, he/she must request a leave of absence in writing and the failure of the employee to return to work on the date set forth by the School District, unless the leave has been extended by the School District, may result in the employee's termination and loss of his/her seniority. The decision to terminate the employment of the employee shall be the sole discretion of the Superintendent or designee.
- 15.11 Notwithstanding any other provision of Article 15 to the contrary, in the event an employee is requested by the School District, at any time, to fill an available position in the bargaining unit following the employee's recovery from the illness or disability, and the employee does not report to work in that position on the designated date set forth in the notification, then such employee shall have no further rights of reinstatement, and the employee's failure of acceptance shall be treated as a resignation of employment.
- 15.12 Notwithstanding any other provision of this contract to the contrary, compensation for sick days shall only be paid to the employee if he/she would have been otherwise scheduled to work, but for the illness or disability.
- 15.13 If the employee's absence is, or can be reasonably expected to be more than thirty (30) working days, and the School District disputes the fact that the employee is unable to work, the Union or the School District may appeal this issue to the American Arbitration Association, and simultaneously service a copy upon the other party. The Demand for Arbitration shall set forth the nature or illness or disability which is in dispute.

Upon the filing of the Demand for Arbitration, the American Arbitration Association shall submit to the parties a list of five (5) or more arbitrators who shall be physicians specializing in the illness or disability which is in dispute. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving the list of physician arbitrators, the parties shall return the list to the American Arbitration Association, setting forth their choice of the Arbitrator in order of preference. If the parties do not agree upon an Arbitrator, then the physician arbitrator shall be selected by the American Arbitration Association in any other manner it deems best.

LEAVES (Continued)

In cooperation with the parties, the American Arbitration Association shall establish a hearing date, and the Arbitrator shall hold a hearing and render his/her decision within thirty (30) calendar days after the hearing has been closed.

It shall be the sole and only function of the Arbitrator, after due investigation, to render a decision whether the employee was ill or disabled to the extent that he/she was, remains, or will be disabled to the extent that he/she was, is or will be unable to perform his/her daily duties and functions. If the Arbitrator's decision is in favor of the School District, the Arbitrator's decision shall require the employee to return all monies expended by the School District in paying any salary and fringe benefits during the time the employee was disabled or ill. Any disciplinary action the School District shall take shall not be decided by the Arbitrator under this provision.

The cost for the services of the physician Arbitrator, including per diem expenses, and the cost of filing the Demand for Arbitration, shall be borne equally by the School District and the Union. All other expenses shall be borne by the parties incurring them and neither party will be responsible for the expenses of the witnesses called by the other.

There shall be no appeal from the physician Arbitrator's decision; it shall be final and binding on the Union, its members, the employee involved, and the School District if the decision is within the scope of the physician Arbitrator's authority as set forth above.

- 15.14 If the School District disputes the illness or disability of the employee, and the absence of the employee will be, is, or was reasonably expected to be less than thirty (30) working days, then the issue shall be resolved according to Article 11 and will not be subject to resolution by Article 15 (15.13) above.
- 15.15 As used herein, the term physician shall refer to a licensed physician M.D., or to a hospital, or clinic wherein the employee was treated by a licensed physician or osteopath.
- 15.16 Educational leaves of absence may be granted to seniority employees for a period not to exceed one year with an option to request a one-year extension. Such a leave may be granted for the purpose of study in the field of education. Upon submitting a request for an educational leave, the employee will state the planned course of study.

LEAVES (Continued)

