BMU/Oxbow Public School Choice Collaborative
Grades 7-8
2015-2016 Academic Year

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

Article I. Introduction
The undersigned superintendents, having been duly authorized by their respective school boards, hereby enter into the following agreement to establish a public school choice program in the 2015-2016 school year for Grades 7 and 8 students in the Upper Connecticut Valley Region in accordance with the terms and conditions contained herein.

Article II. Purpose
It is the purpose of this agreement, to establish a public school choice program for students in grades 7 and 8 in the Upper Connecticut River Valley Region consisting of the Union High School District #30 and Blue Mountain Union.

Article III. Definitions

A. "Choice" for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means the limited selection of Union High School District #30 Blue Mountain Union.

B. "School" for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means Grades 7-8.

C. "Sending district" for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means the district from which a student chooses to transfer to another school under this agreement.

D. "Receiving district" for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means the school district chosen by participating students.

E. "ADM" for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means the Average Daily Membership computation in the state aid to education formula for those students attending a school outside the district under an inter district agreement.

F. "Excess costs," for the purposes of these articles of agreement, means the additional expenditures which are required by law to implement individual plans for students with disabilities that are not reimbursed through state or federal funds.

Article IV. Implementation of Public School Choice Program

A. For the 2015-2016 school year each participating school board shall permit up to three (3) students to attend the other participating school for the 2015-2016 school year.

B. Except with respect to students eligible for special education requiring the expenditure of excess costs, no transfer of funds shall be involved with the implementation of the public school choice program. Each sending district shall count toward its ADM its own resident students who choose to attend the other participating school.
C. A student who has been expelled or received a long term suspension, i.e. more than ten (10) days, shall not be eligible for participating in the school choice program for the remainder of that year.

Article V. Program Assessment
The program shall be implemented for the 2015-2016 school year and shall be evaluated by a process to be determined at the end of the school year. Each participating school district will review the program yearly and will determine whether or not it will continue its participation beyond the current school year. In the event that the school choice agreement is not approved to continue, any current 7th grade student who is currently participating, may continue to remain in their choice school as an 8th grade student.

Article VI. Selection of Students to Participate
If more than the three students wish to participate in the Grades 7 and 8 Choice Program, a lottery system as agreed upon by the participating schools shall be employed on or before August 15, 2015.

Article VII. Return to Sending School
If a student after enrolling no longer wishes to continue at the receiving school, the student may only return to the sending school.

Article VIII. Discipline
Students exercising public school choice under this program are subject to the disciplinary policies and procedures of the receiving school.

Article IX. Special Education, Act 230
Both the sending and the receiving district will work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are met. In the case of students eligible for special education, subject to any state and federal requirements, the sending district shall retain fiscal obligations as well as responsibility for management and oversight of a student's individual plan, while the receiving district shall be responsible for hiring and supervising personnel who provide services to such students.

Article X. Athletic or Activity Eligibility and Participation
Each participating school shall treat all enrolled students, regardless of the school district of origin in the same fashion with regard to eligibility for and participation in athletics and activities.

Article XI. Transportation
Students or the parents of students participating in inter district choice under this agreement will be responsible for providing transportation to receiving schools. The superintendents in the school districts of the school choice region shall establish a clearinghouse for families needing information about transportation options that will help them to exercise school choice.

Article XII. Amendment and Dissolution
A. The foregoing articles of agreement may be amended or dissolved at the time of annual authorization by a majority vote of participating school boards.
B. The two participating school districts may not withdraw from this agreement within the 2015-2016 school year.
Public School Choice
Program

LOTTERY

The purpose of this lottery system is to equitably distribute students to the school of their choice. As only up to three (3) students for the year 2015-2016 school year will be allowed to transfer into or out of the other participating school, it is imperative that the lottery be fair and give all students the same opportunity of choice.

The following is a lottery system that accomplishes the above goal:

1. Openings
   Each sending school participating in the school choice program will publish the number of students at the 7th and 8th grade level they will accept applications from by August 10, 2015.

2. Sending school lottery for those wishing to transfer

After all applications have been received, the sending district will hold a lottery to determine which students are eligible for the school choice program. Students not chosen will be rank ordered and placed on a waiting list.

AGREED TO, SIGNED AND DATED BY THE DULY AUTHORIZED SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRS AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:

Beth Cobb, Superintendent  Date: May 21, 2015

Richard Pike, Superintendent  Date: June 4, 2015