ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA BENEGOT BENEGOT DECIRETAN

AND

THE TOTOWA EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION

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ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

The BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA, Passaic County, New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the "BOARD" and the TOTOWA EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as the "ASSOCIATION" agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

RECOGNITION

The Totowa Board of Education recognizes the Totowa Educational Secretaries Association as the exclusive and sole representative for collective negotiations concerning secretarial staff. Excluded shall be the secretary to the superintendent, a confidential employee, and temporary per hour/diem employees.

ARTICLE II

SUCCESSOR CLAUSE

The Board and the Association agree to begin collective negotiations in accordance with Public Law 303 of 1968 and Public Law 123 of 1974 and the rules and regulations as established by PERC.

ARTICLE III

SALARIES

A. It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that the salary schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof as Schedule A, is adopted by the parties.

It is further understood and agreed between the parties that all of the increments referred to in Schedule A are earned

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 by the successful completion of the preceding year and shall be granted by the favorable recommendation of the super-intendent of schools.

It is further understood and agreed that an increment may be withheld if service is unsatisfactory.

- B. It is further agreed by and between the parties hereto that the Assistant Board Secretary shall receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per meeting for attending a meeting of the Board of Education to take the minutes.
- C. It is further agreed by and between the parties hereto that the employee responsible for obtaining substitutes will work 35 hours per week whether this work is done at the office or at home.
- D. <u>Promotions</u> If an employee moves from one category to another, said employee will be placed on the salary guide according to her years of service.

ARTICLE IV

INSURANCE PROTECTION

- A. It is further understood and agreed between the parties hereto that each member of the Association who shall enroll in the New Jersey Public and School Employees Health Benefits (Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Ridge J and Major Medical Coverage), for single person coverage, family coverage or husband and wife coverage as determined by the employee, in their sole discretion shall have the premium paid by the Board.
- B. The Association shall have the opportunity to be included in the designated Dental Plan as provided by the Board of Education.

ARTICLE V

SICK - PERSONAL LEAVE

A full time employee may be absent from school due to personal illness or personal business in accordance with the following provisions:

A. SICK LEAVE

1. Twelve Month Employees

- a. A twelve (12) month employee shall be granted twelve (12) days accumulative sick leave and four (4) days for emergencies of a personal nature.
- b. Any days not used for emergencies of a personal nature will be accumulated as sick leave.
- c. At no time shall an employee accumulate more than fifteen (15) days sick leave per year.

2. Ten Month Employees

- a. A ten (10) month employee shall be granted ten (10) days cumulative sick leave and four (4) days for emergencies of a personal nature.
- b. Any days not used for emergencies of a personal nature will be accumulated as sick leave.
- 3. The accumulation of sick leave allowance shall be limited to consecutive and uninterrupted service. A full time staff member is rendering consecutive service as long as they, or the Board of Education does not officially terminate the contract. A leave of absence, as granted by the Board of Education does not constitute an interruption of service.
- 4. A record kept in the office of the superintendent shall determine the number of accumulated days. Each employee shall be given a written statement of the number of accumulated sick leave days to which they are entitled, which statement shall be submitted no later than September 15th of each school year.

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- 5. Employees who are absent because of personal illness for a period of more than five (5) consecutive days, shall, at this time, file with the superintendent a certificate from their physician attesting to the illness and necessity for the absence.
- 6. In case of absence of ten (10) consecutive school days or more, a written certificate of fitness from the attending physician will be required upon return to service.
- 7. Full salary shall be paid for absence due to illness until such accumulated leave is used up, after which, the full time employees may receive the difference between the agreement period and the substitute's pay, for the duration of the contract period. The staff member's per diem pay shall be calculated as follows:

For all employees on ten months contract, one two-hundredths of the annual salary. For all employees on a twelve months contract, one two-hundred-sixtieth of the annual salary.

8. Whenever the Board of Education employs a secretary who has been employed for not less than three (3) consecutive years in this or another school district in New Jersey and which employee has an unused accumulation of sick leave days from the immediate prior employment, the Board shall grant at the end of the first year of employment the full credit therefor. Prior to the granting of the said sick days, the employee shall submit to the Board a certificate from the prior employer stating such employee's unused accumulation of sick leave days as of the date of the termination of such prior employment. The number of such days when granted by the Board shall be irrevocable.