- 15.17 A personal unpaid leave for other than extending a regular vacation may be applied for by submitting a written statement. The request stating the reason shall be submitted to the Superintendent or delegated representative accompanied by an endorsement signed by the immediate supervisor. The leave may be granted if the operation of the office is not impaired by such leave. The leave shall be considered a short-term leave of ten (10) calendar days or less. In the event of extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made to extend leaves. Provided, however, the Superintendent or designee's decision regarding the personal leave shall be final and not subject to the grievance procedure. The granting of such leave shall not result in the interruption of Board paid fringe benefits, provided the duration of said leave does not exceed thirty (30) calendar days.
- 15.18 A. Effective July 1, 1998 there are a maximum of five (5) paid funeral days, at the time of the funeral, per school year for each funeral for spouse, child, mother, father, sister, brother, grandchild, grandparent, in-laws (mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, grandmother, grandfather).
- B. Each employee will be granted one (1) funeral day per school year for a funeral not covered in Section A above.
- 15.19 There shall be three (3) allowable Act-of-God days per year when such days are declared by the Superintendent of the Board of Education.
- The first three (3) such days that teachers do not report, paraprofessionals shall not be required to report and no loss of compensation shall result. Additional days beyond three (3) shall be rescheduled in accordance with the teacher bargaining unit calendar and compensation shall be appropriately adjusted.
- 15.20 The employee who is required to serve on jury duty will receive the difference between jury pay and the employee's daily wage, with no loss of contract benefits during the period of service. Any mileage benefits by the courts shall not enter into the computation outlined above.

ARTICLE 16 INSURANCE AND HOSPITALIZATION

16.1 Workers' Compensation.

Employees incurring on-the-job injuries will be protected by Workers' Compensation.

17.2 Life insurance.

The School District will select an insurance carrier and pay the premium to provide \$24,000.00 of term-life insurance for full-time seniority employees.

16.3 Vision Insurance.

The School District will select an insurance carrier and pay the premiums to provide a vision care policy which contains, among other provisions, the following:

A. Examination	\$35.00
B. Regular Lenses	56.00 per pair
C. Bifocal Lenses	90.00 per pair
D. Trifocal Lenses	110.00 per pair
E. Frames	55.00
F. Contact Lenses	115.00 per pair 200.00 per pair if medically required

16.4 Dental Insurance.

The School District will select an insurance carrier and pay the premiums to provide a dental insurance policy which contains, among other provisions, the following:

- A. 80% of the basic dental, diagnostic and preventive services shall be paid by the carrier (maximum benefit (\$1,000 per person per year). Exclusions are:
 - 1. Oral Hygiene Instructions
 - 2. Experimental Treatment
 - 3. Dietary Planning.
 - 4. Cosmetics

- B. 89% of Prosthetic Services to be paid by the carrier. Exclusions are:
 - 1. Lost, misplaced or stolen prosthetics
 - 2. Additional costs for gold

- C. 60% of Orthodontic. Maximum benefit \$1,000 per person per lifetime.

INSURANCE AND HOSPITALIZATION (Continued)

16.5 Health Insurance

The board agrees to pay the rate for full family, two person or single coverage for the Community Blue PPO Plan 1.

Prescription Drug Card.

The ClaimsPro prescription card coverage shall be supplemented by a \$10 generic, \$10 no generic available and \$40 brand name with generic available co-pays.

2008 - 2009 - Health Insurance Reopener

2009 - 2010 - Health Insurance Reopener

Cash In Lieu of Health Insurance.

A paraprofessional may elect to waive the health coverage above and receive eight hundred dollars (\$800) per year provided health coverage can be obtained from another source other than the Southgate Community School District.

Cash in Lieu of Dental and Vision Coverage

A paraprofessional may elect to waive the dental and vision coverage above and receive two hundred dollars (\$200) per year provided dental and vision coverage can be obtained from another source other than the Southgate Community School District.

16.6 Change In Funding

If the district no longer receives funds pursuant to act 18 of the Wayne County special education tax, or if the district's Act 18 funding is reduced, the health benefits shall continue though the end of the then current contract year, but the parties will meet and bargain in good faith as to which, if any, of the benefits set forth in this article, the district is financially able to continue.

16.7 Long Term Disability Insurance

The School District will select an insurance carrier and pay the premiums to provide a long-term disability policy which contains among other provisions, the following:

- A. Benefit of 65% of the paraprofessionals salary not to exceed \$3,400 per month for a 12-month period.
- B. The benefits shall continue until the paraprofessional becomes age 65.
- C. Shall cover existing conditions.
- D. Shall cover both occupational and non-occupational disabilities.

INSURANCE AND HOSPITALIZATION (Continued)

- E. Contain an occupational rehabilitation waiver of no more than three (3) years.
- F. Shall have a 90-day (calendar days) waiting period before the paraprofessional is eligible for benefits.
- G. Shall have an additional 20-day (calendar days) waiting period for recurrence of the same disability.
- H. Shall cover disabilities that result from both illness or injury.
- I. Social Security Freeze

Benefit granted pending notification from carrier of zero or less in rate adjustments.
Effective sixty days from ratification.

