

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
RHODES SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 84.5**

**AND**

**RHODES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, IEA-NEA**

**July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021**

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This Agreement is made between the Board of Education of District 84.5 (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) and the Rhodes Education Association, IEA-NEA (hereinafter referred to as the “Association”).

**ARTICLE I**  
**RECOGNITION AND SCOPE**

The Board recognizes the Association as the sole and exclusive bargaining representative for all regularly employed certified employees, excluding all supervisors, managerial, and confidential employees as defined by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act. See Case No. 2006-RC-0011-C.

**ARTICLE II**  
**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**2.1 Management Rights.**

All management rights and functions, except those which are clearly and expressly abridged by this Agreement, shall remain vested exclusively in the Board. It is expressly recognized, merely by way of illustration and not by way of limitation, that such rights and functions include, but are not limited to, the full and exclusive control of the management of the District, the supervision of all operations, the methods, processes, means and personnel by which any and all work will be performed, the control of property and the composition, assignment, direction and determination of the size and type of its working forces; the right to determine the work to be done and the standards to be met by employees covered by this Agreement; the right to make and enforce work rules; the right to change or introduce new operations, methods, processes, means or facilities, and the right to determine whether and to what extent work shall be performed by employees; the right to hire, establish and change work schedules, set hours of work, establish, eliminate or change classifications, assign, transfer, promote, demote, release employees; the right to lay off employees because of lack of work or other reasons; to determine training needs and assign employees to training; the right to determine the qualifications of employees, and to suspend, discipline and discharge employees and otherwise to maintain an orderly, effective and efficient operation and to take any and all actions as may be necessary to carry out the mission of the District.

**2.2 Association Rights.**

- a. **Association Matters - Board Agenda** - The Board may place on the agenda of each regular Board meeting, as an item for consideration, any matters brought to its attention for its consideration by the Association so long as these matters are made known in writing to the Superintendent at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the day on which the Board packet is sent to the Board. If such a matter is placed on the agenda, the Board shall schedule a reasonable time for the Association to speak on the matter at the meeting if so requested by the Association.

- b. **Board of Education Agenda** - The Association President shall receive in his/her mailbox or e-mail all Board Agendas at such time as the notice of the meeting is posted for the public.
- c. **Association Announcement** - The Association shall have the right to use teacher mail boxes for communication to teachers so long as such communication is not used to malign the administration or Board.
- d. **Association Leave** - In the event that the Association desires to send representatives to local, State, or national conferences or on other business pertinent to Association affairs, these representatives shall be excused without loss of salary. The Association shall reimburse the District for the cost of the substitute teacher(s). No more than two (2) teachers may be absent at a time and the release time shall not exceed two (2) days, per teacher (four days total) during any one school term. The Association shall give thirty (30) school days written notice for leave to the Superintendent.
- e. **Board/Association Meetings** - The Association and the Board recognize the importance of communications in maintaining good relationships. The Association representatives and the Board shall meet on a date each semester mutually agreed to by both parties. Such meetings shall be held with reasonable written notice stating the item or items to be discussed at such meetings. It is understood that these meetings shall take place only during the school term. An agenda will be developed by the Board's designee and the Association President one (1) week before any scheduled meetings. In lieu of a meeting with the Board, the parties can agree to a Superintendent/ Association meeting.
- f. **Association Use of District Facilities and Equipment** - Teachers will be permitted to use available school facilities for Association meetings provided: that the building principal is notified three (3) days before any such meetings; that no extra custodial help is necessitated because of such meetings, and that such meetings are during non-school hours and do not interfere with any facet of the school's educational, administrative, or extra-curricular program. The Association can use District equipment such as copiers and computers for its business during non-school hours provided such use does not interfere with the District's use and that the Association reimburses the District for the cost of any materials used.
- g. **Bulletin Board** - The Association may hang a bulletin board in the employee lounges for its use.
- h. **Dues Deductions** – The Board agrees to deduct from Association members' salaries Association dues as certified to the Board by the Association. The deductions shall be in equal installments beginning with the third pay period and concluding with the twentieth payment of the fiscal year. The amount deducted shall be transmitted to such recipients as may be authorized and directed by the Association. The Association shall annually certify to the business office in

writing the current amount of Association dues and a listing of Association members, not later than the date of issue for the second pay period.