B. PERSONAL LEAVE

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 It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that the reasons set forth hereinafter shall be sufficient for personal leave of absence with full pay unless otherwise noted.

It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that any employee seeking a personal leave shall complete the form of request for said leave, which request form shall be forwarded to the superintendent. This request form shall be completed and filed prior to taking the "personal leave of absence" in all cases, unless for good cause same has been waived by the superintendent of schools. It is further understood and agreed between the parties that the granting of the personal leave of absence be received from the superintendent of schools before the leave is taken regardless whether the written request form is submitted or waived in accordance with the terms set forth above. If the written request form is waived for good cause shown to the superintendent of schools, same is waived upon the condition that the employee shall file a written request upon his return following the termination of the personal leave.

The superintendent may request that a personal leave be taken at another time, if possible. This would only occur if, in his judgment, the absence of a sufficient number of secretaries would cause undue hardship on the efficient operation of the schools.

- 3. It is agreed by and between the parties hereto that the following shall be the basis for a personal leave of absence hereunder:
 - a. An allowance of up to four (4) days shall be granted to an employee because of death in their immediate family. Immediate family shall be considered as father, mother, spouse, sister, brother, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and grandparents.

- ь. An allowance of up to four (4) days shall be granted for other emergencies of a personal nature, as stated in this section.
- Up to 10 accumulated personal leave days shall be available per school year for use by a staff member for very ill members of the immediate household or parents.

ARTICLE VI

ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

- A. The Board agrees, upon written request of the Association, to release to it pertinent, non-privileged information as will assist the Association to develop accurate and informed proposals concerning salary, working conditions and all other terms and conditions of employment for all representatives of the Association. It is to be noted and expected that the Board will have a reasonable time to respond to such requests, and that the Board may, at its option, fulfill such requests either by written response to the Association or by making pertinent records available to the Association in the Board offices. Should the latter option be exercised, the Association may not remove any Board records from the office but copies prepared by the requesting Association may be made.
- B. Whenever any member of the Association is required by contract language or mutual agreement to participate during

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working hours in negotiations, grievance proceedings, conferences or meetings, they shall suffer no loss in pay.

- C. The Association shall have the right to use school buildings for meetings as outlined in the Board's general policy provisions. Application forms, along with possible expenses, may be received from the central office administration. It is understood that requests for use of school facilities by the Association shall, in no way, intend to interfere with normal school functions.
- D. The Association shall have, in each school, use of a bulletin board in each faculty lounge and further that the Association agrees that such notices posted on the bulletin board shall be in professional taste.

ARTICLE VII

SECRETARIAL EMPLOYMENT

- A. All non-tenure employees shall receive contract offers no later than April 30 for the succeeding school year. They shall sign and return the contract by June 1st. Failure to return said contract by June 1st shall constitute a waiver of said employee rights to re-employment unless a longer period is actually mutually agreed upon and shall relieve the Board of any obligations to offer re-employment to said employee.
- B. All tenure employees shall receive notification of their next year's salary no later than April 30th.

ARTICLE VIII

WORK HOURS

- A. Employees are expected to devote to their assignments the time necessary to meet their responsibilities, but they shall not be required to sign in and out by hours and minutes. Members of the Association shall indicate their presence for work by initialling in the appropriate column of the faculty roster sheet.
- B. Members of the Association shall work a thirty-five hour week, and each secretarial post may be handled on an individual basis to assure a comprehensive coverage and arrangement.
- C. Members of the Association may leave the building without requesting permission during their duty-free lunch period.
- D. On workshop and conference days, the work day for assistant secretaries shall end as soon as they have completed their assigned tasks which shall be consistent with the dismissal of all students with the following exceptions:
 - 1. If their participation in the workshop is required.
 - 2. If they have tasks of an emergency nature.
- E. Overtime is defined as anytime spent at regular duties or other assigned duties consistent with this agreement either before or after daily work hours; or any day other than provided in the regular work year.
 - All overtime must be voluntary and mutually agreed to by the employee and immediate supervisor.
 - 2. All overtime must be remunerated at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the employees hourly salary.