ARTICLE 17 HOURS, WAGES AND HOLIDAYS

17.1 Hours

- A. The normal working week and year shall coincide with the schedule for instructional personnel and be consistent with the building schedule. In the event the District should adopt an instructional calendar with half-days, the paraprofessional may elect from the following options with respect to the other portion of such day:
- Take personal leave time; or
 - Take the time off without pay; or
 - Work additional hours to earn the pay for such time off.
- B. The normal working day shall be consistent with the schedule of the instructional staff at that level. The elementary schedule shall contain a duty-free, unpaid lunch period of forty-five (45) minutes. Secondary level will be consistent with the building schedule. No lunch period shall commence before 11:00 a.m. or after 1:00 p.m.
- C. The preparation periods shall consist of fifteen (15) minutes in the morning and fifteen (15) minutes in the afternoon.
- D. To qualify for the status of bargaining unit member, the employee must work a regular schedule of fourteen (14) hours or more at the preschool level or fifteen (15) hours or more per week at the elementary level, and sixteen (16) hours or more per week at the secondary level. Only bargaining unit members are eligible for fringe benefits.
- E. In-service or training sessions conducted for all paraprofessionals are to be held during the normal school working day, whenever feasible. In the event the meetings extend after the normal working day, the Paraprofessional shall be reimbursed according to the hourly rate. Should such meetings extend the working days beyond eight (8) hours, the additional time will be reimbursed at one-and-one-half times the regular pay rate.
- F. All employees are expected to attend, without pay, the building staff meetings, not to exceed one (1) per month.
- G. If an employee is required to attend a workshop, the employee shall be paid the hourly rate of pay. If the workshop results in more than forty (40) hours for that week, the employee shall be paid one-and-a-half (1-1/2) times the hourly rate of pay for the time in excess of the forty (40) hours.
- H. One-half (1/2) day per year shall be provided with pay for bargaining unit members to attend an annual meeting. The date of such meeting shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

HOURS, WAGES AND HOLIDAYS (Continued)

- I. A bargaining unit member serving as the science paraprofessional facilitator shall be granted one (1) hour per week of release time to perform duties associated with said position. The scheduling of such time shall be subject to the approval of the principal/designee.
- J. Every effort shall be made to release science paraprofessional from scheduling science lab activities involving students to work on the science fair. The scheduling of this release time shall be subject to the approval of the building principal/designee. In addition, science fair paraprofessionals shall be eligible to receive up to nine hours in compensation for set-up and attendance at any fair if required to work beyond the regular work day.
- K. In addition, upon the approval of the building principal, a paraprofessional may elect to work and be compensated up to three (3) days prior to the start of the regular school year to set up his/her work station.
- L. In the event a paraprofessional is required to travel during the course of their work day, they shall be compensated for their travel time and shall be reimbursed for their necessary mileage at the then current IRS rate.

Tuition Reimbursement (On-going Formal Education)

The District shall provide up to \$500 of college level tuition reimbursement annually per bargaining unit member for continuing education approved by the administration to upgrade their position.

17.2 **Wages**

- A. Employees shall be compensated in accordance with the wage schedule as set forth in Appendix A. All employee wages shall be computed on an hourly basis.
- B. New employees will be placed on Step 1 during their first year of employment. Employees will be placed on Step 2 at the beginning of their second year of employment. Employees will be placed on Step 3 at the beginning of their third year of employment and so forth.
- C. A probationary paraprofessional shall receive thirty-five cents (35 cents) less per hour of the rate of the step the employee is initially placed on during the probationary period.
- D. The parties agree to the creation of a joint para / administrative committee. The joint committee shall develop a program to meet ESEA district requirements no later than November 1, 2002. The committee shall also develop relevant in-service and professional development opportunities for all bargaining positions.

HOURS, WAGES AND HOLIDAYS (Continued)

- E. When defined by the above joint committee, paraprofessionals making progress toward ESEA requirements shall earn an additional 25 cents per hour, for each of the following four years.

