## COMMONWEALH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA LABOR RELATIONS BOARD


A. Martin HerringAttorney At Law
604 S. Washington SquareSuite 1009
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 568.9804
email: herringlaw.mh@gmail.com
September 29, 2019
Benjamin Pratt, Esquire
24 N. Lime Street
Lancaster, PA ..... 17602
Tricia Audrain, UniServ Representative
PSEA
Westtown Business Center
1512 McDaniel Drive
West Chester, PA 19380
RE: Phoenixville Area School District and Phoenixville Education Association

Dear Mr. Pratt and Ms. Audrain:

Attached is the fact-finding report in the above-captioned case. The parties have ten (10) calendar days from the date of the issuance of this report to inform the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) and each other if they accept or reject this report.

Confidentiality of the report should be maintained during the ten-day consideration period and until officially released for publication by the Board in the event of rejection.

Acceptance of the report must constitute approval of the report in its entirety and on an unqualified basis. The options are simply, "accept," or, "reject."

Positions of the parties may be communicated to the PLRB by telephone on the last day of the consideration period and confirmed by a letter.

If there are any questions, please contact Nathan F. Bortner, Secretary of the PLRB at
$717-787-1091$. Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter. With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,
EA. Martin Herring
A. Martin Herring

## Attachment

## cc: Nathan Bortner, Secretary, PLRB

## Background

By letter dated August 20, 2019, the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB), pursuant to Act 88 of 1992 (Act 88) and the Public Employer Relations Act (PERA), appointed the undersigned as Fact-Finder in the impasse between the Phoenixville Area School District (hereafter referred to as the "District") and Phoenixville Education Association, PSEA/NEA (hereafter referred to as the "Association"). The Association represents a unit of approximately 327 bargaining unit teachers. The District is located in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The parties to this Fact-Finding have an ongoing bargaining relationship and are parties to a collective bargaining agreement (hereafter referred to as the "CBA") which was effective by its terms July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Several tentative agreements were reached by the parties, but they were unable to reach agreement on all issues raised during the course of bargaining. As a result, a Request for Fact-Finding was initiated by the Association.

In accordance with the PLRB's Order, the parties filed written statements of the issues in dispute with the Fact-Finder involving the following:

Article 13.10
Article 19

Salary
Health Insurance

On September 10, 2019, an informal fact-finding hearing was conducted and on September 17, 2019, a formal fact-finding hearing was held in accordance with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act before the undersigned. During the hearings, both parties were afforded a full opportunity to present testimony, examine and cross-examine witnesses and introduce oral explanations and documentary evidence in support of their respective positions.

Discussions were held between the parties. Through these discussions, this Fact-Finder was given a thorough understanding of each party's position on the outstanding issues. The parties also informed the Fact-Finder of tentative agreements that were reached.

To arrive at the following recommendations, this Fact-Finder relied upon, among other things, the following criteria:

- The reliable and credible testimony provided, the evidence presented at the Fact-Finding hearing and further clarifications given to the questions of this Fact-Finder during Executive Session discussions.
- The expired collective bargaining agreement.
- Comparisons of unresolved issues relative to the employees in this bargaining unit and how those issues related to other districts and public and private
employees doing comparable work, giving consideration to factors peculiar to the area and classifications involved.
- The interest and welfare of taxpayers and the ability of the District to finance and administer the issues proposed.
- The understanding that each individual issue has been reviewed for its relative individual merit; at the same time, each individual issue has also been reviewed with consideration given to whether or not it appropriately fits into the CBA created through this process.


## ISSUES IN DISPUTE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Article 13.10
Article 19
Salary
Health Insurance

## Article 13.10

## Salary

## Association Position

The Association's Position with Salary Schedules is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

## District Position

The District's Position With Salary Schedules is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

# Association Issues <br> Phoenixville Area Education Association <br> Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019 

## ASSOCIATION ISSUE \#1

## Article 13.10-Salary Schedules

## CURRENT STATUS IN THE DISTRICT

Teachers are currently in status quo receiving the same salary and health insurance benefits as in the prior year.

## CURRENT POSITIONS



## PROPOSED

See above Association Summary as well as salary schedules (A1-A3).

## RATIONALE

From 1999-2009, Phoenixville teachers moved one (1) step per year on the salary schedule. Each year of teaching led to a more experienced teacher, so step movement reflected the rate of pay for the teacher's experience on the salary schedule. For example, a teacher in their $6^{\text {th }}$ year of teaching was paid at the $6^{\text {th }}$ step of the salary schedule. Unfortunately, this understanding drastically changed when from 2009-2013, the value of experience was no longer considered a normal cost of business, but instead factored into the overall teacher raise. Bargaining remained contentious for 4 years and teachers remained in status quo on the same step. Although teachers have since received salary increases from 2013 to the present, two additional years of step freeze delayed movement to the top step even more. As a result, the rate of pay for an experienced teacher has been significantly devalued. This has led to PAEA teachers losing a massive amount of money compared to their predecessors. For example, a 10-year teacher will have lost $\$ 173,948$ of career earnings (See Exhibit A4-A6) in comparison to the teachers who came before where step movement was automatic for years of experience and considered a normal cost of business.

# Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019 

Additionally, $38 \%$ of PASD teachers are situated on the first 5 steps of the salary schedule, and $59 \%$ are placed within the first 10 steps. If teachers are unable to move a step for each year of the new contract, they may start to actively seek employment elsewhere in a similarly situated District where step movement is the norm. Retention of qualified and experienced veteran teachers may be lost to other Districts as a result. Conversely, PAEA's own schedules provide a raise to educators at the top step which will be less than the cost of living, assuming the rate of COLA remains the same. The District's proposals for those at the top step are even less and will most likely not even cover increased health insurance costs.

## Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding

 September 11, 2019

## Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding September 11, 2019



| Phoenixville Area2022-2023 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Steps |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| From Top Old SustemBachelor |  |  | B+15 | Masters | M+15 | M +30 | M+45 | M+60 | PhD |
| 16 | 1 | 50,141 | 52,839 | 58,314 | 61,244 | 64,672 | 68,079 | 69,566 | 71,090 |
| 15 | 2 | 51,338 | 54,330 | 59,804 | -62,733 | 66,162 | 69,568 | 71,055 | 72,581 |
| 14 | 3 | 52,669 | 56,215 | 61,690 | -64,620 | 68,048 | 71,455 | 72,942 | 74,466 |
| 13 | 4 | 54,000 | 58,102 | 63,577 | 66,507 | 69,935 | 73,341 | 74,828 | 76,353 |
| 12 | 5 | 55,331 | 59,988 | 65,464 | 68,392 | 71,821 | 75,227 | 76,714 | 78,239 |
| 11 | 6 | 56,662 | 61,875 | 67,350 | 70,279 | 73,708 | 77,114 | 78,601 | 80,126 |
| 10 | 7 | 57,993 | 63,762 | 69,236 | 72,165 | 75,593 | 79,000 | 80,487 | 82,013 |
| 9 | 8 | 59,324 | 65,647 | 71,122 | 74,052 | 77,480 | 80,887 | 82,373 | 83,898 |
| 8 | 9 | 60,655 | 67,534 | 73,009 | 75,939 | 79,367 | 82,772 | 84,260 | 85,785 |
| 7 | 10 | 62,036 | 69,420 | 74,896 | 77,824 | 81,253 | 84,659 | 86,146 | 87,671 |
| 6 | 11 | 63,467 | 71,307 | 76,896 | 79,711 | 83,140 | 86,546 | 88,033 | 89,558 |
| 5 4 | 12 | 64,899 | 73,193 | 78,896 | 81,597 | 85,025 | 88,432 | 89,919 | 91,444 |
| 3 | 13 | 66,329 | 75,993 | 80,896 | 84,121 | 87,549 | 90,956 | 92,443 | 93,968 |
| 2 | 14 | 67,761 | 79,404 | 82,896 | 86,645 | 90,073 | 93,480 | 94,967 | 96,491 |
| 2 | 15 | 70,223 | 82,815 | 86,598 | 90,349 | 93,842 | 97,182 | 98,728 | 100,233 |
| Top | 16 | 72,685 | 86,226 | 90,301 | 93,823 | 97,316 | 100,684 | 102,143 | 103,509 |
| Top | 17 | 75,648 | 89.750 | 94,224 | 97,642 | 101,087 | 104,530 | 105,962 | 107.393 |

## Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding

September 11, 2019


## Association Issues

## Phoenixville Area Education Association

Fact-finding
September 11, 2019

Career earnings lost for 10 year veteran teacher as years of experience were devalued.

| School Year | Actual Step | Actual <br> Salary | Hypothetical Step based on experience | Hypothetica I Salary based on experience | Difference Between Actual and Hypothetica 1 | Bonus \$ | Cumulative Salary Lost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2009-2010 | 1 | \$44,883.00 | 1 | \$44,883.00 | \$0.00 | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 2,000.0 \\ 0 \end{array}$ | \$0.00 |
| 2010-2011 | 1 | \$44,883.00 | 2 | \$46,372.00 | \$1,489.00 |  |  |
| 2011-2012 | 1 | \$44,883.00 | 3 | \$47,745.00 | \$2,862.00 |  | \$1,489.00 |
| 2012-2013 | 1 | \$44,883.00 | 4 | \$49,176.00 | \$4,293.00 |  | $\$ 8,644.00$ |
| 2013-2014 | 2 | \$47,074.00 | 5 | \$51,309.00 | \$4,235.00 |  | \$10,879.00$\$ 17,244.00$ |
| 2014-2015 | 2.5 | \$54,884.00 | 6 | \$61,249.00 | \$6,365.00 |  |  |
| 2015-2016 | 3 | \$55,589.00 | 7 | \$63,135.00 | \$7,546.00 |  |  |
| 2016-2017 | 3 | \$57,475.00 | 8 | \$66,907.00 | \$9,432.00 |  | \$24,790.00 |
| 2017-2018 | 4 | \$60,162.00 | 9 | \$69,594.00 | \$9,432.00 |  | \$34,222.00 |
| 2018-2019 | 5 | \$62,249.00 | 10 | \$71,681.00 | \$9,432.00 |  | \$53,086.00 |
|  |  |  | ACTUAL SALARY LOST |  | \$55,086.00 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Added <br> Bonus | 2000 |  |  |
|  |  |  | ACTUAL NET SALARY LOST |  | \$53,086.00 |  |  |

## Association Issues

Phoenixville Area Education Association
Fact-finding
September 11, 2019

*Assumes step movement until the top step is reached


A-5

Association Issues
Phoenixville Area Education Association
Fact-finding
September 11, 2019

| Summary of Salary/Steps Lost with assumption of step movement until the top is reached |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5 Year <br> Teacher | 10 Year <br> Teacher | 15 Year Teacher | 20 Year <br> Teacher |
| Salary Lost <br> To Date | \$4,737.00 | \$53,086.00 | \$60,649.00 | \$79,085.00 |
| Total Career Salary Lost | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 34,568.0 \\ 0 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 173,948.0 \\ 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | \$130,769.00 | \$90,555.00 |
| Years to Reach Top Step | 18 | 22 | 22 | 22 |

*Assumptions are based off Bachelor's column placment for the first 5 years, then
Masters for the remaining years.

