

MASTER AGREEMENT

between

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
CICERO SCHOOL DISTRICT 99
Cook County, Illinois**

and

**CICERO COUNCIL UNION – SECRETARIES UNIT
WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION
Local 571, American Federation of Teachers**

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026

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i. PREAMBLE

The UNION and the BOARD recognize their common responsibility to insure the efficient and orderly functioning of the educational program of District 99. The Secretaries hold a vital place in the District 99 system as supportive personnel for both administrators and teachers. Both UNION and BOARD intend for this Agreement to strengthen the relationship of mutual respect and understanding between employer and employee.

ii. DEFINITIONS

The term “BOARD” shall hereinafter refer to:

Board of Education
Cicero School District 99
Cook County, Illinois

The term “SECRETARY” shall hereinafter refer to:

All members of the bargaining unit as defined in Article I of the

Agreement Cicero Council – Secretaries Unit
West Suburban Teachers Union
Local 571, American Federation of Teachers

iii. AGREEMENT

This Agreement, entered into this 1st day of July, 2022, by and between the BOARD OF EDUCATION for CICERO SCHOOL DISTRICT 99, Cook County, Illinois, (“BOARD”) and the CICERO COUNCIL – SECRETARIES UNIT, WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION, Local 571, American Federation of Teachers (“UNION”).

WITNESSETH:

The BOARD and the UNION agree as follows:

I. RECOGNITION

1. The BOARD recognizes the UNION as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all Secretaries to the Principals employed in the various public elementary school buildings of District 99 other than the Administrative Building. The BOARD agrees to negotiate with the UNION on matters of salary, fringe benefits, and working conditions as set forth in this Agreement.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT

1. TERM OF AGREEMENT - This agreement is effective commencing July 1, 2022 and terminating on June 30, 2026 Dates for the first and last working day shall be determined according to Article VI(2) of this Agreement.
2. The UNION may submit a negotiation proposal for a successor-contract no earlier than January 15, 2026, to the President, Secretary and Superintendent of the District by personal delivery or first-class mail. The BOARD shall set up a preliminary negotiations meeting with the UNION within thirty (30) days from date of receipt of such letter and shall provide the UNION with copies of the BOARD'S proposals at such preliminary meetings.
3. Terms of the Agreement shall become part of the Policies and Rules of District 99 as applicable to the relationships between Secretaries and the BOARD. Any previously established or conflicting rules by the BOARD are hereby repealed.
4. The administration shall post copies of this Agreement available electronically, via the District website, in a searchable format to the Union within thirty (30) working days after its execution.
5. Secretaries shall not perform UNION duties or services during working hours as defined by this Agreement. However, the BOARD in no way intends to restrict the right of individuals to freely participate in unionism, or any other legal activity or cause if such participation is during off-duty hours.
6. All rights and privileges currently enjoyed by the Secretaries individually, or as a group, shall remain in full force and effect except as such rights and privileges are amended by this agreement. The terms of "this" Agreement are hereby adopted by the BOARD as part of its policies and rules and regulations applicable to BOARD/employee relationships: and any conflicting BOARD policies and rules are hereby repealed. However, no provision of this Agreement shall be construed to alter, enlarge, or diminish the rights, duties, or responsibilities granted to or imposed

upon the BOARD by law with respect to the operation and management of the schools and School District 99.

With respect to matters not covered by this Agreement that may arise concerning salaries, fringe benefits, or working conditions of certified employees covered hereunder, the BOARD agrees that it will not adopt any regulations relating thereto without prior consideration and negotiations with the UNION.

The BOARD during the term of this Agreement or any extension thereof agrees to continue its present practices and policies with respect to salaries, fringe benefits and working conditions, except insofar as change may be required by law.

7. Job Descriptions and Evaluations:

- A. The Board reserves the right to develop job descriptions for all positions within the bargaining unit. Employee job descriptions shall specify duties, tasks, and responsibilities and identify all duties of a secretary to the principal. If an individual's job description is updated, a copy shall be provided in a timely manner.
- B. The Board reserves the right to develop evaluation plans for all positions within the bargaining unit. Such evaluations shall be developed via committees including representation from this bargaining unit and administrative representation. Committee recommendations for such evaluation plans will be submitted to the Board for approval. Review of evaluation plans will be made as needed.

8. Student Supervision:

When a student is sent to the office, the employee will contact the Building Administration for directions related to the individual requiring supervision and in accordance with administrative policy. The supervision by the employee shall not be in excess of the time necessary to contact an appropriate administrator and secure appropriate supervision.

9. No Strike:

The Union agrees not to strike or engage in or support or encourage any concerted refusal to render full and complete services to the District, or engage in or support any activity whatsoever which would disrupt in any manner the operation of the schools during the term of this agreement.

10. Secretaries shall be provided a professional business workspace at all times during work hours.

11. Dues Deduction: On or before October 15th, the Union shall provide the Board with a list of those Secretaries who have authorized payroll deductions of the Union

membership dues for the current school year.