All paraprofessionals in the bargaining unit shall be expected to meet or work towards the following Title I (ESEA requirements):

- i. Paraprofessionals making progress for the additional 25 cents per hour shall be defined as follows:
 - a. Paraprofessionals in the process of taking:
 - i. College classes, at least one (1) per semester
 - ii. Approved non-college classes (i.e., Adult Education classes)
 - iii. Pass local assessment (when parameters are developed by the State)
 - iv. Pass State assessment (when developed by the State)
 - v. Achieved 60 college credit hours / or an associates degree (as defined in ESEA)
 - ii. Paraprofessionals meeting the above requirements shall receive the 25 cents per hour retroactively to the first day of work for the 02/03 school year. At the end of the 2004-05 school year the cumulative dollar increase over the four year period shall be “baked into” the hourly wage prior to negotiating the 05-06 wage. (See Appendix A.)
 - iii. Reduce the number of steps on the wage schedule to a total of five (5) by deleting the initial step each year for four years beginning with deletion of step 1 at the end of the 2004-05 contract year. Delete step 2 at end of 05-06 contract year. Delete step 3 at end of 06-07 contract year. Delete step 4 at end of 07-08 contract year, and number the remaining steps 1 through 5. (see appendix a.)

Any new employee would begin on the then current, lowest step, and progress one step each succeeding year .

HOURS, WAGE AND HOLIDAYS (Continued)

17.3 A. All employees shall be entitled to the following paid holidays per year as follows:

Friday before Labor Day	1
Labor Day	1
Wednesday before Thanksgiving	1
Thanksgiving Break	2
Christmas Break	10
Martin Luther King Day	1
Good Friday	1
Easter Break	5.5
Memorial Day	1
Mid winter break	3.5

Election day shall be recognized as a holiday when placed on the school calendar as a holiday.

B. In order to qualify for payment for a holiday, the employee must either work or be on a compensable leave day on the last scheduled working day prior to the holiday and the first scheduled working day following the holiday.

17.4 A. Effective July 1, 1998, daily payment for emergency short-term assignments in excess of one (1) hour but less than three (3) hours shall be the paraprofessionals regular pay for that day, plus \$20.00. Assignments in excess of three (3) hours shall be the paraprofessionals regular pay for that day, plus \$30.00.

B. If a paraprofessional is required to assist, for special medical concerns, and pulled from their regular assignment, they will be compensated as specified in Article 17.4, even if it takes less than one hour.

17.5 **Longevity**

Longevity pay will be based on the date of hire. Longevity shall be paid at the completion of the school year in which an employee completes the necessary years of service to qualify for longevity and for subsequent years thereafter.

Longevity pay shall be paid on a prorated basis for those who leave employment on a date other than their employment anniversary.

HOURS, WAGE AND HOLIDAYS (Continued)

Longevity shall be paid in one lump sum on a separate check from normal wages. Said payment shall be made on the first pay after the last normal payday in June of each year:

5 years through 9 years	\$250.00
10 years through 14 years	\$400.00
15 years through 19 years	\$550.00
20 years and each year thereafter	\$1,000.00

17.6 Pay Period

Each Paraprofessional shall have the following options as to the payment of their annual salaries:

- A. Twenty-one (21) equal payments, September to June
- B. Twenty-six (26) equal payments annually with twenty-one (21) equal payments during the school year and the balance paid in five (5) separate checks bi-weekly during the Summer recess.
- C. Twenty-one (21) equal payments, September to June, with the balance (equal to compensation of five (5) separate checks) payable in one check on the last pay day of the school year.

ARTICLE 18 NO STRIKE CLAUSE

The word "Strike" shall be defined as a concerted failure to report to duty, the willful absence from one's position, the stoppage of work or the abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of duties of employment for the purpose of inducing, influencing, or coercing a change in the conditions, compensation, or the rights, privileges or obligations of employment. There shall not be "Strikes" of any kind between Union, its officers, representatives, or members during the term of this agreement. There shall be no lockouts on the part of the employers.

