

May 25, 2021

Dear Waits River Valley School Board and Orange East Education Association Directors,

I am writing to request your consideration of a buy-out of 1.4 years of "air time" for me from the State Teacher Retirement System, effective June, 2022. Our only child lives in Spain and we are eager to move there to be closer to her. Having been separated from her for 18 months due to Covid has, of course, intensified our sense of urgency.

Our contract states that I need to have taught in the district for ten years, which I have not. Next year will be my 7th year at WRVS, though I have taught in Vermont since 1986. The State Teacher Retirement Office has estimated that buying the year 2022-2023 for me would require 1.4 years of "air time," at the cost of approximately \$24,500. While this is a considerable sum, I am off the pay scale grid: in the 2022-2023 year, I will earn \$81,995. I imagine the amount of money needed to buy out my 1.4 years of air time could be recovered quickly with a less-experienced or younger librarian.

I have spoken with Carlotta about this, and she indicated she supports it. I really love WRVS and my role in it, but my husband and I are eager to live near our daughter and her partner. The school can also benefit in budgetary savings with this proposal, which I hope makes it worthy of making an exception to the contract. Thank you for considering my request; I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Herrick

Librarian, Waits River Valley School

amymherrick@gmail.com

amy.herrick@oesu.org