The BOARD will deduct UNION membership dues from such Secretary's salary. Such deductions will begin on the second pay period of October and will be made on a continuing basis for fifteen (15) consecutive pay periods. Written dues deduction authorizations shall continue in effect from year to year unless terminated by written notification of the Union. The Union shall notify the Board of any secretary who is no longer to have dues deducted prior to September 15th of any school year or upon termination of employment with the District. The Union is solely responsible for indemnifying the Board for any deduction made in error, including damages and all reasonable costs incurred by the Board.

12. The BOARD will transmit to such person as the UNION designates to the BOARD in writing all funds deducted from Secretaries' salaries as UNION membership dues. Such payments will be made in the usual course of such business by the BOARD as soon as possible after such deductions are made. The BOARD assumes no responsibility with regard to such payments except as provided in this Agreement. The BOARD will not be held responsible for any dues collected as a result of a Union error from non-Union members. The employee is responsible for notifying the Union and Business Office upon a change in assignment.
13. The Board shall provide the Union with reasonable access to and information about employees in the bargaining unit it represents as specified in the Illinois Education Labor Relations Act as amended. This access shall at all times be conducted in a manner so as not to impede normal operations.

III. WORKING CONDITIONS, FAIR PRACTICES AND BENEFITS

1. Sick Leave: The BOARD shall grant secretaries sick leave days without loss of pay, with unlimited accrual of unused days in accordance with the following schedule:

Days Accumulated	Days Granted Per Year
1-75	12
76-100	13
101-124	14
125-169	15
170+	16

In the event a secretary is sick more than three (3) consecutive days, the District may require the secretary to furnish a doctor's certificate as a condition of return.

Any secretary using two (2) or fewer full days of Sick Leave and Personal Leave in one fiscal year shall be given \$250.00 as incentive pay at the conclusion of the fiscal year. Any secretary who completes the fiscal year with perfect attendance shall be given \$400.00 as incentive pay at the conclusion of the fiscal year. Each secretary shall only be eligible for the greater incentive documented above. In no case may a secretary receive both payments.

2. Insurance:

- A. The BOARD agrees to provide hospitalization and major medical insurance including full coverage of maternity costs, providing benefits not less than those being presently provided to the employees at the cost listed below for employees pursuant to salary level. Married employees, or employees with a spouse as defined by 750 ILCS 75/1 et. seq., shall be provided benefits for themselves, their spouses, and their dependents. Unmarried employees shall be provided benefits for themselves and their dependents, if any.
- B. Full-time employees who elect to participate in the District's insurance program shall pay the amount listed below per check for twenty-four (24) checks annually based upon the employee's base salary:

UNDER BA 1 of Teacher's Salary (20% less than over BA 1)

<u>HMO Blue Advantage</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$112.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$54.00</u>	<u>\$120.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$58.00</u>	<u>\$128.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$62.00</u>	<u>\$138.00</u>

<u>HMO Illinois</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$54.00</u>	<u>\$122.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$58.00</u>	<u>\$130.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$62.00</u>	<u>\$140.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$66.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>

<u>PPO</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$68.00</u>	<u>\$138.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$76.00</u>	<u>\$160.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$84.00</u>	<u>\$172.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$92.00</u>	<u>\$184.00</u>

OVER BA 1 of Teacher's Salary

<u>HMO Blue Advantage</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$63.00</u>	<u>\$140.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$68.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$73.00</u>	<u>\$160.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$78.00</u>	<u>\$172.00</u>

<u>HMO Illinois</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$67.00</u>	<u>\$152.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$72.00</u>	<u>\$163.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$77.00</u>	<u>\$175.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$82.00</u>	<u>\$187.00</u>

<u>PPO</u>		
<u>School Year</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>2022-23</u>	<u>\$85.00</u>	<u>\$172.00</u>
<u>2023-24</u>	<u>\$95.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
<u>2024-25</u>	<u>\$105.00</u>	<u>\$215.00</u>
<u>2025-26</u>	<u>\$115.00</u>	<u>\$230.00</u>

- C. Coverage will be specified in an annual summary of benefits provided by the BOARD.
- D. The District will provide a wellness program at no cost to the employee at a site(s) of the District's choosing.
- E. Any full-time employee employed by the Board may elect to receive \$3,750 as additional compensation if the employee is eligible for single health insurance but does not enroll in any health insurance; or may elect to receive, \$5,625.00 as additional compensation if the employee is eligible for family insurance but enrolls only in single health insurance; or may elect to receive \$7,500.00 as additional compensation if the employee is eligible for family health insurance but does not enroll in any health insurance. In order to prove eligibility the employee must provide appropriate documentation to the District during open enrollment and recertify yearly that they are still eligible and entitled to their previous stipend amount. Such compensation will be paid to the employee after providing appropriate documentation and/or recertification of eligibility for certain insurance coverage and enrollment in an alternative type of coverage during the open enrollment period.