ARTICLE 19 BOARD RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY

- 19.1 It is expressly agreed that all rights which ordinarily vest in and have been exercised by the District except those which are clearly and expressly relinquished herein by the District, shall continue to vest exclusively in and be exercised exclusively by the District without prior negotiations with the Union either as to the taking of action such rights or with respect to the consequence of such action during the term of this Agreement. Such rights shall include, by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, the Board's right to:
- A. The management of the School District and the direction of the working forces, including but not limited to the establishment and enforcement of working rules the assignment of work to employees, the right to hire, promote, discharge, discipline, layoff and recall employees and to maintain discipline and efficiency, the scheduling of hours and shifts, the determination of the number and kinds of classifications to be established, or continued, the number of employees in such classifications and the work to be performed within the classification.
 - B. To determine the amount and size of the management organization, to determine the services, supplies and equipment necessary to continue its operation and to determine all methods and means of distribution or disseminating methods and standards of operation, the means, methods, and processes or carrying on the work, and the institution of new and/or improved methods or changes therein, determine the number and location or relocation of its facilities and schools, including establishing an closing of such schools and facilities, determine the place where work is to be performed and the distribution of work, and the source of materials and supplies, determine the policy affecting the selection and training of employees.

ARTICLE 20 STATEMENT OF LAW

This Agreement has been negotiated and executed and shall be controlled by all applicable Federal and State laws, including any amendments that may hereafter be made during the life of the contract.

Wherever the terms of this contract are found to be on conflict with the provisions of the law, the parties agree to renegotiate such conflicting provision or provisions. All remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain intact.

ARTICLE 21 MISCELLANEOUS

21.1 Call-In Procedure

Absences from work should be reported to the School District at least one (1) hour prior to the Paraprofessional's scheduled starting time by calling the School District answering service at 285-4242.

Paraprofessionals who are reporting an absence within the one (1) hour period prior to their scheduled starting time should do so by contacting the building or principal.

In the event that the employee knows that he/she will not be able to return to work on the next scheduled day he/she shall report this fact to the Building Principal by 2:00 p.m.

21.2 This Agreement supersedes and cancels all previous agreements between the parties, verbal or written, or based on alleged policies or practices.

21.4 The use of words referring to the male gender in any Article and/or Section of this Agreement shall likewise be read to include the female gender.

21.5 The School District shall reimburse each bargaining unit member the registration fee, and cost of required classroom materials and/or books for one class per year taken from the Southgate Adult Education High School completion program. To receive reimbursement, a course must be applicable to improving or enhancing job skills and/or professional development and have prior approval of the Superintendent or designee. Reimbursement shall be made within thirty days of evidence being submitted confirming completion of the course.

21.6 The School District and the SPA/MEA/NEA shall abide by the Americans with Disability Act.

21.7 Paraprofessionals shall not smoke on school property.

21.8 As a condition of employment, paraprofessionals shall, once every three years, provide evidence of freedom of tuberculosis.

ARTICLE 22 DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall become effective on the date of School Board ratification and shall continue in full force and effect up to and including June 30, 2010

On July 1, 2010 this Agreement shall terminate unless the parties enter into a written extension Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date shown below.

(NOTE: Except as expressly modified by this Agreement, all other provisions of the contract would carry forward in their entirety.)

Southgate Paraprofessional Association/MEA	Southgate Community School District Board of Education
/s/ Carol A. Aitchison President	/s/ Edward J. Gawlik, Jr. President, Board of Education
<u>/s/ Sharon Ferrante</u> Vice President	
UniServ Director Michigan Education Association	/s/ David H. Peden Superintendent
Date 10/30/07	Date 10/30/07

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING
between
The Southgate Community School District
and
The Associations of Southgate MEA/NEA

The United Teachers of Southgate, the MEA-Secretaries, and the Southgate Paraprofessional Employees, identified in this Letter of Understanding as the Associations of Southgate MEA/NEA and the Southgate Community School District, hereinafter referred to as the District, recognizes that the Tax-Deferred Payment program (TDP) for Service Credit purchase is beneficial to the members of the Associations and does not present an undue hardship to the District. The parties hereby agree to the following:

1. The Southgate Board of Education will pass the Tax-Deferred Payment resolution required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 414 (H) (2).
2. As a result of this action by the Board, members of the associations will be able to freely choose to buy retirement service credit using pre-tax wages.
3. Conditions of this Tax-Deferred Payment plan will be governed by rules and regulations of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System implemented by the Office of Retirement Services of the State of Michigan.