- i. **Fair Share** - During the term of this Agreement, all teachers covered by this Agreement who are not members of the Association shall, commencing sixty (60) days after their employment or sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Agreement, whichever is later, pay a fair share fee to the Association for the services rendered by the Association in negotiating and administering this Agreement as the exclusive representative of the teachers covered by this Agreement, provided that such fair share fee shall not exceed the Association dues (including IEA and NEA dues) uniformly required of members of the Association. Such fair share fees shall be deducted by the Board from the earnings of non-members and remitted to the Association. The Association shall annually submit to the Board a list of the teachers covered by this Agreement who are not members of the Association which specifies the amount of the fair share fee as defined above. The fair share fee collected from non-members shall not be used for contributions related to the election and/or support of any candidate for political office or for a member-only benefit.

The Association agrees to assume full responsibility to insure full compliance with the requirements laid down by the United States Supreme Court in such cases as *Chicago Teachers Union v. Hudson*, 105 U.S. 1066 (1986), with respect to the constitutional rights of fair share fee and/or the responsibilities of the Association with respect to fair share fee payers shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure set forth in this Agreement.

Non-members who object to this fair share fee based upon bona fide religious tenants or teachings shall pay an amount equal to such fair share fee as defined above to a non-religious charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the teacher and the Association. If the affected non-member and the Association are unable to reach agreement on the organization, the organization shall be selected by the affected non-member from an approved list of charitable organizations established by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board and the payment shall be made to said organization.

The Association shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board, its members, officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, complaints, suits or other forms of liability (monetary or otherwise) that arise out of or by reason of any action taken or not taken by the Board for the purpose of complying with the above provisions of this Article, or in reliance on any list, notice, certification, affidavit, or assignments furnished under any such provisions.

**ARTICLE III**  
**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**3.1 Definitions.**

A grievance shall be written claim by the Association, an employee, or group of employees that there has been a breach of this Agreement. The written grievance shall state the reason of the grievance, shall note the specific clause(s) of the Agreement allegedly breached, and shall state the remedy requested.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the word “days” as used in this article means school days, including institute days and other teacher work days during the school term and, during the summer, winter and spring recess, “days” means weekdays on which the District’s administrative office is open to the public.

**3.2 Informal Procedure.**

A sincere effort shall be made to resolve any disagreement by a personal and respectful exchange between an employee and the principal and/or immediate supervisor before differences become grievances. However, a grievance shall be processed as follows:

**3.3 Formal Procedure.**

**STEP 1 – Supervising Administrator Level** - If the disagreement cannot be resolved informally, within fifteen (15) days of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance, or within fifteen (15) days of when the occurrence reasonably should have become known, the grievant shall present the grievance in writing to the supervising administrator, who will schedule a meeting to take place within ten (10) days after receipt of the grievance. The Association’s representative, the grievant, and the immediately involved supervisor shall be present for the meeting. Within ten (10) days of the meeting, the grievant and the Association shall be provided with the administrator’s written response.

**STEP 2 - Superintendent Level** - If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition at Step 1, it shall submit the grievance to the Superintendent or his/her designee within ten (10) days after receipt of the Step 1 answer. The Superintendent/designee shall arrange, with the Association representative, for a meeting to take place within ten (10) days of the Superintendent’s receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) days of the meeting, the Association shall be provided with the Superintendent’s written response.

**STEP 3 - Board Level** - If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition at Step 2, it shall submit the grievance to the Board within ten (10) days after receipt of the Step 2 answer. Such an appeal shall be considered in executive session at the next regular Board meeting which occurs at least ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal by the Secretary of the Board. If the Board Secretary receives the grievance within ten (10) days prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, the grievance shall be considered at the following regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**STEP 4 – Arbitration** - If the Association is not satisfied with the Step 3 response, the Association shall submit the grievance to final and binding arbitration. If a demand for arbitration is not filed with the American Arbitration Association within thirty (30) days of the date of the Step 3 response, then the grievance shall be deemed withdrawn. The Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association shall apply.

The arbitrator shall not amend, modify, nullify, ignore or add to the provisions of this Agreement. The arbitrator's authority shall be strictly limited to deciding only the issue(s) presented in the written grievance at Step 1 and his/her decision must be based solely upon his/her interpretation of the meaning of the language of the Agreement.

Each party shall bear the full cost for its representation in the arbitration. The fees and the expenses of the arbitrator and the American Arbitration Association shall be shared equally by the parties. Should either party request a transcript of the proceedings, then the requesting party shall bear the full cost for the transcript. Should both parties order a transcript, the costs of the transcript will be divided equally between the parties.

**3.4 Bypass.**

By mutual written agreement, any step of the grievance procedure may be bypassed.

**3.5 Class Grievance.**

A class grievance is one affecting more than one employee. The class members shall be identified by the Association to the administration within forty-five (45) days of the filing of the grievance at Step 1.

**3.6 No Reprisals Clause.**

No reprisals shall be taken by the Employer against any employee because of the employee's participation or refusal to participate in a grievance.