Additionally, if an employee has a qualifying life event during the plan year resulting in a change of coverage and provides appropriate

documentation, then the above stipend will be prorated and/or terminated, if applicable, for the rest of the plan year. Employees must notify the District and provide documentation within 30 calendar days of the qualifying life event in order to receive the prorated stipend for the rest of the remainder of the plan term, if applicable. Any failure to notify the District within 30 calendar days will result in stipend payments not taking effect until the following plan year after the open enrollment period, if applicable. The health insurance plan year is approximately July 1st through June 30th but is subject to change. The open enrollment period is typically in May but is subject to change.

The additional compensation shall be added to the employee's gross salary and paid in equal installments as part of his/her regular pay check. Any amounts paid to the employee under this section shall be subject to usual and customary withholding of taxes, IMRF contribution (if required), and any other withholdings required by law. If the employee leaves employment with the District during the school year, the district's obligation to pay any remaining compensation under this Section shall cease on the last day of employment.

If an individual who seeks to receive the additional compensation from this provision would cause the District to violate the laws and regulations which specifically preclude an employer from offering a financial incentive or other benefits to an employee not to enroll in, or to terminate enrollment in, a general health plan that is or would be primary to Medicare shall not be eligible for the additional compensation.

Employees who seek to re-enroll in the District's health insurance may do so in accordance with the rules of this plan.

- F. The Board will provide BC/BS vision and dental insurance to all employees. The cost of such a plan shall be borne by the District for any secretary on either of the HMO plans. Employees on the PPO plan will pay the dental/vision premiums on their own.
3. Personal Leave: Secretaries shall be granted three (3) days per school year for personal business leave, without loss of pay or sick leave for such personal business as family matters which require absence during school hours, or for the observance of religious holidays. The reason for taking personal leave need not be disclosed by the Secretaries. The UNION and the Secretaries, however, recognize a moral obligation to restrict absences for personal leave in the spirit of the Agreement. Personal leave not used by the end of a school term shall be counted in the following school term's total amount of sick days available to the Secretaries. Personal Leave may not be taken during the first week or last week of the school term, on parent-teacher conference days or on a day immediately prior to or immediately following a holiday or school recess.

The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, waive provisions of the preceding

sentence for good cause shown. The Secretaries shall notify the building principal at least two (2) working days before such personal leave day(s). The Secretaries shall also notify the District's main office.

4. Special Leave in Bereavement:

- A. All employees shall be allowed up to four (4) work days of absence, without loss of pay, in the event of the death of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family shall include parents, spouse, brother, sister, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, domestic partners as defined in law, and legal guardians. In the event of death of relatives not in the immediate family, an employee shall be granted a one (1) day absence without loss of pay. Bereavement leave shall not be cumulative. Neither shall the use of such leave cause any reduction in sick leave.
- B. Upon written request to the Superintendent, he/she or his/her designee may grant an additional two (2) days absence without loss of pay by reason of extenuating circumstances.
- C. The employee may be asked to provide a copy of an obituary/death notice from a publication and/or proof of the relative's date of death if such leave is beyond one day.
- D. The use of bereavement leave shall be immediately after the death of an individual as noted above unless good cause is shown for use of the leave at a time which is not immediately after the death (i.e. memorial service later in time). The employee shall request approval from the administration, in writing, for her/his use of some or all of the bereavement days at a later date which will include the reason(s) for the intended use

5. Leave of Absence:

- A. A Secretary with a minimum of four (4) year's continuous service in District 99 may be granted a leave of absence for causes as outlined in the Family Medical Leave Act for a period of one school term or less.
- B. If the leave was granted for reasons of the employee's health, a medical release to return to work shall be required from a doctor prior to re-employment. The cost of such examination shall be borne by the individual. In cases of disagreement, the district may request a second medical opinion, the cost of which will be borne by the BOARD.
- C. Upon returning to District 99 after personal leave of one school term, a Secretary shall be reassigned to the position held when such leave was granted. If the position has been eliminated for any reason, such Secretary will be assigned to another position in the District. After a leave in excess of one school term, such Secretary may be assigned to another position designated by the Superintendent or designee.

- D. A Secretary on such leave may have the option to pay the cost of any district employee insurance premiums applicable to such Secretary.

6. Temporary Leave:

- A. A temporary leave-of-absence may be granted without pay for good cause shown to any employee after two (2) years' service upon written application and approval of the Superintendent or designee, stating the purpose of the leave and the expected duration thereof.

- B. Such leaves may be granted for short-term illness or physical incapacitation in cases where the individual's accrued sick leave and FMLA leave have been exhausted, or for personal reasons such as marriage, illness outside of the immediate household, to pursue additional education, and so forth.

- 7. Secretaries shall not be required to perform any direct duties related to cafeteria financial management or supervision.

8. Retirement:

- A. Eligibility Criteria

- 1. Ten (10) consecutive years of full time service in the District immediately prior to their retirement date;
- 2. Meet IMRF age requirement for retirees; and
- 3. Have applied and been approved for IMRF retirement.