/s/ Estella A. Chiolino
 President, United Teachers of Southgate
 Date: 10/15/98

/s/ Stanley J. Mazur
 Southgate Community School District
 Date: 10/15/98

/s/ Barbara J. Fritz
 Vice-President, MEA-Secretaries
 Date: 10/15/98

/s/ Sandra M. Parrish
 President, Southgate Paraprofessional Employees
 Date: 10/15/98

/s/ Warren U. Curtis
 Warren Curtis, Uniserv Director
 Date: 10/15/98

Memorandum of Understanding

**Between Southgate Paraprofessionals and the Southgate Board of Education
February 2002**

As an example of positive problem solving using the IBB process, the Southgate Paraprofessionals and the Southgate Board of Education agree to the following:

A joint committee shall be formed, consisting of 2 librarians, 2 library paraprofessionals, and 2 principals. The major focus of the committee shall be to identify and define the basic clerical responsibilities that are part of the workload of library professionals.

The joint committee shall review ways to provide relief for library paraprofessionals which shall include, but not be limited to, remedies such as student techs, PTO volunteers, and/or senior citizen volunteers.

If this matter cannot be resolved through this joint committee approach, the issue shall be referred to the LMC.

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between Southgate Paraprofessionals and the Southgate Board of Education
February 26, 2002**

The Board and the Association agree that all employees will be subject to state and federal requirements for the certification of Title I Paraprofessionals. Members of the Association and the Administration will jointly attend informational sessions offered by state and federal employees concerning the new federal requirements for Title I Paraprofessionals. At those sessions the Association has the right to ask questions it deems necessary to secure information about the requirement.

The Association and the Board agree to establish a joint task force to determine how to implement the new regulations in the school district. An equal number of Administrators and Association representatives will serve on the task force. Administration representatives will be appointed by the Superintendent or his designee. Association representatives will be appointed by the Association President.

Among the topics to be discussed by the joint task force are:

- a. Jointly developing a district program, if allowed,
- b. Developing partnerships with post-secondary institutions in order to certify paraprofessionals under the new regulations,
- c. Scheduling training within the district for employees needing to meet the new requirements.

The parties acknowledge that, presently, regulations require all paraprofessionals subject to the requirements to be certified no later than June 30, 2006.

**Letter of Clarification
Regarding Short-term Substituting**

During the recent Southgate Paraprofessional interest-based bargaining (IBB), it became clear that there has been some confusion over Section 18.4 of the contract regarding short-term emergency subbing for teacher absences.

Consider the following to be a clarification of the language:

- Paraprofessionals will be used in emergency teacher absences.
- Normally, only one paraprofessional will be assigned per teacher emergency of one hour or more in length. It's not the district's intention to rotate more than one paraprofessional through the assignment to avoid payment or the assignment.
- If the emergency is one day in length, one paraprofessional could be used in the morning and another paraprofessional could be assigned for the afternoon.
- Payment for short-term assignments in excess of one (1) hour but less than three(3) hours will be the paraprofessional's regular pay for that day plus \$20.00.
- Payment for assignments beyond three (3) hours will be the paraprofessional's regular pay for that day plus \$30.00.

Hopefully this will clear up any further confusion or inconsistencies.

s/n Dave Peden
David H. Peden, Superintendent

s/n Michael Kell
Michael Kell, Asst. Superintendent

7/8/02
Date

7/8/02
Date

M E M O

TO: Elementary Principals
FROM: Dave
DATE: December 2, 2003
RE: PROTOCOL FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL CONCERNS

When a special medical issue occurs, the following will happen:

1. Meeting with Terry Riddle, Karen Beesley, Building Principal, Corie Garza . This meeting will determine the course of action.
2. If a para is required to assist and they are pulled from their regular assignment, they will be compensated as specified in Article 18.4 even if it takes less than one hour.
3. Each case will be reviewed on its own merit, and if training is required for any staff member, it will be given by qualified staff.