|  | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salaries | 23,896,319 | 24,261,119 | 24,575,919 |  |  |  |
| Extra Pay | 1,005,188 | 1,005,188 | 24,575,919 $1,005,188$ | $\begin{array}{r} 25,247,449 \\ 1005,188 \end{array}$ | $26,051,436$ | $26,298,323$ |
| Bonus |  |  | 1,005,188 |  | 1,005,188 | 1,005,188 |
| Total salaries | 24,901,507 | 25,266,307 | 25,581,107 | 26,252,637 | 27,056,624 | 27,303,511 |
| Benefits (health, scrip Den, Vis) HSA Changes | 4,208,408 | 4,629,249 | 4,860,711 | 5,103,747 | 5,358,934 | 5,626,881 |
| EE Contribution | $(294,589)$ | $(324,047)$ | $\begin{gathered} 320,000 \\ (534,678) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 320,000 \\ (612,450) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 320,000 \\ (643,072) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 320,000 \\ (731,495) \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PSERS <br> State share | $\begin{gathered} 8,324,574 \\ (4,162,287) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8,663,816 \\ (4,331,908) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9,019,898 \\ (4,509,949) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9,366,941 \\ (4,683,470) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9,826,966 \\ (4,913,483) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 10,102,299 \\ & (5,051,150) \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social Security <br> State share | $\begin{gathered} 1,904,965 \\ (952,483) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1,932,872 \\ (966,436) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1,956,955 \\ (978,477) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2,008,327 \\ (1,004,163) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2,069,832 \\ (1,034,916) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2,088,719 \\ (1,044,359) \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Retirement | 125,000 | 125,000 |  |  |  |  |
| Other | 852,870 | 702,870 | 716,927 | $731,266$ | $\begin{aligned} & 125,000 \\ & 745,891 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 125,000 \\ & 760,809 \end{aligned}$ |
| Total Compensation | 35,209,966 | 35,999,722 | 36,557,493 | 37,607,834 | 38,911,776 | 39,500,215 |
|  |  | 789,756 | 557,771 | 1,050,340 | 1,303,942 | 588,440 |
|  |  | 2.24\% | 1.55\% | 2.87\% | 3.47\% | 1.51\% |
| average salary increase \% average salary increase \$ |  | $2.70 \%$$2,001.35$ | 1.60\% | Total \% Increase |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { 12.18\% } \\ \text { 2.33\% } \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  |  |  | Avg \% Increase Per Yr |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 2.24\% | 2.06\% | 1.90\% |
|  |  |  |  | 1,733.13 | 1,630.29 | 1,533.46 |

B/

| Step | Bachelors | $B+15$ | Masters | $M+15$ | $M+30$ | $M+45$ | $M+60$ | PhD |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| 1 | 49,500 | 51,321 | 55,224 | 58,477 | 61,755 | 65,034 | 66,335 | 67,600 |
| 2 | 50,447 | 52,787 | 56,689 | 59,941 | 63,220 | 66,498 | 67,799 | 69,101 |
| 3 | 51,778 | 54,672 | 58,575 | 61,828 | 65,106 | 68,385 | 69,686 | 70,986 |
| 4 | 53,109 | 56,559 | 60,462 | 63,715 | 66,993 | 70,271 | 71,572 | 72,873 |
| 5 | 54,440 | 58,445 | 62,349 | 65,600 | 68,879 | 72,157 | 73,458 | 74,759 |
| 6 | 55,771 | 60,332 | 64,235 | 67,487 | 70,766 | 74,044 | 75,345 | 76,646 |
| 7 | 57,102 | 62,219 | 66,121 | 69,373 | 72,651 | 75,930 | 77,231 | 78,533 |
| 8 | 58,433 | 64,104 | 68,007 | 71,260 | 74,538 | 77,817 | 79,117 | 80,418 |
| 9 | 59,764 | 65,991 | 69,894 | 73,147 | 76,425 | 79,702 | 81,004 | 82,305 |
| 10 | 61,145 | 67,877 | 71,781 | 75,032 | 78,311 | 81,589 | 82,890 | 84,191 |
| 11 | 62,576 | 69,764 | 73,781 | 76,919 | 80,198 | 83,476 | 84,777 | 86,078 |
| 12 | 64,008 | 71,650 | 75,781 | 78,805 | 82,083 | 85,362 | 86,663 | 87,964 |
| 13 | 65,438 | 74,450 | 77,781 | 81,329 | 84,607 | 87,886 | 89,187 | 90,488 |
| 14 | 66,870 | 77,861 | 79,781 | 83,853 | 87,131 | 90,410 | 91,711 | 93,011 |
| 15 | 69,332 | 81,272 | 83,656 | 87,732 | 91,240 | 94,285 | 95,792 | 97,023 |
| 16 | 71,794 | 84,683 | 87,531 | 91,206 | 94,714 | 97,787 | 99,207 | 100,299 |
| 17 | 75,007 | 88,400 | 92,205 | 95,516 | 98,853 | 102,189 | 103,514 | 104,838 |





| 2023-2024 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step | Bachelors | B+15 | Masters | M +15 | M +30 | M+45 | M+60 |  |
| 1 | 51,000 | 51,400 | 55,350 | 58,550 | 61,900 | W5,150 | M+60 |  |
| 2 | 52,173 | 52,582 | 57,011 | 60,189 | 63,509 |  | 66,400 | 67,650 |
| 3 | 53,373 | 54,160 | 58,721 | 61,875 | 63,509 | 66,844 68,582 | 67,994 | 69,477 |
| 4 | 54,601 | 55,784 | 60,482 | 63,607 | 66,855 | 68,582 | 69,625 | 71,352 |
| 5 | 55,856 | 57,458 | 62,297 | 65,388 | 68,593 | 72,194 | 73,008 | 73,279 |
| 6 | 57,141 | 59,182 | 64,166 | 67,219 | 70,376 | 74,072 | 74,760 | 77,289 |
| 7 | 58,455 | 60,957 | 66,091 | 69,101 | 72,206 | 75,997 | 76,554 | 79,376 |
| 8 | 59,800 | 62,786 | 68,074 | 71,036 | 74,084 | 77,973 | 78,391 | 81,519 |
| 9 | 61,175 | 64,669 | 69,877 | 73,025 | 76,010 | 80,001 | 80,273 | 83,720 |
| 10 | 62,582 | 66,610 | 71,729 | 75,070 | 77,986 | 82,081 | 82,199 | 85,981 |
| 11 | 64,022 | 68,608 | 73,630 | 77,172 | 80,014 | 84,215 | 84,172 | 88,302 |
| 12 | 65,494 | 70,666 | 75,581 | 79,333 | 82,094 | 86,404 | 86,192 | 90,687 |
| 13 | 67,000 | 73,493 | 77,584 | 81,554 | 84,228 | 88,651 | 88,778 | 93,135 |
| 14 | 68,541 | 76,432 | 79,640 | 83,837 | 86,418 | 90,956 | 91,441 | 95,650 |
| 15 | 70,118 | 79,490 | 81,751 | 86,185 | 88,665 | 93,321 | 94,184 | 98,232 |
| 16 | 71,731 | 82,669 | 83,917 | 88,598 | 91,591 | 95,747 | 97,010 | 100,885 |
| 17 | 73,380 | 85,976 | 86,141 | 91,079 | 94,614 | 98,236 | 99,920 | 103,608 |
| 18 | 75,007 | 88,400 | 92,505 | 95,816 | 99,153 | 102,489 | 103,814 | 105,138 |

Bargaining Unit members will be paid according to the following Salary Matrix beginning with the 2016-2017 2019-2020 school year.


