SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

THE NEW BEDFORD EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION, INC., UNIT A

August 2023

WHEREAS, the New Bedford School Committee (“Committee”) has eliminated the half-day pre-kindergarten program for students and effective starting with the 2023-2024 school year all pre-kindergarten classes will be full-day;

WHEREAS, the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. Unit A (“Union”), demanded to bargain regarding the impacts of the elimination of half-day pre-kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, the Committee and the Union, collectively referred to as the “Parties”, agree that the Committee has satisfied its bargaining obligations with respect to the elimination of half-day pre-kindergarten and that this Side Letter supersedes Appendix M appended to the Parties’ collective bargaining agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Pre-kindergarten teachers shall follow the grid in Article 12, Section G.
2. The building administrator, after consultation with the pre-kindergarten teachers, will schedule the individual prep time for pre-kindergarten teachers of not less than forty (40) minutes during the student instructional day, generally during the time scheduled for students’ nap/quiet play to comply with the Grid in Article 12, Section G. Pre-K educators shall not be required to remain in the classroom during students’ nap/quiet play time if an individual preparation period is scheduled during that time.
3. In the event that a substitute is unavailable to provide pre-kindergarten teachers with preparation time, the regular professional employee shall be compensated for the loss of preparation time.
4. The “Elementary Extra Assistance” time provided for in Article 12, Section A.3.B. applies to pre-kindergarten teachers; however, pre-kindergarten teachers will use this weekly 30-minutes required in Article 12, Section A.3.B. for teacher-directed planning and for conferences as provided in Article 12, Section A.3.B, instead of using such time for after-school extra assistance to their pre-kindergarten students.
5. This Agreement cannot be modified, except by a written instrument signed by both parties.

Agreed to by the Parties on the date(s) indicated below:

For the New Bedford School Committee For the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. Unit A

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Jonathan Mitchell, Chair Thomas Nickerson, President

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_