- B. Benefits

- 1. \$225.00 for every year of full-time service to the District and not to exceed \$7,000.00.
- 2. \$35.00 for unused accumulated sick-leave days up to a maximum of \$5,000.00. This payout will be paid only to an employee who has accrued sick days remaining after the employee has utilized any and all sick days to secure additional IMRF service credit.

- C. Insurance

Retired secretarial unit members shall be eligible to participate in the District's insurance program at the COBRA rate up to the age of sixty-five (65) or Medicare eligibility, whichever first occurs. However, a secretary who retires between sixty-two (62) and sixty-five (65) years of age shall pay for health insurance at the cost to then current active employees.

- D. Employees shall be eligible to purchase service credit towards retirement for unused sick days pursuant to IMRF regulations.

9. Secretarial Assignment:

- A. Secretaries are subject to assignment each year by the Superintendent, or designee.
- B. Notification of tentative assignment and commencement of work for the following school term shall be made in writing not later than two (2) weeks before the close of the current school term or at the end of the first, second, or third quarter of the school term, except that changes in assignment may be made by the Superintendent, or designee thereafter for good cause shown. The Secretary and Principal shall be notified in sufficient time to prepare for such change.
- C. At the Secretary's request, a conference shall be held with the Principal or the Superintendent, or designee and a UNION Representative (if the Secretary so requests), within three (3) working days of change of the assignment.
- D. Transfer of a Secretary shall only be made after a conference with the Secretary and the Superintendent, or designee.
- E. When a vacancy or opening occurs in the position of a secretary within the district, the vacancy/opening shall be posted on the District's website and announced via email inviting letters of application for the position. Applicants must submit a letter of application to the District's email notification address. The assignment shall be filled upon recommendation by the Superintendent, or designee and approval by the Board of Education if necessary.
- F. In the event of a reduction in Secretaries, district seniority shall be the sole determining factor with the last Secretary hired being the first released. Rehiring shall follow the same procedure, and the individual with highest district seniority shall be the first recalled.

- G. When a reduction in work force occurs, due to a closing of a building, no position shall be filled by a secretary from outside the district until all previously employed Secretaries have been offered the position.
 - H. Should a conflict arise concerning two secretaries of identical seniority, the Superintendent, or designee, shall select the Secretary based on qualifications, and qualifications shall be defined in terms of experience, ability to fulfill the job requirements, and formal education.
 - I. Each Secretary who has been released because of austerity but subsequently rehired within an eighteen (18) month period shall resume her placement on the next step of the salary schedule as though there had been no interruption of services and credited with previously attained seniority. If an offer of a position is made within a two-year period and rejected by the employee, the Board of Education shall be released of its commitment to the employee.
10. Distribution of the Secretaries' paychecks shall be made on Fridays at intervals of two-week periods. As of July 1, 2010, employees currently being paid over ten (10) months need to be grandfathered.
11. Upon written request the BOARD shall make available to the UNION at the reasonable convenience of the Business Office all statistics, records, and public information relevant to negotiations.
12. Tuition Reimbursement:

The Board shall reimburse secretarial employees who have completed two (2) full years of service, an amount equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the tuition and/or fees paid by an employee for taking courses or workshops for the purpose of improving their skills as relating to his/her job or pursuing a degree in education. The Board shall not pay any Secretary an amount in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per contract year. The Board shall not pay in excess of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) per contract year for tuition reimbursement of the entire unit.

- a. In order to secure reimbursement, the Superintendent or designee shall first approve each course before the employee enrolls.
- b. Upon successful completion of an approved course (grade C or better), the employee shall submit to the Superintendent a request for reimbursement together with a receipt of payment and grade report and/or final transcript.
- c. Request for reimbursement shall be submitted within sixty (60) days following completion of each course. Special consideration shall be granted if there is a delay in the transmittal of such grade report and/or transcripts.

If an employee voluntarily leaves the employment of District 99 at any time during

the one (1) year after completing the approved coursework, he/she forfeits the right to any tuition reimbursement he/she would have received for the current year AND the classes taken in the previous one (1) year. The BOARD shall not be obligated to pay any employee tuition reimbursement between the last day of employment in June of the current school year and September 1 of the next school year.

13. School Structure

The Board agrees to negotiate any changes in the work schedule necessitated by the adoption of a split schedule or year-round school format.

14. Sick-Day Bank

The Union will develop and maintain a Sick Day Bank ("Bank") to be operated by a Board of Trustees ("BOT") appointed by the Union. The Union will inform the Board of Education ("BOE") of the names of the employees who have contributed days to the Bank and the names of employees who are to receive days from the Bank. Upon receipt of the names of participants in the Bank the BOE will record the transfer of the Secretary's day(s) to the Bank. When the BOE receives notification of a grant of days to a Secretary, the BOE will credit the Secretary with the number of days specified by the BOT. The BOE shall have no other duties or functions with respect to the Bank that are not explicitly set forth in this Section. Any disputes between employees regarding the Bank shall be resolved exclusively by the Union. Bargaining unit members may not file a grievance to resolve disputes over the provisions of this section. The Union may file a grievance to resolve a dispute limited to the BOE's recording and transfer of days but only after first giving the BOE written notice of the alleged discrepancy and the opportunity to resolve the discrepancy.