DHP:sc

pc: T. Riddle
K. Beesley
C. Garza

M E M O

TO: All K - 5 Principals

FROM: Dave

DATE: January 6, 2006

RE: **LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING - LIBRARY/MEDIA PARAS**
(attached)

With the first semester coming to a close Friday, it would be a good time to review with your library/media para how the new practice of helping in classrooms is working out.

If any adjustments in schedules need to be made, the semester break is a good time to make them.

After this review takes place, we can extend this arrangement through the end of the school year.

Please call me with any questions or concerns you may have. We all want our elementary libraries to function at a high level.

DHP:sc

att.

pc: Corey Garza
Eli Grier

Letter of Understanding
between
Southgate Paraprofessional Association/MEA/NEA
and
Southgate Community School District
Pursuant to Article 5.1

Whereas, the District has indicated that owing to a shortage of financial resources, it is experiencing a crisis in its ability to ensure staffing for the 2005-2006 school year;

Whereas, the Association wishes to protect the job security of its unit members, and understands that the District has experienced a shortfall in its financing, the parties therefore agree as follows:

1. In the event that the District should attempt to utilize Library/Media Paraprofessionals to function in a supporting role during the time when their Library schedule permits them to serve in the classroom, the District may so utilize them.
2. This letter of understanding is to extend only for the initial semester of the 2005/2006 school year.
3. All of the other provisions of Article 5 shall remain in full effect.
4. It is further agreed that at its earliest possible opportunity, the Library/Media Paraprofessionals shall be restored to their traditional responsibilities in accordance with Article 5.1 or the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

SOUTHGATE PARAPROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION/MEA/NEA

SOUTHGATE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: /s/ Corina G. Garza
Corie Garza, President

By: /s/ David Peden
David H. Peden, Superintendent

APPENDIX A WAGE SCHEDULES

- A. The 2004-05 schedules of wage rates shall be increased by 1.50% for the 2005-06 contract year.
- B. At the end of the 2005-06 contract year the 2005-06 schedules of wage rates shall be recalculated to reflect a 2.00% increase over the 2004-05 schedules, but there shall be no payout during the 2005-06 contract year for the additional one-half per cent.
- C. Wage Schedule:

SOUTHGATE PARAPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION									
2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2004-05		2004-05	
		no increase		4% increase plus \$.75		1% increase at end of year; no payout.		Cumulative \$1 for meeting ESEA requirements baked into schedule at end of year. No payout	
STEP		STEP		STEP		STEP		STEP	
1	10.10	1	10.10	1	10.50	1	10.61	1	11.61
2	10.37	2	10.37	2	10.79	2	10.90	2	11.90
3	10.64	3	10.64	3	11.07	3	11.18	3	12.18
4	10.91	4	10.91	4	11.35	4	11.46	4	12.46
5	11.20	5	11.20	5	11.65	5	11.77	5	12.77
6	11.47	6	11.47	6	11.93	6	12.05	6	13.05
7	11.74	7	11.74	7	12.21	7	12.33	7	13.33
8	12.01	8	12.01	8	12.49	8	12.62	8	13.62
9	12.28	9	12.28	9	12.77	9	12.90	9	13.90
Reduction in number of steps over the years shown, eliminating the wage rate in the lowest step each year.									
2005-06		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
STEP		STEP		STEP		STEP		STEP	
1	12.08	1	12.14	1		1	12.96	1	
2	12.36	2	12.42	2		2	13.29	2	
3	12.65	3	12.71	3		3	13.58	3	
4	12.96	4	13.03	4		4	13.87	4	
5	13.25	5	13.31	5		5	14.17	5	
6	13.53	6	13.60	6		6	14.46		
7	13.82	7	13.89	7					
8	14.11	8	14.18						

WAGE SCHEDULES (continued)

- D. For the 2005-06 school year, all wage rates for the 2004-05 school year shall be increased by 1.5% and shall be paid retroactive to the beginning of the 2005-06 school year and an additional .5% shall be added effective with the start of the 2006-07 school year.

- E. NOTE: Wages in Appendix: The salary schedule incorporates a 2% wage increase. Wage increase is retroactive to January 1, 2007, based on the number of hours worked from January 1, 2007 - June 30, 2007.

2008 - 2009	Wage Reopener
2009 - 2010	Wage Reopener