ARTICLE IX

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SECRETARIAL ASSIGNMENT

- A. Wherever practicable, all members of the Association shall be given tentative written notice as of June 1st of their building assignment for the forthcoming year. Final notice shall not be given later than June 30th.
 - (1) Any change in assignment made after June 30th shall only occur if the employee involved is given reasons for said change by the superintendent in a meeting between both parties within two (2) days after said change is made.
- B. Schedules of employees who are assigned to more than one building shall be arranged so that no such Association member shall be required to engage in an unreasonable amount of interbuilding travel. Such employees shall be notified of any changes in their schedule as soon as practicable.
- C. Members of the Association who may be required to use their own automobile in the performance of their duties, and employees assigned to more than one (1) building per day, shall be compensated at the rate of the Federal Government's allowance per mile for the use of their vehicle for all driving done to respective buildings.
- D. Whenever any employee is required to perform the duties of a higher paid position for a period in excess of five (5) consecutive days said employee after five (5) days in the higher paid position, shall be entitled to receive compensation based upon the step and salary guide as specified in this agreement of the position to which assigned.

ARTICLE X

PROMOTIONS

- A. Promotional positions are defined as all positions.
- B. Vacancies shall be adequately publicized by the superintendent of school in accordance with the following procedure.
 - Notice shall be posted in each school building setting forth a general statement of duties and a summary of qualifications being sought for the postion.
 - 2. Such notice shall be posted a least twenty (20) days prior to the last day on which applications will be accepted.
 - 3. Employees who desire to apply for such vacancies shall submite their application in writing to the superintendent within the time limit specified in the notice.
 - 4. Were the vacancies to occur during the summer months, the superintendent would notify the Association representative, (Association President) in writing, and follow the procedures outlined in steps one, two and three.
 - 5. Announcements of all appointments shall be made as soon as possible to the Association by posting same.
- C. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to limit the right of the Board of Education to change, modify, or add to the qualifications and duties associated with any position or to appoint or assign individuals to promotional position on either temporary or permanent basis.

ARTICLE XII

SECRETARIAL ANNUAL EVALUATION

A. Each school year the performance of each employee in

the system shall be evaluated by the superintendent and/or principals and/or Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

- B. The superintendent shall present to the Board of Education an evaluation of each non-tenure secretary. Written summary of the evaluation shall be placed in the employee's personal file and a copy given to the employee. Appropriate evaluation for tenure secretaries shall be carried out at the discretion of the administration.
- C. Employees who have not attained tenure shall receive their evaluation in conference with the superintendent. The conference shall take place no later than March 31 and in sufficient time to meet the provisions of Article XI.

ARTICLE XI

EXTENDED LEAVES OF ABSENCES

- A. Leave for military service shall be governed by law.
- B. Maternity leave shall be governed by the following criteria and agreement:
 - 1. The Board shall not maintain or enforce any policy or practice for removal of any tenured or non-tenured employee from her duties that is based solely on the fact of pregnancy or a specific number of months of pregnancy but shall consider and treat such employee on an individual basis.
 - 2. The Board may remove any pregnant employee from her duties on any one of the following basis:
 - a. Performance Her performance has substantially declined from the time immediately prior to her pregnancy.
 - b. Physical Incapacity Her physical condition or capacity is such that her health would be

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impaired if she was to continue working, and which physical incapacity shall be deemed to exist only if:

- the pregnant employee fails to produce a certification from her physician that she is medically able to continue working, or
- the Board of Education's physician and the employee's physician agree that she cannot continue working, or
- 3. following any difference of medical opinion between the Board's physician and the employee's physician the Board requests expert consultation in which case the Passaic County Medical Society, 39 East 39th Street, Paterson, New Jersey, 07514, 201-279-1900, shall appoint an impartial third physician who shall examine the employee and whose medical opinion shall be conclusive and binding on the issue of medical capacity to continue working. The expense of any examination by an impartial third physician under this paragraph shall be shared equally by the employee and the Board.
- c. Just Cause Any other "just cause" as defined in N.J.S.A. Title 18A.
- 3. The Board shall grant leaves of absence for medical reasons associated with pregnancy and birth to pregnant employees on the same terms and conditions governing leaves of absence for other illness or medical disabilities, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:30-1, et seq. and the rules, regulations, policy statements and collective negotiations agreements entered into by the Board except as otherwise provided herein.
 - a. Any tenured or non-tenured employee seeking a leave of absence on the basis of medical reasons associated with pregnancy or birth shall apply to the Board for said leave at least 30 working days prior to start of said leave. At the time of application, which