The Union shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Education, its members, officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, complaints, suits, or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of action taken by the Board of Trustees in the operation of the Sick Bank.

15. The Board shall endeavor to provide a full-time clerk in each building. In addition, the Board shall attempt to provide each building with at least one secretary and/or clerk that is bi-lingual.
16. The District will reimburse Secretaries who are able to provide interpretation services with a stipend of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per school year. Employees may be required to verify their ability to provide interpretation services before receiving the stipend.
17. Secretaries are important role models for students, peers, and community members. Accordingly, the parties agree that professional and appropriate appearance is expected of District personnel that sets a positive dress and grooming example for students. Specifically, this means tight reveling, short torn, tattered, dirty and excessively faded or with visual, written, or implied messages that are likely to disrupt the school environment will not be worn to work in the workplace.

Spirit wear” shall be limited to items of clothing with Cicero School District 99 and/or school logos, or insignia. Jeans and/or gym shoes may only be worn if spirit wear is also worn. Spirit wear, in order to promote school and district spirit, may be worn on any school day.

IV. EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIPS

1. The BOARD delegates authority to the administration to supervise the Secretaries.

- A. Building Principal:

The Building Principal shall serve as the immediate local administrator supervising the Secretary in all matters relating to the daily work requirements, services, and responsibilities of the position. The Administration shall promptly inform Building Principals of all changes in the Master Agreement. Special emphasis shall be placed on items which directly affect the operation and administration of any particular attendance center in order that essential planning may take place. This shall include items that have been tentatively agreed to in the process of negotiations but have not been finalized.

- B. Superintendent, or Designee:

The Superintendent, or Designee shall serve as the district administrator to all Secretaries. As such, he/she shall periodically meet with the Secretaries individually, and/or as a group for improvement of skills, exchange of ideas, and/or other pertinent matters pertaining thereto. Such meetings shall be called at his/her discretion at times during the usual working day. Furthermore, he/she will give serious consideration to requests of the Secretaries through the Principal for necessary office equipment and/or supplies as the budget may permit.

The Superintendent or designee shall not require secretaries to remain in the building alone unless the secretary has access to an administrator. The secretary upon notification to the Administration Building shall be allowed to leave the building if this does occur.

V. PROBATIONARY PERIOD PROVISIONS

1. All newly-employed Secretaries shall be placed at the "Probationary Year 1" step of the salary schedule. They shall remain on that step until the completion of one school year of full-time service at which time they shall be recommended for a second year based upon the recommendation of the Building Principal and Superintendent, or designee, unless notice is given according to Article V(4) of this Agreement.

2. All first-year probationary Secretaries shall be evaluated in writing by the Building Principal through periodic observations followed by a conference.
3. All first-year probationary Secretaries shall be apprised of their strengths and weaknesses in job performance by the Building Principal. Oral and/or written suggestions for improvement shall be given as needed.
4. In cases in which the BOARD is considering termination of employment of a first-year probationary Secretary, the following provisions shall apply:
 - A. Notice of deficiencies shall be given to the first-year probationary Secretary in a written, formal evaluation. The employee shall have thirty (30) calendar days in which to improve job skills.
 - B. At the conclusion of the 30-day period, the BOARD, at its discretion, may release the employee with a two-week notice.

VI. WORK SCHEDULE PROVISIONS

1.
 - A. Secretaries shall work eight (8) hours per day in all school buildings. On Parent-Teacher Conference days, Secretaries shall work an eight (8) hour day that concludes at the scheduled end time of Parent-Teacher Conferences unless an alternative schedule is agreed to by the Principal. During summer, twelve-month secretaries shall start no later than 7:30 a.m.
 - B. A lunch period of thirty (30) minutes shall be provided to all secretaries. Lunch time may vary by mutual consent.
 - C. All overtime must be pre-approved by the Building Principal or designee in his/her absence and confirmed in writing. Overtime shall be paid at one-and-a-half times the employee's regular hourly-rate of pay.
2. The following categories of days shall be working days for the Secretaries:
 - A. All Pupil Contact days as established in the District's School Calendar as officially adopted by the BOARD.
 - B. All Institute Days as established in the School Calendar.
 - C. Ten-month secretaries will begin work three (3) weeks prior to the beginning of the school year and continue for one (1) week after the end of the school year.
 - D. The work schedule shall not exceed forty (40) hours per week.
3. Any regularly scheduled school day that is declared an "emergency day" by the BOARD due to severe weather conditions or any other special emergency causing the closing of school shall be a paid day for Secretaries.