**3.7 Release Time.**

All necessary witnesses and as many as two (2) Association representatives may, in the District's discretion, be released from their regular duties for the time necessary to participate in grievance Step meetings without loss of pay or benefits. This does not apply to witnesses called at an arbitration hearing.

**3.8 Grievance Withdrawal.**

A grievance may be withdrawn at any level without establishing precedent.

**3.9 Time Limits.**

The failure of a teacher or the Association to act on any grievance within the prescribed time limits will act as a bar to any further appeal or re-filing of the same or similar grievance and an administrator's or Board's failure to give a decision within the time



limits shall permit the grievant to proceed to the next step. The time limits, however, may be extended by mutual written agreement.

### **3.10 Settlement.**

By mutual agreement, a grievance may be settled at any step without establishing precedent.

## **ARTICLE IV** **WORKING CONDITIONS**

### **4.1 Length of School Day.**

The length of the school day shall be six (6) hours and forty-five (45) minutes. Teachers shall be on campus for seven (7) hours and fifteen (15) minutes. Grade Level teachers will have three dedicated “team collaboration” periods per week and Special Education and Bilingual/ELL teachers will have two to three dedicated “team collaboration” periods per week. An exception will be that teacher mentors/mentees will be excused from a team collaboration period once per month to attend administratively planned mentor/mentee meetings. All teachers will have an average of one “personal plan” period per day over the course of the school year. Teachers may leave school at dismissal on Friday and the day preceding a holiday unless the day is scheduled as an early student dismissal so professional development activities can occur. In the event the District institutes non-temporary changes to the starting or ending times of the school day or on campus times, the Superintendent shall provide the Union with at least thirty (30) calendar days advance notice. In no instance will the school day begin thirty (30) minutes earlier or end thirty (30) minutes later than the current starting and ending times. The current starting and ending times for teachers is 7:50 a.m. to 3:05 p.m., respectively, with Friday’s ending time being 2:45 p.m.

### **4.2 Curriculum Committees.**

No teacher will have to serve on more than one curriculum committee per year. Teachers will be responsible to represent more than their own grade level at such meetings.

In the event of major curriculum work, such as the development of new curriculum guides, state learner assessments, etc., substitutes shall be utilized to allow teachers to complete such tasks in an efficient manner. The committee shall advise the Superintendent when such release time is needed and he/she shall make the final determination.

### **4.3 Faculty Meetings.**

The Principal may hold no more than four (4) after school faculty meetings on an annual basis. These meetings shall conclude by 4:00 p.m. At least one (1) week’s notice shall be given of any such meeting unless the situation (i.e. an emergency informational meeting) does not allow for the one (1) week notice. Consideration for teachers who cannot attend the meeting will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

#### **4.4 Staff Development Days.**

The Board shall provide at least four (4) faculty development days during the school year.

#### **4.5 Parent/Teacher Conferences.**

All faculty members are required to be present for the Parent/Teacher Conferences between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. with a one (1) hour dinner break.

#### **4.6 Grade Days and Early Dismissals.**

Students shall be dismissed each Friday at 2:00 p.m. to allow plan time for teachers. This time is specifically designated for collaborative planning such as school improvement, team planning, co-teach planning, grade level planning or cross grade level planning. This time is not to be used for individual prep time except as set forth below regarding the four (4) grade days. This time shall not be considered personal plan time. Bus-riding supervisors will not perform those duties on Fridays in order to fulfill team collaboration commitments. No more than one (1) Friday per month at 2:00 p.m. shall be used by the administration for whole school in-service, although full-day Teacher Institutes that may occur on Fridays would not be counted against the administration's one Friday per month limit. All teachers would be expected to remain in the building until the end of the contract day (2:45 p.m.). The Board shall provide four (4) grade days each school year during the term of this contract. Students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. and then afterward teachers would be able to work on their grades.

#### **4.7 Personnel File.**

A teacher who desires to see his/her personnel file shall submit a written request to the Superintendent or designee. In that request, the teacher shall propose an appointment date and time to examine their file. Such requests shall be honored during non-working hours in accordance with the Personnel Record Review Act (820 ILCS 40/0.01).

No official report nor any derogatory statement about a teacher shall be filed by an administrator or supervisor unless the teacher is sent a dated copy. A teacher must sign and date each official report and derogatory statement. Any report or statement which has been sent to a teacher and is to be filed in that teacher's personnel file shall be placed in that file within ten (10) school days after the report or statement was signed and dated by the teacher. A teacher may submit a response within thirty (30) days of the teacher's receipt of the original report or statement. Such response shall be attached and filed with the report or statement in the teacher's personnel file. If a teacher elects not to submit a response within the 30-day time period, the report or derogatory statement shall be deemed to be valid and may not be challenged at a later date. An official report or derogatory statement which has not been given to the teacher shall not be used in determining the status of the teacher in the school district.