For the 20172018 2020-2021 school year, all Bargaining Unit Members who were
employed in compensable status for at least one-half (1/2) the number of days in the z016-2017 2019-2020 school work year shall move a step on the 2017-2018 2020-2021 salary schedule incorporated herein.

Salary Schedule
2017-2018


For the 2018-2019 2021-2022 school year, all Bargaining Unit members who were employed in compensable status for at least one-half (1/2) the number of days in the 2017-2018 2020-2021 school work year shall move a step on the 2018-2019 2021-2022 salary schedule incorporated herein.


ATTACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR SCHEDULES WITH APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE FOUND IN THE CURRENT CONTRACT RELATED TO RESTRICTIONS TO STEP MOVEMENT.

## ARTICLE 13

## SALARY SCHEDULE

13.1. The Bachelor's Track is provided for Bargaining Unit Members holding a valid Pennsylvania teaching certificate for the subject or grades in which the Bargaining Unit Member is rendering service to the District, or in another educational discipline pereapproved by the Superintendent.
132. The B. +15 Track is provided for Bargaining Unit Members holding a valid Pennsylvania teaching certificate for the subjects or grades in which the Bargaining Unit Member is rendering service to the School District, or in another educational discipline pre-approved by the Superintendent, plus fifteen (15) graduate credits earned from an accredited College or University in excess of those required for the attainment of the Bachelor's degree.
133. The Master's Track is provided for Bargaining Unit Members who, in addition to holding a valid Pennsylvania teaching certificate for the subject or grades in which the Bargaining Unit Member is rendering service to the School District, or in another educational discipline pre-approved by the Superintendent, have earned a Master's degree from an accredited college or university, or have been awarded the Master's Equivalency Certificate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
134. The M. $+15, \mathrm{M} .+30, \mathrm{M} .+45$, and M. +60 Tracks are provided for Bargaining Unit Members who, in addition to holding a valid Pennsylvania teaching certificate for the subject or grades in which the Bargaining Unit Member is rendering service to the School District, or in another educational discipline pre-approved by the Superintendent, have been awarded a Master's degree from an accredited college or university, or have been awarded a Master's Equivalency Certificate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education prior to September 1, 1978, and have accumulated fifteen (15), thirty (30), forty-five (45) or sixty (60) credits.
135. The Doctoral Track is provided for Bargaining Unit Members who have been awarded a

Doctorate degree in the subject or discipline in which the Bargaining Unit Member is 13.6
rendering service to the School, or in another educational discipline preapproved by the Superintendent.
13.7. Bargaining Unit Members who request change from one track to another may do so after earning valid college credits that satisfy requirements set forth by Article 22 of this agreement, that have been pre-approved by the Superintendent or Designee. For individuals not seeking reimbursement for college credits, these members may submit credits for pre-approval by the Superintendent or designee, in accordance with the provisions in section 13.9, thirty days prior to track change for evaluation. Courses not meeting the requirements of Article 22 will result in denial of track change and will not be considered for future track change.
138. Newly hired Bargaining Unit Members that accept positions on a specific track but have college credits that are in excess of that track must report these credits within the first sixty working days. These credits, after verification that they meet the requirements set forth in Article 22 of this agreement, will be considered pre-approved by the Superintendent for the purpose of track change. Any credits that are not reported within 60 working days of start will not be considered for track movement.
139. Exceptions to the approval process outlined in Article 13.6 and 13.7 may only be made in writing by the Superintendent for extenuating circumstances. The Bargaining Unit member must request a meet and discuss and provide compelling evidence as to why an exception should be made. The Superintendent's decision is binding, will not be considered precedent setting, and is not subject to the grievance procedure set forth in this agreement.
13.10. Track change submissions must be submitted to the HR Office before the first student teacher work day to receive track change in August September. Track change submissions that are submitted between the first student day and the last day of the second marking period will be in effect beginning in the seeond-semester after the first teacher work day will be eligible for track change the following September of the next school year. Track change requests submitted the first day of the second semester through the final day before the next student year will take effect the first day of the next student year. All track change submissions must be completed in full and good order including transcripts within thirty days of each request. If these deadlines are not met in the thirty
day window, association members must wait until the next available track change window to submit for a track change. Track changes shall be pursuant to Article 13.14.
13.11. Bargaining Unit members shall receive their step movement on the first pay of January in each school year.

Bargaining Unit members will be paid according to the following Salary Matrix beginning with the 2016-2017 2019-2020 school year.


For the 2017-2018 2020-2021 school year, all Bargaining Unit Members who were
employed in compensable status for at least one-half (1/2) the number of days in the 2016-2017 2019-2020 school work year shall move a step on the 2017-2018 2020-2021 salary schedule incorporated herein.

Salary Schedule
2017-2018


For the 2018-2019 2021-2022 school year, all Bargaining Unit members who were employed in compensable status for at least one-half $(1 / 2)$ the number of days in the 20172018 2020-2021 school work year shall move a step on the 2018-2019 2021-2022 salary schedule incorporated herein.


ATTACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR SCHEDULES WITH APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE FOUND IN THE CURRENT CONTRACT RELATED TO RESTRICTIONS TO STEP MOVEMENT.
13.11 If a Bargaining Unit Member receives an Unsatisfactory rating in his/her year-end evaluation by the District, his/her compensation, including any bonus payments, will remain unchanged for the following school year.
13.12 Upon ratification of this Agreement, track changes on the salary schedule shall be administered under the following conditions:
13. 12.1 In order for track changes (column movement) to be paid in the 20162017 school year, at least two (2) Bargaining Unit retirements must be Boardapproved and effective between July 1, 2015 and August 1, 2016. Any retirements in excess of two (2) shall be rolled over and -count towards thetotal retirements in the 20172018 and 2018-2019-school year. Track changes (column movement) shall be restricted in each year of the agreement to a maximum amount of $\$ 50,000$. Track changes (column movement) shall be on a first come first served process as outlined in Article 13.9. Employees who were eligible for Track changes (column movement) and were not able to move based on this monetary limit shall maintain their position until September of the next school year. Movement shall only be obtained if the monetary level has not been reached.
13. 12.2 In order for track changes (column movement) to be paid in the 20172018 school year, at least four (4) Bargaining Unit retirements must have beenBoard approved and effective between July 1, 2015 and August 1, 2017. Any retirements in excess of two (2) shall be rolled over and count towards thetat retirements in the 2018-2019 school year. Individual Bargaining Unit members shall be eligible for one-column Track changes (columnar movement) every eighteen (18) months from their previous Track change (columnar movement).
13.12.3 In order for track changes to be paid in the $2018-2019$ school year, at leastfive (5) Bargaining Unit retirements must be Board Approved and effectivebetween July $1_{\text {st }}$ 2015, and August $1_{\text {st }}$ Z018.
13.13 Any Bargaining Unit Member taking an unpaid leave of absence shall be entitled to his/her annual increment, if applicable, provided the Bargaining Unit Member has been in compensable status for at least one-half (1/2) of the
number of days in the school work year, as defined in Article 12.2 (Work Year).

## Fact Finder Recommendation: Salary Issue

The Fact Finder recommends the position of the Association and the Salary Schedules of the Association presented at the Hearing, and Attached to this Report.

## Article 19

## Health Insurance

## Association Position

## The Association's Position is attached hereto and as Exhibit C

## District Position

The District's Position is attached hereto as Exhibit D

# Association Issues <br> Phoenixville Area Education Association <br> Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019 

## PROPOSED LANGUAGE <br> ARTICLE 19- HOSPITALIZATION AND MAJOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, PRESCRIPTION AND VISION BENEFITS: BASE PLANS:

The District shall provide hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision insurance benefits to full-time Bargaining Unit Members and their eligible dependents as set forth in this Article.

The base medical plan shall be the Qualified High Deductible Health Plan (QHDHP) HD-1 HC-1 with Integrated Drug plan for hospitalization, major medical insurance and prescription coverage. The QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 shall have an annual deductible consisting of $\$ 1,500$ for individual coverage and $\$ 3,000$ for family coverage in network; and $\$ 5,000$ for individual coverage, and $\$ 10,000$ for family coverage out of network. Said annual deductibles shall be adjusted as needed to ensure they satisfy the minimum requirements under federal law to continue to qualify as a QHDHP $\mathrm{HD}-1 \mathrm{HC}-1$ at the individual and family coverage levels. Each participating Bargaining Unit Member shall contribute seveni* percent ( $76 \%$ ) in 2019$\underline{2020}$ and 2020-2021, 6-2017, eight six percent (86\%) in 2022-2023 and 2023-202417-2018 and seven percent $(7 \%)$ in 2018-2019 and nine percent (9\%) in 2023-2024 of the total cost for all health insurance premiums through payroll deduction for each year of the contract. Health insurance premiums shall include medical with integrated drug, dental and vision. The District shall pay the remainder of the costs for such plans for Bargaining Unit Members and eligible dependents for the Base Plans. The Base Plans shall include QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 with integrated drug, a Group Dental Plan and Vision Benefits, as set forth below.

To offset the cost of the annual deductibles of the QHDHP HD-1 HC-1, the District agrees to open and assist in funding a Health Savings Account ("HSA") for each newly hired eligible employee or family group electing coverage under the QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 and contribute within 30 days of the new hire's start date a one-time contribution amount equal to half the deductible of the member's elected plan.

# Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019 

The contributions that the District will make to this HSA will be $\$ 150$ for single and $\$ 300$ for 2 or more for the first three (3) years of the contract. are as follows: For the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, the District shall contribute to Bargaining Unit Members already at the top step of the salary schedule the amount of $\$ 250$ for single and $\$ 500$ for 2 or more.

## Individual_Family

| $2016-2017$ | $\$ 1,225$ | $\$ 2,450$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $2017-2018$ | $\$ 750$ | $\$ 1,500$ |
| $2018-2019$ | $\$ 150$ | $\$ 300$ |

Contributions to the HSA will be made prier to July1 of each year. These contributions will be prorated based on number of months served, and will equally be prorated when life events are reported that change employees' coverage between individual and family in the member's first year of employment.

## RATIONALE

In the last negotiations, PAEA agreed to move to a Qualified High Deductible Insurance Plan and that this plan would be the only option for all Bargaining Unit Members. As part of the agreement, premium costs were reduced and is currently at $7 \%$ and contributions were made by the District to each member's HSA accounts. When comparing health insurance costs with similarly situated School Districts, the Pennsbury School District has the most comparable plan and only pays $8 \%$ premium share contribution. Additionally, Methacton School District has an $\$ 1,100$ single and $\$ 2,200$ family deductible, with a premium share contribution of $7 \%$ (See Exhibit B-1).

Health insurance plans with no deductible amount range between $12 \%-17 \%$ for premium share costs. If the deductible was removed from the current plan and instead the cost of the deductible was applied to the premium share contribution, it would range from $26 \%$ for the single tier to $22 \%$ for family premium share contribution. If the District makes no contributions to member HSA accounts in future contracts, PAEA members will pay significantly more for health insurance by the end of the contract compared to similar School Districts (See Exhibit B-2, Projected Costs).

# Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding 

September 11, 2019

| Healthcare Comps in Financially Similar Districts |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| School District | Plan Design | Deductible <br> Single/Family | Premium Share <br> $2019-2020$ |
| Centennial | POS 10-15 <br> HMO 10-15 | NO <br> NO | $17 \%$ <br> $17 \%$ |
| Garnett Valley | C3-F4-02 <br> $20 / 30 / 70$ | NO <br> NO | $12 \%$ <br> Lower Moreland <br> Township |
| $10 / 20 / 70$ | $\$ 600 / \$ 1200$ | $12 \%$ |  |
| Methacton | Open Choice 1 <br> Open Choice 2 <br> Open Choice 3 | NO <br> NO <br> $\$ 1,100 / \$ 2,200$ | $15 \%$ |
| Pennridge | PC 20 | $\$ 450 / \$ 900$ | $11 \%$ |
| Pennsbury | $20 / 30 / 70$ | $\$ 1,500 / \$ 3,000$ | $8 \%$ |
| Spring-Ford | PC 310 | $\$ 300 / \$ 600$ | $8 \%$ |
| Upper Dublin | Open Choice 1 <br> Open Choice 2 | NO <br> NO | $16.5 \%$ <br> Upper Moreland <br> Keystone POS 15 <br> C4F3O2 |

B-1

# Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding 

September 11, 2019
PROJECTED COSTS
Combined medical, dental, and vision benefits

| Phoenixville Area School District |  | umes a 5\% <br> al premium ncrease) |  | Association <br> Proposed <br> Premium <br> Share | Association Increase |  | District Proposed Premium Share |  | District <br> Increase |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single | \$ | 7,789.56 | \$ | 545.27 | \$ | 44.44 | \$ | 545.27 |  | 44.44 |
| EE/Spouse | \$ | 18,828.72 | \$ | 1,318.01 | \$ | 106.60 | \$ | 1,318.01 |  | 106.60 |
| EE/Child | \$ | 15,197.88 | \$ | 1,063.85 | \$ | 83.49 | \$ | 1,063.85 |  | 83.49 |
| EE/Children | \$ | 17,029.32 | \$ | 1,192.05 | \$ | 95.15 | \$ | 1,192.05 |  | 95.15 |
| Family | \$ | 20,627.64 | \$ | 1,443.93 | \$ | 118.73 | \$ | 1,443.93 |  | 118.73 |
| Annual per EE rate |  |  |  | 7\% | Increase |  | 8\% |  | Increase |  |
| Single | \$ | 8,179.04 | \$ | 572.53 | \$ | 27.26 | \$ | 654.32 |  | 109.05 |
| EE/Spouse | \$ | 19,770.16 | \$ | 1,383.91 | \$ | 65.90 | \$ | 1,581.61 |  | 263.60 |
| EE/Child | \$ | 15,957.77 | \$ | 1,117.04 | \$ | 53.19 | \$ | 1,276.62 |  | 212.77 |
| EE/Children | \$ | 17,880.79 | \$ | 1,251.66 | \$ | 59.60 | \$ | 1,430.46 |  | 238.41 |
| Family | \$ | 21,659.02 | \$ | 1,516.13 | \$ | 72.20 | \$ | 1,732.72 |  | 288.79 |
| Annual per EE <br> 21-2022 rate |  |  |  | 7\% | Increase |  | 9\% |  | Increase |  |
| Single | \$ | 8,587.99 | \$ | 601.16 | \$ | 28.63 | \$ | 772.92 |  | 118.60 |
| EE/Spouse | \$ | 20,758.66 | \$ | 1,453.11 | \$ | 69.20 | \$ | 1,868.28 |  | 286.67 |
| EE/Child | \$ | 16,755.66 | \$ | 1,172.90 | \$ | 55.85 | \$ | 1,508.01 |  | 231.39 |
| EE/Children | \$ | 18,774.83 | \$ | 1,314.24 | \$ | 62.58 | \$ | 1,689.73 |  | 259.27 |
| Family | \$ | 22,741.97 | \$ | 1,591.94 | \$ | 75.81 | \$ | 2,046.78 |  | 314.06 |
| Annual per EE rate |  |  |  | 8\% | Increase |  | 10\% |  | Increase |  |
| Single | \$ | 9,017.39 | \$ | 721.39 | \$ | 120.23 | \$ | 901.74 |  | 128.82 |
| EE/Spouse | \$ | 21,796.60 | \$ | 1,743.73 | \$ | 290.62 | \$ | 2,179.66 |  | 311.38 |
| EE/Child | \$ | 17,593.45 | \$ | 1,407.48 | \$ | 234.58 | \$ | 1,759.34 |  | 251.33 |
| EE/Children | \$ | 19,713.57 | \$ | 1,577.09 | \$ | 262.85 | \$ | 1,971.36 |  | 281.62 |
| Family | \$ | 23,879.07 | \$ | 1,910.33 | \$ | 318.39 | \$ | 2,387.91 |  | 341.13 |
| 2023-2024Annual per EE <br> rate |  |  | 8\% |  | Increase |  | 11\% |  | Increase |  |
| Single | \$ | 9,468.26 | \$ | 757.46 | \$ 36.07 |  | \$ | 1,041.51 | \$ 139.77 |  |
| EE/Spouse | \$ | 22,886.43 | \$ | 1,830.91 | \$ | 87.19 | \$ | 2,517.51 |  | 337.85 |
| EE/Child | \$ | 18,473.12 | \$ | 1,477.85 | \$ | 70.37 | \$ | 2,032.04 |  | 272.70 |
| EE/Children | \$ | 20,699.24 | \$ | 1,655.94 | \$ | 78.85 | \$ | 2,276.92 |  | 305.56 |
| Family | \$ | 25,073.03 | \$ | 2,005.84 | \$ | 95.52 | \$ | 2,758.03 |  | 370.13 |

## Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019

of the spouse's alternative health insurance coverage. In such a case, the Bargaining Unit Member shall receive a prorated cash payment reflecting that portion of the plan year during which the Bargaining Unit Member's spouse was not covered by District medical benefits. This cash payment is not considered as part of the Bargaining Unit Member's base salary and will not be reported to the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) for the purpose of retirement.

A Bargaining Unit Member may re-enroll his or her spouse before the next annual election, provided there has been a qualifying event (examples, reduction in hours, retirement, voluntary resignation, strike, walkout, layoff, divorce, legal separation, death of covered employee, other employment termination not related to gross misconduct, or other event in conjunction with COBRA law or other loss of coverage) and that the carrier allows such reenrollment, and further providing the Bargaining Unit Member returns the cash payment to the District on a prorated basis.