4. Two (2) fifteen-minute work breaks shall be provided within the daily work schedule of the Secretary.
5. Twelve-month secretaries shall be entitled to vacation days in accordance with the following schedule:

Years of Service	# of Vacation Days
0 to 5 years	10
5 to 10 years	15
More than 10 years	20

Any new employee must work a minimum of five (5) months before taking any vacation time.

Employees may be allowed limited carryover of days with approval of the Superintendent or designee.

VII. GRIEVANCE and DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

A. Grievance Procedure

1. Definition:

A grievance is a complaint involving a work situation or a complaint that there has been a deviation or misapplication of a practice, policy, or a complaint that there has been a violation, a misinterpretation or a misapplication of any provisions of this Agreement.

2. Basic Principles:

- A. Any Secretary or Group of Secretaries shall have the right to present grievances in accordance with these procedures. A group shall consist of Secretaries who hold the grievance in common.
- B. All discussions shall first be kept confidential by all parties involved during the first stage of a grievance.
- C. A Secretary who participates in the grievance procedure shall be free from disciplinary action or reprimand because of such participation.
- D. The Administration has the responsibility to consider and take prompt action, within authority delegated to it, on grievances presented to it.
- E. The failure of the UNION to act within the time limits will act as a bar to any further appeal. The Administrator's failure to give a decision within the time limits shall permit the grievant to proceed

to the 'next step.' The time limits may be extended by mutual agreement. All references to days shall refer to teacher attendance days.

It is agreed that no grievance shall be suspended or delayed by reason of the summer vacation. During the District's summer vacation, it is agreed that all days referred to in this Article VII shall mean District business days, not teacher attendance days.

- F. Hearings and conferences held in the nature of executive sessions under this procedure shall be conducted in one of the school offices at a time that will afford a fair and reasonable opportunity for all persons, including witnesses, to be present.
- G. Grievance meetings shall be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to all of the participants.
- H. If a grievance arises from the action of a District Administrator, Supervisory Staff member, or the BOARD, the grievance shall follow the same procedure as outlined below; however, the first stage should be a request for an informal conference with the appropriate Assistant Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Operations, depending upon whether the grievance is an instructional or a business matter.

The appropriate Assistant Superintendent shall render a decision in writing within fourteen days to the UNION Grievance Chairperson and the Superintendent.

In the event the grievance has not been settled satisfactorily at this stage, the grievance may be referred to the third stage as outlined below.

- I. All grievances will begin at the stage of the individual and/or entity who issued the discipline and/or decision resulting in the grievance.

3. Procedures:

First Stage

The aggrieved Secretary shall request an informal conference with his or her Principal or whichever administrator is the cause of the alleged grievance regarding the adjustment of any grievance. This is to be done within fifteen (15) teacher attendance days after the Secretary becomes aware of the alleged violation. At this and all future conferences regarding the alleged grievance, the Secretary may be represented by a UNION representative or by any Secretary of his or her choice. If the Secretary is represented by a

Union representative who is assigned to the same building at which the grievance originated, the conference may be held during regular school hours. If the Secretary is represented by a Union representative who is assigned to a building other than that at which the grievance originated, the conference must be held after regular school hours. The Principal or another appropriate administrator may also have a representative of his/her choice. The aggrieved Secretary must be present at this as well as at all subsequent meetings. No other Teacher organization shall represent the Secretary, if the grievant is dissatisfied with the outcome of the conference, he or she is privileged to proceed to the second stage.

Second Stage

In the event the grievance has not been settled satisfactorily at the First Stage, the aggrieved Secretary, if he or she chooses the UNION as his or her representative, shall prepare a signed statement setting forth all of the pertinent facts and dates relative to the complaint and the remedy or relief sought. Copies of the complaint shall be submitted to the appropriate Assistant Superintendent.

If the Secretary chooses another Secretary other than an official UNION representative as his/her representative, he/she shall submit the same type of report to such representative who shall also sign it, and present it to the immediate administrator of the grievant and to the Superintendent.

The filing of the grievance at the second stage must be within ten (10) days of the first stage conference. The Administrator who has authority to make a decision on the grievance shall make such decision and communicate it in writing to the aggrieved Secretary, the Superintendent, and the UNION President within ten (10) days.

Third Stage

In the event a grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved at the Second Stage, the aggrieved Secretary or his/her representative, within ten (10) days of the Administrator's written decision, shall submit a statement of appeal with reasons to the Superintendent. Copies of this statement are to be forwarded to the grievant, administrator involved and the UNION President.

Within ten (10) days after the written appeal is submitted, the aggrieved Secretary, the Administrator, the Superintendent, and a UNION Representative, if the aggrieved Secretary wishes, shall meet in an attempt to resolve the grievance. The Superintendent shall file an answer within ten (10) days of the Third Stage grievance meeting and communicate it to each party participating in the Third Stage conference.