Under no circumstances shall more than one (1) official personnel file be maintained in the school district. This file shall be kept at the main office.

A teacher may request to file materials in his/her personnel file which he/she deems relevant to his/her teaching service in the school district. Except for those records in Section 10 of the Personnel Record Review Act (820 ILCS 40/10), a teacher shall have the right to make copies of records placed in his/her personnel file and the Board may charge ten (10) cents per page as a fee for providing a copy of such information.

#### **4.8 Student Teachers.**

No teacher shall be required to take a student teacher. Each school year, teachers shall be asked the following two (2) questions in survey form:

1. Do you want to be considered for a student teacher during the upcoming school year?
2. Would you like to discuss the possibility of having a student teacher assigned to you for the upcoming school year?

In the case of teachers who answer survey question #1 in the negative, they will not be contacted regarding the possibility of a student teacher. If question #1 is answered in the affirmative, consideration will be given, or if discussion is to be considered, the teacher, student teacher candidate and Principal will meet to discuss the matter.

Rhodes School District enjoys the collaboration with student teachers both to enhance in-service development of faculty and as a service component to the profession.

#### **4.9 School Calendar.**

Prior to the Board's adoption of the school calendar each school year, the administration will share the prospective school calendar with two (2) committee members from the Association to provide them an opportunity to review it and offer concerns and suggestions. Once the proposed school calendar has been finalized for recommendation to the Board of Education, no changes shall be made without informing the Association President in order that the Association, if it so desires, shall be able to submit its opinions and suggestions to the Administration.

#### **4.10 Lunch.**

Each certified teacher will be guaranteed one duty-free lunch period per day provided that any student group the teacher may be responsible for just prior to lunch, is first walked to the cafeteria. Teachers may choose to not have a duty-free lunch period if they decide to participate in an extra duty activity during that time.

**ARTICLE V**  
**LEAVES**

**5.1 Unpaid Leaves of Absence.**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board may grant an unpaid leave of absence as it deems proper to a teacher upon such conditions as it may determine. Illustrative of purposes for which a leave of absence might be granted by the Board are:

- a. Additional education or professional development;
- b. Post temporary illness;
- c. Post temporary incapacity;
- d. Military service;
- e. Serious family problems; and
- f. Parental leave.

The granting of any unpaid leave of absence shall be a separate matter for each teacher and is based upon individual facts in each case, and the fact that a leave is granted to one teacher shall not be a precedent for the granting of a leave to another teacher.

All teachers are entitled to take a leave under the Family/Medical Leave Act (FMLA) so long as they meet the statutory requirements for eligibility under FMLA.

**5.2 Sick Leave Days.**

A full-time teacher will receive twelve (12) days of sick leave for each year of full-time employment. A teacher employed after October 1<sup>st</sup> of each school year will have their sick leave prorated.

Unused sick leave days may accumulate to a maximum of 370. There shall be an annual accounting of unused sick leave days for each teacher. Such accounting shall accompany the first paycheck of each school year.

Sick leave shall be interpreted to mean personal illness, physical disability or serious illness or death in the immediate family or household. Household is interpreted to mean those persons actually living in the home as part of the family unit. "Immediate family" shall include parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, legal guardians and step equivalents. Sick leave days may also be used to attend the funeral of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins, and step equivalents.

Teachers wishing to observe an established religious holiday, which requires attendance during regular school hours may take up two (2) paid sick days, subject to the procedures and criteria for requesting personal days.

Teachers taking advantage of this plan in an improper way will be docked pay for such days. Continued improper use may result in the teacher being dismissed. Teachers are not permitted to work for another employer while on sick leave.

Teachers who report to work but leave because of illness before 5<sup>th</sup> period will be charged a full sick day. Teachers who report to work but leave because of illness at 5<sup>th</sup> period or later will be charged one-half sick day. This same procedure will be used for personal days, emergency days, and bereavement days.

Teachers who use two (2) or fewer sick days during the school year will be awarded two (2) additional sick days to their normal twelve (12) sick days at the beginning of the following school year.

Teachers utilizing maternity or paternity leave related to the birth of a child or adoption of a child will have up to eight (8) weeks of their available sick days used, immediately following birth or immediately preceding or following adoption, without the requirement of a physician's certificate in the case of birth.

The Board and the Association shall develop a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a sick leave bank for bargaining unit members and their children under 19 years of age to take effect on July 1, 2018. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be accomplished as part of the implementation of, and not as an amendment to, this Agreement.