## CURRENT POSITIONS

| ASSOCIATION SUMMARY |  | DISTRICT SUMMARY |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Opt-out | Family | Spousal | Total opt-out amounts are found in the |
| $2019-2020:$ | $\$ 5,000$ | $\$ 2,500$ | District's proposed total compensation |
| $2020-2021:$ | $\$ 5,000$ | $\$ 2,500$ | model from June of 2019, but the |
| 2021-2022: | $\$ 5,000$ | $\$ 2,500$ | Association only received a PDF copy of |
| 2022-2023: | $\$ 5,000$ | $\$ 2,500$ | the proposal and is unable to cost out. |
| 2023-2024: $\$ 5,000$ | $\$ 2,500$ | There still seems to be agreement of the |  |
| (First time opt-out in first two years of contract will |  |  |  |
| be $\$ 10,000$ ) | \$10,000 first-time opt-out amount in the <br> first 2 years of the contract. |  |  |

## PROPOSED LANGUAGE

### 19.7 Cost Containment:

For the purpose of assisting the District in containing the costs of providing hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision benefits to its employees and limiting the future increases in these costs, all Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue medical benefits (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) at the start of any

## Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding <br> September 11, 2019

school year or upon eligibility for benefits, shall receive a cash payment, as set forth below. This payment sunsets for spouses of District employees when both are employed by the District on June 30, 2017. The employee must opt out of the QHDHP HD- 1 HC-1 Plan, and not be a spouse or dependent of any employee of the District that currently receives health insurance through the District.

Participating Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue all medical benefits within the first two years of the CBA (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) shall receive a one-time cash payment in the amount of Ten Four Thousand Dollars $(\$ 4 \underline{10}, 000.00)$. This cash payment shall be paid to Bargaining Unit Members in a lump sum, on the first pay in DecemberDecember, with no pro-ration of the amount. This election shallbe made annually. For those Bargaining Unit Members already disenrolled prior to July 1,2019, and in the subsequent years for those Bargaining Unit Members who received the $\$ 10,000$, those members will receive an annual cash payment, on the first pay in December, of \$5,000 annually. This cash payment is not considered as part of the Bargaining Unit Member's base salary and will not be reported to the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) for the purpose of retirement.

A Bargaining Unit Member may re-enroll within one (1) calendar year provided there has been a qualifying event (examples, reduction in hours, retirement, voluntary resignation, strike, walkout, layoff, divorce, legal separation, death of covered employee, other employment termination not related to gross misconduct, or other event in conjunction with COBRA law) and the carrier will allow such reenrollment, and further providing the employee returns the cash payment to the District on a prorated basis.

The annual deadline for Bargaining Unit Members to renew cost containment claims under Section 19.7 shall be June 1. The District shall provide written notification to Bargaining Unit Members of the renewal period. Bargaining Unit Members who do not submit their cost containment claim forms by June 1 of each year will not be eligible to receive the cash payment for the following school year.

# Association Issues Phoenixville Area Education Association Fact-finding 

September 11, 2019
If a minimum of twenty-five (25) Bargaining Unit Members do not elect to discontinue benefits as outlined in this section, then there will be a delayed step on the salary schedule as follows:

- 10-25 members discontinue benefits: Delayed step until the 13 . pay in 2021$\underline{2022}$
 pay in 2022-2023.


## Bargaining Unit Members who discontinue benefits will not be able to re-enroll in the plan for two years unless a qualifying event occurs.

### 19.8 Spousal Cost Containment

For the purpose of assisting the District in containing the costs of providing hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision benefits to individuals who are not employed by the District, and limiting the future increases in these costs, all eligible married Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue all spousal medical benefits (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) at the start of any school year or upon eligibility for benefits, shall receive a cash payment in the amount of Two Thousand Five-Hundred Dollars $(\$ 2,5000.00)$. In the situation wherein an employee and spouse are both employed by the District, those employees will be ineligible for payment under this clause. This cash payment shall be paid to the Bargaining Unit Member in a lump sum, on the first pay in December. This election shall be made annually. In the event of a permitted election change (or change in status) as provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 125 or applicable regulations, including but not limited to the employee's spouse obtaining alternative health insurance coverage, a Bargaining Unit Member may discontinue all spousal medical benefits upon presentation of satisfactory documentation of the spouse's alternative health insurance coverage. In such a case, the Bargaining Unit Member shall receive a prorated cash payment reflecting that portion of the plan year during which the Bargaining Unit Member's spouse was not covered by District medical benefits. This cash payment is not considered as part of the Bargaining Unit Member's base salary and will not be reported to the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) for the purpose of retirement.

A Bargaining Unit Member may re-enroll his or her spouse before the next annual election,

# Association Issues <br> Phoenixville Area Education Association <br> Fact-finding 

September 11, 2019
provided there has been a qualifying event (examples, reduction in hours, retirement, voluntary resignation, strike, walkout, layoff, divorce, legal separation, death of covered employee, other employment termination not related to gross misconduct, or other event in conjunction with COBRA law or other loss of coverage) and that the carrier allows such reenrollment, and further providing the Bargaining Unit Member returns the cash payment to the District on a prorated basis.

## DISTRICT

## ARTICLE 19

### 19.1. Hospitalization and Major Medical, Dental, Prescription and Vision Benefits: Base Plans:

The District shall provide hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision insurance benefits to full-time Bargaining Unit Members and their eligible dependents as set forth in this Article.

The base medical plan shall be the Qualified High Deductible Health Plan (QHDHP) HD-1 HC-1 with Integrated Drug plan for hospitalization, major medical insurance and prescription coverage. The QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 shall have an annual deductible consisting of $\$ 1,500$ for individual coverage and $\$ 3,000$ for family coverage in network; and $\$ 5,000$ for individual coverage, and $\$ 10,000$ for family coverage out of network. Said annual deductibles shall be adjusted as needed to ensure they satisfy the minimum requirements under federal law to continue to qualify as a QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 at the individual and family coverage levels. Each participating Bargaining Unit Member shall contribute six percent $(6 \%)$ in 2016-2017, six percent $(6 \%)$ in $2017-2018$ and seven percent $(7 \%)$ in 2018 z019 seven percent (7\%) in 2019-2020, eleven percent (11\%) in 2020-2021, twelve percent ( $12 \%$ ) in 2021-2022, twelve percent ( $12 \%$ ) in 2022-2023 and thirteen percent $(13 \%)$ in 2023-2024 of the total cost for all health insurance premiums through payroll deduction. Health insurance premiums shall include medical with integrated drug, dental and vision. The District shall pay the remainder of the costs for such plans for Bargaining Unit Members and eligible dependents for the Base Plans. The Base Plans shall include QHDHP HD-1 HC-1 with integrated drug, a Group Dental Plan and Vision Benefits, as set forth below.