Fourth Stage

If the grievance cannot be settled at the Third Stage, the grievance shall be submitted to the BOARD through the Superintendent at a mutually agreed upon Executive Session. The aggrieved Secretary and his/her representative shall present a written summary to the BOARD in advance of the executive session. The Secretary and his/her representative shall present their case orally to the Board at the Executive Session. The Board's decision shall be communicated to the grievant and the Union within ten (10) days of the Executive Session.

Fifth Stage

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at the fourth stage, the UNION may submit the grievance to binding arbitration within twenty-five (25) teacher attendance days after receipt of the Board's decision at the fourth stage, by requesting an arbitrator from the American Arbitration Association or Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services and filing a copy of the request with the Superintendent within the twenty-five (25) teacher attendance day period. The selection of the arbitrator shall follow the voluntary labor arbitration procedures of the American Arbitration Association. The fees of the arbitrator and the American Arbitration Association shall be divided equally between the BOARD and the UNION. All other expenses shall be borne by the party incurring them. Either party shall be entitled to have a court reporter present and submit a transcript and post-hearing brief to the arbitrator. Unless the parties split equally the cost of the court report and the transcript, the party not requesting the court reporter shall not be entitled to a transcript.

B. Discipline Procedure

The BOARD may discipline members of the bargaining unit with just cause for acts of insubordination, misconduct, incompetency, cruelty, negligence, immorality, or other sufficient cause. Disciplinary action may include written reprimands, suspensions without pay, or discharge.

1. Except for serious offenses that may warrant suspension or termination, the BOARD agrees to the concept of progressive discipline following a disciplinary conference when dealing with matters of insubordination, misconduct, incompetency, cruelty, negligence, immorality, or other sufficient cause. In all cases, employees will be afforded due process.
 - a) First offense: Documented Verbal Warning. Verbal warnings shall be documented by an email or letter after an administrative/employee meeting. Documented verbal warnings shall be removed from the personnel file after one calendar year from the date of receipt. Employee union representation and CBA grievance and discipline procedure requirements do not apply to the issuance of verbal warnings.
 - b) Second offense: Shall be a letter of reprimand/warning in the employee's official file.
 - c) Third offense: Upon repetition of the same offense, shall result in a one day unpaid suspension for the employee.
 - d) Fourth offense: Upon repetition of the same offense, the employee shall receive up to a three (3) day unpaid suspension.
 - e) Fifth offense: Upon repetition of the same offense, the employee shall receive either a suspension of more than three (3) days or termination.

- f) Any member of the bargaining unit who is disciplined shall have the right to appeal such discipline by filing a grievance in accordance with the grievance and arbitration procedure set forth in this Agreement.
 - g) The Board and Union agree that the commission of certain serious offenses, and/or multiple offenses of the same or similar infractions, would permit the Board to skip some or all of the steps in the progressive disciplinary process.
2. When an administrator calls a conference with an employee which might lead to disciplinary action against the employee, the following provisions shall be applicable.
- a) Except in egregious situations (i.e. violent, abusive, or criminal activity) the employee and the Union shall be informed forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting in writing as to the reason(s) for the conference and/or investigatory meeting. The written notice will include information that identifies the general details of the incident(s) (i.e. approximate date, time, place, and nature of the incident) for which the conference and/or investigatory meeting is being held if such information is available at the time the notice is drafted. The meeting shall be scheduled at a time mutually agreeable to all the participants.
 - b) The employee has the right to be accompanied by a Union representative or representative of his/her choice at the conference.
 - c) Except circumstances warranting immediate action the administrator will not take disciplinary action against the employee without first affording the employee an opportunity to respond to the matter being discussed.
 - d) In no instance shall disciplinary action be taken against an employee later than twenty (20) teacher attendance days after the conduct giving rise to the action or in the twenty (20) teacher attendance days after the time the administration becomes aware of the action giving rise to the discipline. When disciplinary action stems from a series of un-remediated instances on the part of the employee, in no event shall notification be later than twenty (20) working days after observation of the last instance.
 - e) If, after a disciplinary conference an administrator takes disciplinary action against the employee the administrator shall provide the employee with written notification of the specific reason(s) for the action within five (5) teacher attendance days from the date of the conference.
 - f) In case of a termination of employment hearing or a conference involving disciplinary action to be taken against an employee, the charges brought

against the employee shall be based upon the material in the official file and/or investigatory file except in cases where the administration or Superintendent believe immediate disciplinary action is necessary.

VIII. SALARY PROVISIONS

1. The BOARD agrees to pay Secretaries' salaries in accordance with Exhibit A of this Agreement. The Board further agrees to pay a degree stipend annually, in the amount of \$1,200.00, to each eligible Secretary who holds a Bachelor's degree. The degree stipend will be paid, in a separate check, in December and May.
2. Ten-month secretaries hired prior to July 1, 2010, shall be paid five (5) full days compensation, based upon their respective work schedule. The total hours paid to ten (10) month secretaries hired prior to July 1, 2010, shall be 1720 hours. Ten- month secretaries hired prior to July 1, 2010, who have completed four (4) full terms shall be paid ten (10) full days compensation based upon their respective work schedule. The total hours paid to ten-month secretaries hired prior to July 1, 2010, shall be 1760 hours. This pay is to be included in their yearly salary.
3. The longevity stipend shall only be available to employees eligible to receive the stipend up to and including the first day of school for the 2012-2013 school year. The Longevity Increment schedule:
 - A. After fifteen (15) years of service \$700.00 annually.
 - B. After twenty (20) years of service \$800.00 annually.
 - C. After twenty-five (25) years of service \$900.000 annually.