### **5.3 Bereavement Days.**

A full-time teacher shall be eligible for no more than three (3) bereavement days each school year. Bereavement days are granted on the occasion of the death of a member of the employee's immediate family or household. Household is interpreted to mean those persons actually living in the home as part of the family unit. "Immediate family" shall include parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, legal guardians and step equivalents. Bereavement days are in addition to sick days and personal days provided for in Sections 5.2 and 5.4 of this Agreement. Bereavement days are non-cumulative and cannot be banked for use beyond the present school year or for other purposes.

### **5.4 Personal Leave.**

A full-time teacher will be granted three (3) personal days per year, non-cumulative. Teachers assigned to a formal mentoring role will receive one (1) additional personal day, which must be used during that school term. Personal days may not be used in the following situations: the day prior to or immediately following a school holiday/extended weekend, professional development days/parent-teacher conference days, or the first five

days and the last five days of the school term. However, if special circumstances exist that are outside the control of the teacher, a request for special approval to use a personal day on a disallowed day can be made in writing to the Superintendent at least two days in advance of the requested day. Teachers may convert unused personal days to sick days pursuant to the provisions of Board Policy 5:330, which allows for the days to be exchanged for either uncompensated sick days or be reimbursed at one-half the senior substitute per diem rate if not greater than the employee's daily rate.

### **5.5 Part-Time Teachers.**

All sick days and personal leave shall be pro-rated for part-time teachers.

### **5.6 Job Sharing.**

“Job Sharing” shall be defined as a voluntary program in which two (2) tenured teachers, who have each received a proficient/satisfactory rating or above on their two most recent summative evaluations, share one full-time position.

The responsibilities of the participating teachers shall be divided according to a plan designed by the participating teachers in collaboration with the administration. The plan shall address the following: teaching responsibilities, schedule of work hours, method of communication between the participants and parents, attendance at staff meeting and substitution procedures.

Each participating teacher shall attend all conferences, in-service, and teacher institute activities and Open House as if they were employed on a full-time basis. The participating teachers shall retain tenure and upon returning to a full time position shall be given the same rights and considerations given to continuing full time teachers. The application and plan must be submitted by March 1 of each year preceding the school year for which the job share is requested. The Board retains the right to approve or disapprove all requested positions. The Board will notify the applicants of its disposition by May 1 following the request.

Each of the two participating teachers shall receive 50% of his/her salary, sick days, and personal days. Because the participating teachers would be employed less than 80% time they shall not be eligible for individual or dependent health, life and dental insurance benefits.

The teachers in a job share position may return to full time teaching positions only at the beginning of a school year, provided they have notified the administration in writing prior to March 1st of such interest.

The Board reserves the right to limit the number of job shared positions and the grant or denial of a job share proposal shall be at the sole and exclusive discretion of the Board. No individual grant or denial shall serve as precedent for any subsequent grant or denial.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**EVALUATION**

The certified staff evaluation instrument will be developed, implemented, and adjusted if/as needed per the procedures and timelines identified in the state of Illinois' Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) legislation. The procedural aspects of the evaluation plan are part of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**VACANCIES**

**7.1 Bargaining Unit Vacancy.**

A vacancy occurs when a new bargaining unit position is created by the Board for which an additional employee shall be added to the work force or when the Board decides to fill a current bargaining unit position that is vacated due to the termination of employment, resignation or involuntary removal of the person currently holding that position.

**7.2 Distribution of Vacancy Notice.**

When a vacancy occurs as defined above, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall prepare a vacancy notice and distribute to faculty members.

**7.3 Employee Interviews.**

Any employee who applies for a vacant position within ten (10) business days of the posting shall be given an interview opportunity.

**7.4 Employee Change in Assignment Request.**

Any employee who is interested in a change of assignment in the following school year shall notify the Superintendent or his/her designee in writing on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**COMPENSATION**

**8.1 Academic and Supervisory Rates.**

The academic rate shall remain at \$26.32 per period/\$39.49 per hour rate during the life of the contract; internal substitute teaching is at the academic rate. The supervisory rate shall remain unchanged from the \$23.30 per period/\$34.96 per hour rate during the life of the contract.

**8.2 Tuition Reimbursement.**

The rate of tuition reimbursement shall be determined annually by averaging the graduate tuition rates of State Colleges and Universities within the State of Illinois. Collectively,

tenured teachers shall be reimbursed for up to nine (9) hours of graduate credit annually, to a maximum reimbursement of \$20,000. Only teachers receiving a grade of B- or higher, or “Pass” if Pass/Fail grading, in a course from colleges/universities accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education or meeting national recognition by the United States Department of Education are eligible for reimbursement.