To offset the cost of the annual deductibles of the QHDHP HD-1 HC-1, the District agrees to open and assist in funding a Health Savings Account ("HSA") for each eligible employee or family group electing coverage under the QHDHP HD-1 HC-1. The contributions that the District will make to this HAS are as follows:

|  | Individual | Family |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2016-2017$ | $\$ 1,225$ | $\$ 2,450$ |


| $2017-2018$ | $\$ 750$ | $\$ 1,500$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 20182019 | $\$ 150$ | $\$ 300$ |

Contributions to the HSA will be made prior to July 1 of each year. These contributions will be prorated based on number of months -served, and will equally be prorated when life events arereported that change employees' coverage between individual and family.

In the event of an active Employee's death, his/her eligible dependents, as set forth herein, shall continue to be covered by the present coverage for the remainder of the month of the Employee's death.

If the District increases the annual deductible amounts for the QHDHP HD 1 HE 1 as specified above, the District shall increase the amount of its employer HSA contribution by an amount equal to the increase in the annual deductible for the elected level of coverage. Individuals can voluntarily contribute up to a maximum tax deferred amount allowable under the law into their individual HSA account.

If the District is required to pay the "Excise Tax" under the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act for medical benefits provided to employees under this section, the District and Association shall immediately commence negotiations to make medical benefit plan changes to eliminate the District's exposure to said tax. If those negotiations do not result in any agreement within 60 days, the District shall supply the Association with a list of all comparable Independent Blue Cross deductible medical benefit plans that do not trigger the Cadillac Tax, including equivalent plans if available, for the Association to select from in order to replace the existing medical benefit plan that triggers the Excise Tax. The Association shall then decide within 30 days the new medical benefit plan from the District's list of options. If the Association fails to select a new medical plan within the 30 day period, the District shall select the plan from that District's same list of options.

## Cost Containment:

For the purpose of assisting the District in containing the costs of providing hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision benefits to its employees and limiting the future increases in these costs, all Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue medical benefits (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) at the start of any school year or upon eligibility for benefits, shall receive a cash payment, as set forth below. This payment sunsets for spouses of District employees when both are employed by the District on June 30, 2017 2019. The employee must opt out of the QHDHP HD- 1 HC-1 Plan, and not be a spouse or dependent of any employee of the District that currently receives health insurance through the District.

Participating Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue all medical benefits (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) shall receive a cash payment in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars $(\$ 4,000.00)$. This cash payment shall be paid to Bargaining Unit Members in a lump sum, the first pay in December. on the last pay of the plan year. This election shall be made annually. This cash payment is not considered as part of the Bargaining Unit Member's base salary and will not be reported to the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) for the purpose of retirement.

A Bargaining Unit Member may re-enroll within one (1) calendar year provided there has been a qualifying event (examples, reduction in hours, retirement, voluntary resignation, strike, walkout, layoff, divorce, legal separation, death of covered employee, other employment termination not related to gross misconduct, or other event in conjunction with COBRA law) and the carrier will allow such reenrollment, and further providing the employee returns the cash payment to the District on a prorated basis.

The annual deadline for Bargaining Unit Members to renew cost containment claims under Section 19.7 shall be June 1. The District shall provide written notification to Bargaining

Unit Members of the renewal period. Bargaining Unit Members who do not submit their cost containment claim forms by June 1 of each year will not be eligible to receive the cash payment for the following school year.

### 19.6 Spousal Cost Containment

For the purpose of assisting the District in containing the costs of providing hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision benefits to individuals who are not employed by the District, and limiting the future increases in these costs, all eligible married Bargaining Unit Members who voluntarily discontinue all spousal medical benefits (hospitalization and major medical, dental, prescription and vision) at the start of any school year or upon eligibility for benefits, shall receive a cash payment in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars $(\$ 2,000.00)$. In the situation wherein an employee and spouse are both employed by the District, those employees will be ineligible for payment under this clause. This cash payment shall be paid to the Bargaining Unit Member in a lump sum, the first pay in December. An are annually. In the event of a permitted election change (or change in status) as provided in Internal Revenue Code Section 125 or applicable regulations, including but not limited to the employee's spouse obtaining alternative health insurance coverage, a Bargaining Unit Member may discontinue all spousal medical benefits upon presentation of satisfactory documentation of the spouse's alternative health insurance coverage. In such a case, the Bargaining Unit Member shall receive a prorated cash payment reflecting that portion of the plan year during which the Bargaining Unit Member's spouse was not covered by District medical benefits. This cash payment is not considered as part of the Bargaining Unit Member's base salary and will not be reported to the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) for the purpose of retirement.

A Bargaining Unit Member may re-enroll his or her spouse before the next annual election, provided there has been a qualifying event (examples, reduction in hours, retirement, voluntary resignation, strike, walkout, layoff, divorce, legal separation, death of covered employee, other employment termination not related to gross misconduct, or other event in conjunction with COBRA law or other loss of coverage) and that the carrier allows such reenrollment, and further providing the Bargaining Unit Member returns the cash payment to the District on a prorated basis.

## Fact Finder Recommendation: Health Care Issue

The Fact Finder recommends the position of the Association and the Contract language presented at the Hearing of the Association presented at the Hearing, and Attached to this Report.

## Tentative Agreements

At the hearings the Fact Finder was advised of many Tentative Agreements between the parties. It is recommended the tentative Agreements be incorporated into this report and included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## Conclusion

The Parties are directed to review this Report and within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the of this Report to inform the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board and each other if they accept or reject this Report.

Confidentiality of the Report should be maintained during the consideration period and until the Report is officially released by the PLRB, in the event of a rejection.

In the event of a rejection by any Party, the Parties shall continue negotiations.
the Fact Finder submits the Report as set forth.
EA. Martin Herring
A. Martin Herring, Esquire

Issued: September 29,2019