Years of services, for the purposes of this provision shall be defined as all full- time employment with District 99.

IX. HOLIDAYS

The following holidays shall be observed by the Board as paid holidays for 10-Month and 12-Month Secretaries:

10-Month Secretaries	12-Month Secretaries
Labor Day	Labor Day
Columbus Day	Columbus Day
Veterans' Day	Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Day	Thanksgiving Day
Day After Thanksgiving	Day After Thanksgiving
Christmas Day	Christmas Day
New Year's Day	New Year's Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
President's Day	President's Day
Casimir Pulaski Day	Casimir Pulaski Day
Memorial Day	Memorial Day
Floating Holiday	Floating Holiday
	Christmas Eve
	New Year's Eve
	July 4th
	Juneteenth

Plus any Board-granted holiday or other mandatory holiday designated by the Federal or State Government.

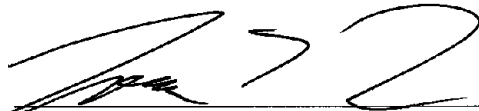
The Floating Holiday shall be determined by mutual agreement of the parties.

The District may require an employee who is absent on a scheduled work day prior to and/or after a holiday to provide verification of an appropriate reason for the absence. Failure to provide such verification shall result in a loss of salary for the day(s) which the employee is unable to provide verification of an appropriate reason or his/her absence.

The District may require an employee who utilizes a sick day(s) in conjunction with the use of a personal day(s) immediately before and/or after a holiday to provide verification of an appropriate reason for the sick day(s) absence(s) described above. Failure to provide such verification shall result in a loss of salary for the day(s) which the employee is unable to provide verification of the need to utilize a sick day(s) as described above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, after due authorization have caused these presents to be executed in duplicate by their duly authorized officers on the day and year first above written at Cicero, Illinois.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CICERO SCHOOL DISTRICT 99
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Thomas M. Tomschin, President

10/12/2022

Date

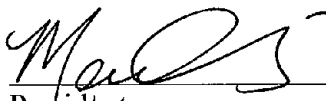
Attest:

Maria C. Moreno

Maria C. Moreno, Secretary *P10-TEM*
MORENO 10/12/2022

Date

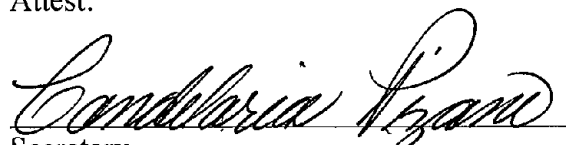
CICERO COUNCIL SECRETARIES UNIT
WEST SUBURBAN TEACHERS UNION
LOCAL 571, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



President
10/12/22

Date

Attest:



Secretary
10-12-22

Date

EXHIBIT A

SECRETARY SALARY SCHEDULE

<u>Years of Service</u>	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Probationary Year 1	\$ 24.51	\$ 25.85	\$ 27.02	\$ 28.10
Year 2-5	\$ 26.90	\$ 28.38	\$ 29.66	\$ 30.84
Year 6-10	\$ 29.26	\$ 30.87	\$ 32.26	\$ 33.55
11 Years +	\$ 31.15	\$ 32.87	\$ 34.35	\$ 35.72

All hourly rates referenced in the salary schedule chart are based on a minimum of a 5% increase for the 2022-2023 school year, 5.5% increase for the 2023-2024 school year, 4.5% increase for the 2024-2025 school year and a 4% for the 2025-2026 school year.

Off-Schedule 12-Month and 10-Month Secretaries Salary Increases

Secretaries off the salary schedule will receive the same percentage increase in salary as the rest of the bargaining unit for that particular school year.

12-Month Secretaries Hours Worked

Twelve-month Secretaries are paid at an hourly rate for 1,960 hours. These hours encompass 245 days worked, at 8 hours per day. In addition, Twelve-month secretaries are paid at the normal hourly rate for fifteen (15) holidays at 8 hours per day for a total of 2,080 hours paid.

10-Month Secretaries Hours Worked

Ten-month Secretaries are paid at an hourly rate for 1,600 hours. These hours encompass 200 days worked, at 8 hours per day. In addition, Ten-month Secretaries are paid at the normal hourly rate for twelve (12) holidays at 8 hours per day for a total of 1,696 hours paid.

An employee who becomes a Secretary in the District after having served as a District Clerk shall receive service credit on the Secretary Salary Schedule for the time during which the individual served as a District Clerk.