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shall be made upon reasonable notice to the Board, the employee shall specify in writing the date on which she wishes to commence leave and the date on which she wishes to return to work after birth. The Board may require any employee to produce a certificate from a physician in support of the requested leave dates provided that if the Board's physician is in disagreement the conflict of medical opinion shall be resolved as set out in paragraph 2 (2) (3) of this agreement. Where medical opinion is supportive of the leave dates requested such requested leave shall be granted by the Board, except that the Board may change the requested dates upon a finding that the grant of a leave for those dates would substantially interfere with the administration of the school and provided that such date change by the Board is not medically contra-indicated. Following the grant of such leave to any employee, the commencement or termination dates thereof may be further extended or reduced for medical reasons upon application by the employee to the Board. Such extension or reduction shall be granted by the Board for an additional reasonable period of time except that the Board may alter the requested dates upon a finding that such extension or reduction would substantially interfere with the administration of the school and provided that such date change by the Board is not medically contra-indicated. The Board may require any employee to produce a certificate from the physician in support of the extension or reduction of requested leave dates provided that if the Board's physician is in disagreement, the conflict of medical opinion shall be resolved as set out in paragraph 2 (b) (3) of this order.

- b. It is agreed that maternity leave shall be granted for a period of up to the end of the school year in which the leave commenced.
- c. It is further agreed that any employee who has applied for and received maternity leave may by giving 90 days notice reapply for permission to return to employment during any academic school year for which such leave was granted

and such leave may thereupon be terminated by the board. The board reserves the right to determine the requested date of return if the stated date of return interferes with the administration and the orderly sequence of the school's function.

- d. It is further agreed that "extended leaves of absence" for maternity reasons shall be granted by the board without pay. Extended leaves of absence for maternity reasons shall be limited to one (1) school year, consideration for another leave shall not occur during the next four (4) school years thereafter.
 - Requests for extended leave of absence for maternity reasons shall be made in writing to the board of education prior to March 1.
 - Anyone requesting a maternity leave after March 1st must indicate at that time their intent to request the extended maternity leave of absence for the next school year.
- e. Nothing in this section shall deprive an employee from exercising her rights to maternity leave more than once.
- the May employee adopting an infant child may receive similar leave which shall commence upon receiving de facto of the infant, or earlier if necessary to fulfill the requirements for the adoption.
- D. Return to the school system upon the completion of any leave discussed in this section means return to position vacated or an equivalent position.

ARTICLE XII

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The term "grievance" means a complaint by an employee that, as to them, there has been an inequitable, improper or unjust

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application, interpretation, or violation of a policy, agreement, or administrative decision, affecting said employee.

The term "grievance" and the procedure relative thereto shall not be deemed applicable in the following instances:

a. The failure or refusal of the Board to renew a contract of a non-tenure employee.

The term "employee" shall mean any regularly employed individual receiving compensation from the Board but shall not include the superintendent.

The term "representative" shall include any organization, agency or person authorized or designated by any employee or any group of employees, or by a public employees association or by the Board to act on its or their behalf and to represent it or them.

The term "immediate" superior shall mean the person to whom the aggrieved employee is directly responsible under the Table of Organization prevailing in this school district.

The term "party" means an aggrieved employee, their immediate superior, the school principal or any staff member below the superintendent who may be affected by the determination of the superintendent in connection with the procedure.

PROCEDURE

1. An aggrieved employee shall institute action under the provisions hereof within thirty (30) days of the occurence complained of, or within thirty (30) days after they would reasonably be expected to know of its occurrence. Failure to act within said thirty (30) day period, shall be deemed to

constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

- 2. An employee processing a grievance, shall be assured freedom from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal.
- 3. In the presentation of a grievance, the employee shall have the right to present their own appeal or to designate a representative to appear with them at any step in their appeal. A minority organization shall not have the right to present or process a grievance.
- 4. Whenever the employee appears with a representative, the Board shall have the right to designate a representative to participate at any stage of the grievance procedure.
- 5. An employee shall first discuss their grievance orally with their immediate supervisor. A decision shall be rendered within five (5) days of said hearing.
- 6. If the grievance is not resolved to the employee's satisfaction within five (5) days from the determination referred to in Paragraph 5 above, the employee shall submit their grievance to the superintendent of schools in writing, specifying:
 - a. The nature of the grievance.
 - b. The results of the previous discussion.
 - c. The reason for their dissatisfaction with the determination.
- 7. A copy of the writing called for in Paragraph 6 above, shall be furnished to the immediate superior of the aggrieved employee.