The graduate-level tuition reimbursement cycle shall consist of summer regular classes, 1<sup>st</sup> semester classes, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester classes, and summer intersession classes ending by June 30<sup>th</sup>. All graduate work must be preapproved by the Superintendent to be eligible for reimbursement.

Tuition reimbursement requests from tenured teachers pursuing a master’s degree shall have priority. Fully completed requests for reimbursement will be processed in the order received. Payments for such reimbursements will be made by the end of the month following the request being received. (example: if the paperwork is submitted in September, reimbursement will be made by the end of October.) All requests for reimbursement from tenured teachers must be made by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Unofficial university/college transcripts will be accepted for tuition reimbursement but only official university/college transcripts can be used for lane changes. If the total amount of the requests in a given year exceeds \$20,000, the requests shall be deferred to the next year for reimbursement from that year. Unused dollars do not carry over from year to year.

After all tenured teachers have been reimbursed, full time non-tenured teachers who have received basic/proficient or better ratings on their summative evaluations for the most recent two school years shall be reimbursed subject to the same procedures and limitations set forth above for tenured teachers. Non-tenured teachers may turn in their paperwork at any time, but reimbursement will not occur until after June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be processed in the order received. All reimbursements will be settled by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

A teacher who because of a resignation does not work at Rhodes the two (2) school years following the school year in which tuition reimbursement is received shall repay the Board as follows: within one (1) year, repayment shall be 100%, within two (2) years, repayment shall be 50%. This does not apply to teachers who are given the option of resigning in lieu of termination. Any amounts due the Board under this paragraph may be deducted by the Board from the teacher’s remaining pay and if any balance remains, the teacher will be billed the remaining amount which will be due within ninety (90) days from the date of the final paycheck. Should the teacher not pay the full amount within the ninety (90) days, the teacher shall pay the Board’s reasonable attorney’s fees, costs and expenses in collection of any balance due.

### **8.3 Summer School and Extra Duty.**

During the life of the contract, extra duty and summer school stipends will not be increased over the amounts received for the 2016-17 school year. Teachers that are board-approved to participate in the district’s retirement plan under Article X shall follow



the TRS creditable earnings language in Section 4 of Article X rather than the language of Section 8.3 Summer School and Extra Duty.

Special service team members and regular education teachers who are expected to attend the early morning Problem Solving/Special Education meetings will be compensated at the nonacademic (supervisory) rate commensurate for the scheduled time of the meeting occurring outside of their normal workday as identified in Section 4.1 Length of School Day and the associated normal start and end times.

#### **8.4 Salary Increase.**

- a. 2017/18 – 3.25% over the preceding year’s base  
2018/19 – 3.50% over the preceding year’s base  
2019/20 – 4.00% over the preceding year’s base  
2020/21 – 4.00% over the preceding year’s base
- b. The District has the discretion to increase the starting salary in the BS lane by up to 4% in any 1 year of the contract so long as the salary for such teacher is not higher than the salary paid to a currently employed teacher at the same level of experience and educational credit.
- c. Any teacher hired with prior teaching experience will receive \$250 a year over and above the starting salary in the BS lane for each year of their prior work experience, up to 8 years maximum. Any teacher with more than 8 years’ of teaching experience will receive an additional \$750 per year for years 9-15 of prior experience. No additional monies will be paid for prior work experience.
- d. Lane movement from BS lane to BS 9, from BS 9 to BS 18 and from BS 18 to BS 24 will be \$1,500 for each lane movement. Lane movement for any BS lane into the Master’s lane, from MA lane to MA 15 lane, from MA 15 lane to MA 30 lane and from MA 30 to MA 45 lane will be worth \$2,500 for each lane movement. Mid-year salary lane changes will be prorated at 50% but will be adjusted to the full 100% for the base salary calculation increase for the following school year. Only graduate credits which meet the requirements for tuition reimbursement under Section 8.2 above are eligible for lane movement.
- e. Any teachers who are newly hired by the District beginning with the 2010-2011 year and who have been at the last step of any of the Bachelor lanes (BS, BS+9, BS+18, BS+24) of the salary schedule without having made any lane change in the previous (7) seven years, would be only entitled to 50% of the negotiated increase until the start of the first year after they next change lanes.
- f. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, including the compensation schedule or any other benefit which qualifies as TRS creditable earnings, no teacher who is within four years of being eligible for either early or regular retirement under the Illinois Pension Code shall receive in excess of a 6% aggregate annual increase in TRS creditable earnings. By no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>

