

SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE (“Committee”)
AND
THE NEW BEDFORD EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION, INC., UNIT A (“Union”)
Collectively referred to as (“the Parties”)
April 2023

WHEREAS, the Parties engaged in bargaining over the impacts of student assessments in preschool as such relate to employees represented by the Union; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to memorialize their understanding of their negotiations.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The Parties agree to implement preschool assessments as follows:
 - a. The District shall provide, and teachers shall attend, professional development sessions concerning preschool student assessments on the following dates: February 8, 2023; March 22, 2023; and May 24, 2023. Such professional development shall take place within the work day. The District will also provide teachers with a sample student assessment as part of the professional development process.
 - b. Teachers shall participate in an initial preview of the student assessment process for the third trimester of the 2022-2023 school year, but are under no obligation to perform student assessments during that time. During the first trimester of the 2023-2024 school year, teachers shall be required to complete the student assessments and will have the option to provide such to the families. Beginning the second trimester of the 2023-2024 school year, teachers shall be required to complete and issue student assessments to families.
 - c. During the third trimester of the 2022-2023 school year and first trimester of the 2023-2024 school year, teachers shall only be required to utilize the standards of social and emotional learning and literacy. Beginning the second trimester of the 2023-2024 school year, teachers will additionally be required to assess students on the standard of language. The District reserves the right to modify and/or increase the standards for student assessments and shall give the Union notice and opportunity to confer about such.
 - d. The District, in its discretion, shall provide teachers with electronic devices necessary to complete the assessments.
 - e. The District shall evaluate the assessment process by issuing surveys and/or other

appropriate method of obtaining feedback to teachers in both June 2023 and the fall of 2023.

- f. The District will issue a memorandum to parents/guardians of students enrolled in preschool ahead of the 2023-2024 school year addressing the assessments which shall go into effect that school year. In addition, teachers shall discuss the assessments during the 2023-2024 school year Open House with parents/guardians.
2. The Committee has satisfied any and all bargaining obligations pursuant to MGL c. 150E with the Union with respect to the use of assessments in preschool.

Agreed to by the Parties on this _____ day of April, 2023.

For the New Bedford Schools Committee

For the New Bedford Educators Association