- 8. Within ten (10) days from the receipt of the written grievance (unless a different period is mutually agreed upon) the superintendent shall hold a hearing at which all parties in interest shall have the right to be heard.
- 9. Within ten (10) days of said hearing (unless a different period is mutually agreed upon) the superintendent shall, in writing, advise the employee and their representative, if there be one, of the determination and shall foward a copy of said determination to the school principal and to the immediate superior of the aggrieved employee.
- 10. In the event of the failure of the superintendent to act in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 8 and 9, or in the event, a determination by them in accordance with the provisions thereof, is deemed unsatisfactory by either party the dissatisfied party, within ten (10) days of the failure of the superintendent to act or within ten (10) days of the determination by them, may appeal to the Board of Education.
- 11. Where an appeal is taken to the Board, there shall be submitted:
 - a. By the Superintendent the writing set forth in managraphs 6 & 9 b. By the aggrieved a further statement in writing setting forth the aggrieved's dissatisfaction with the superintendent's action. A copy of said statement shall be furnished to the superintendent and to the adverse party.

The aggrieved shall advise the Board, in writing, whether it will process the appeal on behalf of the appellant, and if it chooses not to process the appeal in their own rights.

12. If the appellant, in their appeal to the Board

does not request a hearing, the Board may consider the appeal on the written record submitted to it, or the Board, may, on its own, conduct a hearing; or it may request the submission of additional written material. Where additional written materials are requested by the Board, copies thereof, shall be served upon the adverse parties who shall have the right to reply thereto. Where the appellant requests in writing a hearing before the Board, a hearing shall be held.

- 13. The Board shall make a determination within thirty (30) calendar days from the receipt of the grievence and shall, in writing, notify the employee, their representative if there be one, the immediate superior and the superintendent of its determination. This time period may be extended or reduced by mutual agreement of the parties.
- 14. In the event a grievance should be filed by any employee who is not subject to the jurisdiction of any principal or supervisor, who may be answerable to more than one principal or supervisor, shall discuss their grievance initially with the superintendent and if dissatisfied with the determination, may appeal to the Board in accordance with the provision herein set forth.
- 15. The Board agrees to submit to the Totowa Educational Secretaries Association copies of all decisions, communications or correspondence sent by the Board to any person or engantuation in connection with any grievance filed hereunder by a person who is a number of the unit.
- 16. All employees shall be entitled to resort to the full procedure hereinshove set forth.

ACTICLE XIII

YACATION

All full time employees placed on a 12 month schedule shall have their vacation schedule determined by the superintendent of schools,

 Those employed from one to five years shall be granted two weeks vacation.

- 2. Those employed for five years but less than ten years shall be granted three weeks vacation.
- 3. After ten years, one day additional for each year over ten until reaching fifteen years then four full weeks.
- 4. Those employed for part of a year shall be allowed a day for each month's service up to June 30th, with a maximum of ten.

All full time employees must adjust their vacation periods according to the demands of the office work schedule.

Vacation time may not be carried over from year to year unless some part of it shall not have been taken at the Board's request. In such event the employee may carry the unused portion over the following year or be paid on the basis of the salary in effect when the vacation is earned.

Vacations may be taken during the school year commencing in September and ending in June when school is not in session. Further, any vacation not taken in the above mentioned period must be taken during the months of July and August.

ARTICLE XIV

SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this agreement or any application of this agreement to any employee or group of employees is held to be contrary to law, then such provision or application or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

APTICLE XV

CONTRACT PRINTING

Copies of this agreement shall be printed at the expense of the Board after agreement with the Association on format within thirty (30) days after the agreement is signed. The agreement shall be presented to

ATTEST:

all secretaries now employed, hereinafter employed or considered for employment by the Board.

ARTICLE XVIII

DURATION

This agreement shall take effect as of July 1, 1980 and continue in effect until June 30, 1982.

IN WITHESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed by their respective duly authorised officers.

Secretary	President
ATTEST:	TOTOWA EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
Secretary	President

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE

ROBOTIGH OF TOTOMA