each school year, each teacher 50 years of age or older shall be responsible for verifying with the District his or her years of TRS creditable service and sick leave from other school districts. No compensation increase shall be provided the teacher until such information is submitted. A teacher who is within four years of eligibility for either early retirement or regular retirement shall not be subject to this compensation limitation if the teacher submits an affidavit stating that the teacher will not retire within four years of the year in which the teacher receives an increase in excess of 6%. If the teacher retires within this four-year period, the Board is subjected to TRS penalties due to creditable earnings in excess of 6%, and TRS will adjust the creditable earnings of the teacher to avoid the penalties, then the teacher shall repay to the Board the amount of creditable earnings in excess of the 6 percent limitation and the Board shall report correspondingly reduced creditable earnings to TRS. Alternatively, if such adjustment is not so recognized by TRS, then the teacher shall reimburse the Board for all employer and employee penalties which the Board is required by TRS to pay as a result of the increase in creditable earnings in excess of 6% and the District may enforce this clause through payroll deduction and any other lawful means. However, no reimbursement of penalty amounts shall be required to the extent that TRS determines the teacher's creditable earnings will be adversely affected by the application of this reimbursement requirement. Before enforcing the reimbursement requirements of this section, the Board shall obtain a final determination from TRS. TRS's determination will not be considered final until all appeals have been exhausted or the time for any appeal has expired.

- g. A teacher has to be employed at least 120 days to be eligible for the base salary increase the following school year. Sick, personal, and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) days count towards the 120 day count.

## **8.5 Student Clubs.**

An amount of no less than \$10,000 shall be budgeted each year for the purpose of enrichment Mini-Clubs. These clubs shall consist of at least 6 students and be supervised by a certified teacher. Teachers wishing to sponsor a club must submit a completed application each semester for review by the Club Committee. The Club Committee shall consist of equal representation of Administration and Association. The role of this committee will be to review and make recommendations to the Board to approve or deny requests for clubs each semester based on established criteria and to determine compensation at the academic period rate. The Board will retain the final decision to approve or deny the Club Committee's recommendation. Unused money will not carry over from year to year.

## **8.6 Specific Stipend Adjustments.**

The Summer School pay and Saturday School pay will be based on the academic rate specified in Section 8.1 above.

Title I Reading and Title I Math Stipends will be paid at “academic rate” as is the case for other instructional stipends such as Project Teach, Summer School, and Saturday School. Teachers who had a Title I Reading or Title I Math stipend during the 2016-17 school year and do not have any service breaks in that assignment in future years (other than for approved FMLA leaves), will be grandfathered at the salary-based per diem class period rate. The Title I assignment’s additional \$1000 stipend for Master’s Degrees in Reading, Math, or Special Education will remain as part of the assignment.

The Student Council/Student Government Stipend can be split at 87% (SC) / 13% (SG) ratio if it is covered by two teachers as determined by the Superintendent.

The Gifted Reading stipend position will be redefined as Gifted Coordinator and Scholastic Bowl/Spelling Bee Sponsor. The Gifted Coordinator position is 1/3 of the stipend and the Scholastic Bowl/Spelling Bee Sponsor assignment is 2/3 of the stipend. The Gifted Coordinator and Scholastic Bowl/Spelling Bee Sponsor stipend can be split at 33% (GC) and 67% (SB/SB Sponsor) if it is covered by two teachers as determined by the Superintendent.

## **ARTICLE IX** **INSURANCE**

### **9.1 Life Insurance.**

The Board shall provide teachers with group term life insurance to be calculated at one and one-half (1-½) times the teacher’s annual salary rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

### **9.2 Dental Insurance.**

The Board shall pay the cost of individual dental insurance using a PPO type of program. Teachers may elect to purchase dependent or orthodontic coverage at a cost to be determined by the insurance carrier. This figure will be adjusted annually on the anniversary date of the policy (i.e., July 1).

### **9.3 Insurance Eligibility.**

Teachers employed less than 80% time shall not be eligible for individual or dependent health, life and dental insurance benefits.

### **9.4 Health Insurance.**

The Board agrees to provide health insurance during the term of the contract.

The Board reserves the right to change carriers during the term of the contract, but will attempt to equalize the benefits as compared to the current policy. In the event of a carrier change, the Board must have pre-existing conditions waived or no such change shall be made. The Board reserves the right to change carriers after consultation with the Association, but shall maintain substantially the same level of coverage.

Should the school district be assessed an excise tax on any benefits provided to employees that exceed a pre-determined threshold under the Affordable Care Act, the Board will consult with the Association to achieve a solution that minimizes the changes that shall be implemented to comply with the Affordable Care Act and avoid financial taxes/penalties for the Board.

For the 2017-2018 school year and each subsequent school year of the contract, if the premium for a specific plan in the health insurance increases by 10% or more from the previous school year, the Negotiating Teams will be convened to consider ways to reduce the cost of that related premium increase. If the Negotiating Teams cannot agree on alternatives that would lower the premium increase below 10%, then 50% of the amount over the 10% increase in the overall related premium will be paid by the affected members of the bargaining unit in addition to the contributions set forth above.

**Single Coverage**

Full-time teachers electing single coverage shall pay 7% of the single premium.

**Family Coverage**

Full-time teachers employed prior to July 1, 1990 electing family coverage shall pay 15% of the family option premium chosen, less the single premium cost. Example: Employee + spouse premium = \$1,313.76 Single premium = \$626.36.  $\$1,313.76 \text{ minus } \$626.36 = \$687.40 \times 15\% = \$103.11$  as the premium share cost paid by the employee. This method of contributing towards the cost of family insurance shall be known as the “net cost” of family coverage.

Full-time teachers employed after July 1, 1990 shall pay 35% of the net cost of family coverage.

**ARTICLE X**  
**RETIREMENT**

1. Prior to retiring from the District a faculty member may request to participate in this retirement plan.
2. To be eligible, the employee must satisfy all of the following requirements:
  - (a) the employee must have completed at least twenty (20) years of employment as a teacher in a teaching assignment at 0.80 full time equivalent (FTE) or greater in each of those years in the Rhodes School District preceding retirement;
  - (b) the employee must be at least 55 years of age by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the retirement year;
  - (c) the employee must notify the Superintendent in writing of intent to retire by March 1, 2021.

(d) the employee may notify the Superintendent of intent to retire one, two, three, or four years prior to the date of retirement, but in any event must retire no later than June 30, 2025.

3. The Superintendent will present the retirement request to the Board of Education for action. The employee's notice to the Superintendent and the Board's subsequent action on the request shall constitute an irrevocable commitment by the parties to retirement under terms stated in this Article.
4. The compensation provided under this retirement plan is that the employee's TRS creditable earnings received from the District at the time of the Board's acceptance of the retirement notice will be increased by 6% in each of their remaining years of employment, but no more than four years, after they are approved for this retirement plan. The employee shall not receive any additional stipends or other TRS creditable compensation beyond the 6% increases provided herein for the remaining school years before retirement. If the employee does not perform a stipend activity that was included in the original computation, the increase in TRS creditable compensation will be reduced proportionally. In no event shall an employee's increase in TRS creditable compensation exceed the TRS excess salary limitation applicable at the time the compensation is paid; any difference between the limitation and the regular salary increase shall be paid on a post-retirement basis within thirty (30) days of the later of the last day of work or the last regular paycheck.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT**

During the term covered by the agreement, the teachers shall not engage in any work stoppage, nor shall the Board lockout the teachers from conducting their normal duties.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **COMPLETE AGREEMENT**

#### **12.1 Complete Understandings.**

The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement. Therefore, the District and the Association, for the duration of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain collectively during the term of this Agreement with respect to any subject or matter covered by this Agreement. The terms of this agreement represent a full and complete understanding and commitment between the Board and the Association.

**12.2 Items Not Contained in this Agreement.**

The Board and the Association agree to mutually discuss any items of concern not covered by this agreement during their regular sessions.

**12.3 Saving Clause.**

If any provisions of this Agreement are held to be contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, but all other provision shall be continued in full force and effect.

**12.4 Conflict with Law.**

Should any article, section or clause of this Agreement be declared illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction, said article, section or clause, as the case may be, shall be automatically deleted from this Agreement to the extent that it violated the law, and if such deletion does not materially affect this Agreement, the remaining articles, sections and clauses shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement.

**ARTICLE XIII  
TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall become effective on the date the last of the representatives of the parties signs as set forth below and continue in effect through June 30, 2021, except that the salary and other compensation provisions of the Agreement shall be retroactive to the start of the 2017-18 school term. However, the Agreement may be terminated by the Board effective June 30, 2020, upon the occurrence of all of the following conditions:

1. Written notice of such termination is given by the Board to the Association by no later than the close of the 2018-19 school term.
2. The Illinois General Assembly has passed legislation which, upon becoming a law, would freeze and/or reduce the local property tax revenue received (exclusive of new property under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) by the District from its levy in December of 2019 and/or December of 2020 over the previous tax year.
3. The foregoing tax freeze or reduction legislation becomes law. If the legislation does not become law, the Board's notice of termination shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

If the Agreement is terminated as provided for above, each teacher's base salary for the 2018-19 school term shall be increased by 4.0% rather than 3.5% and the difference shall be paid by no later than 60 days after the freeze and/or reduction legislation becomes law.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
RHODES SCHOOL DISTRICT 84.5

RHODES EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION, IEA-NEA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

Attest:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX A**