

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF ANDERSON

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THIS SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ("Contract") is made and entered into effective the 1st day of July, 2023, by and between the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of WESTWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (the "District") and MR. WADE STANFORD (the "Superintendent").

WITNESSETH:

NOW THEREFORE, the Board and the Superintendent, for and in consideration of the terms hereafter established and pursuant to the authority of Chapter 21 and Section 1 1.201 (b) of the Texas Education Code, have agreed and do hereby agree as follows:

1. TERM

1.1 Employment. The Board, by and on behalf of the District, does hereby employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent does hereby accept employment as Superintendent of Schools for the District for a term of three (3) years, beginning on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2026. The District may, by action of the Board, and with the consent and approval of the Superintendent, extend the term of this Contract as permitted by state law. .

1.2 No Right of Tenure. The Board has not adopted any policy, rule, regulation, law or practice providing for tenure. No right of tenure is created by this Contract. No property interest, express or implied, is created in continued employment beyond the Contract term.

2. EMPLOYMENT

2.1 Duties. The Superintendent is the chief executive of the District and shall faithfully perform the duties of the Superintendent of Schools for the District as prescribed in the job description and as may be lawfully assigned by the Board, and shall comply with all lawful Board directives, state and federal law, district policy, rules, and regulations as they exist or may hereafter be amended. Specifically, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent to recommend for employment all professional employees of the District subject to the Board's approval. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to employ all other personnel consistent with the Board's policies. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to direct, assign, reassign, and evaluate all of the employees of the

District consistent with Board policies and federal and state law. It shall be the

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further duty of the Superintendent to organize, reorganize, and arrange the staff of the District, and to develop and establish administration regulations, rules, and procedures which the Superintendent deems necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the District consistent with the Board's lawful directives, the Board's policies, and state and federal law. It shall be the further duty of the Superintendent to accept all resignations of employees of the District consistent with the Board's policies, except the Superintendent's resignation, which must be accepted by the Board. The Superintendent shall perform the duties of the Superintendent of Schools for the District with reasonable care, diligence, skill, and expertise. All duties assigned to the Superintendent by the Board shall be appropriate to and consistent with the professional role and responsibility of the Superintendent.

2.2 Professional Certification and Records. The Superintendent shall at all times during the term of this Contract, and any renewal or extension thereof, hold and maintain a valid certificate required of a superintendent by the State of Texas and issued by the State Board for Educator Certification or the Texas Education Agency and any other certificates required by law.

2.3 Reassignment. The Superintendent cannot be reassigned from the position of Superintendent to another position without the Superintendent's expressed written consent.

2.4 Board Meetings. The Superintendent shall attend, and shall be permitted to attend, all meetings of the Board, both public and closed, with the exception of those closed meetings devoted to the consideration of any action or lack of action on the Superintendent's Contract, or the Superintendent's evaluation, or for purposes of resolving conflicts between individual Board members, or when the Board is acting in its capacity as a tribunal. In the event of illness or Board-approved absence, the Superintendent's designee shall attend such meetings.

2.5 Criticisms, Complaints, and Suggestions. The Board, individually and collectively, shall refer in a timely manner all substantive criticisms, complaints, and suggestions called to the Board's attention either: (a) to the Superintendent for study and/or appropriate action, and the Superintendent shall refer such matter(s) to the appropriate District employee or shall investigate such matter(s) and shall within a reasonable time inform the Board of the results of such efforts; or (b) to the appropriate complaint resolution procedure as established by District Board policies.

2.6 Indemnification. To the extent it may be permitted to do by applicable law, including, but not limited to Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code Chapter 102, the District does hereby agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify Superintendent from any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees incurred in any legal proceedings brought against

Superintendent in the Superintendent's individual or official capacity as an employee and as Superintendent of the District, providing the incident(s), which is (are) the basis of any such demand, claim, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees, arose or does arise in the future from an act or omission of Superintendent as an employee of the District, acting within the course and scope of Superintendent's employment with the District, excluding, however, any such demand, claim, suits, actions, judgments, expenses and attorneys' fees for those claims or any causes of action where it is determined that Superintendent committed official misconduct, or committed a willful or wrongful act or omission, or an act or omission constituting gross negligence, or acted in bad faith; and excluding any costs, fees, expenses or damages that would be recoverable or payable under an insurance contract, held either by the District or by Superintendent. The selection of Superintendent's legal counsel shall be with the mutual agreement of Superintendent and the District if such legal counsel is not also the District's legal counsel. A legal defense may be provided through insurance coverage, in which case the Superintendent's right to agree to legal counsel provided for him will depend on the terms of the applicable insurance contract. To the extent this Section 2.6 exceeds the authority provided and limitations imposed by Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Chapter 102, it shall be construed and modified accordingly. The provisions of this Section 2.6 shall survive the termination of this contract.

3. COMPENSATION

3.1 Salary. The District shall provide the Superintendent with an annual salary in the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY TWO AND XX/100 DOLLARS (\$158,262.00). The annual salary will be paid in equal monthly installments in accordance with the policy of the Board regarding payment of other professional staff members of the School District.

3.2 Salary' Adjustments. At any time during the term of this Contract, the Board may, in its discretion, review and adjust the annual Compensation of the Superintendent. However, no such adjustment shall result in the Superintendent being paid less than the salary set forth in Section 3.1 of this Contract without the mutual consent of both parties. Such adjustments, if any, shall be made pursuant to a lawful Board resolution. In such an event, the parties agree to provide their best efforts and reasonable cooperation to execute a new contract incorporating the adjusted salary.

3.3 Retirement Contributions. The District will pay the full amount toward the Superintendent's individual portion of his Teacher Retirement System of Texas ("TRS") contribution. The amount paid on behalf of the Superintendent by the District is compensation under the Superintendent's contract.

3.4 Vacation, Holiday, and Personal Leave. The Superintendent may take, at the Superintendent's choice, the greater of ten (10) days or the same number of days of

vacation authorized by policies adopted by the Board for administrators on twelve-month contracts, the days to be in a single period or at different times. The vacation days taken by the Superintendent will be taken at such times as will least interfere with the performance of the Superintendent's duties as set forth in this Contract. Accrued but unused vacation days shall accumulate and carry forward from year to year during the term of this Contract. At the sole option of the Superintendent, either at the end of each year of the term of this Contract, at retirement, or when the Contract is terminated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the District shall pay in a lump sum to the Superintendent any accrued but unused vacation days at the Superintendent's daily rate of pay as of the payment date. The Superintendent shall observe the same legal holidays as provided by Board policies for administrative employees on twelve-month contracts. The Superintendent is hereby granted the same personal leave benefits as authorized by Board policies for administrative employees on twelve-month contracts.

3.5 Insurance-Health. The District shall pay the same premiums for hospitalization and major medical insurance coverage for the Superintendent pursuant to the group health care plan provided by the District for its administrative employees; provided, however, that in no event shall the District's obligations to pay premiums exceed the total of Two Hundred Seventy-Five and No/ 100 Dollars (\$275.00) per month.

3.6 Professional Growth. The Superintendent shall devote the Superintendent's time, attention, and energy to the direction, administration, and supervision of the District. The Board, however, encourages the continued professional growth of the Superintendent through the Superintendent's active attendance at and participation in appropriate professional meetings at the local, regional, state and national levels. The Board shall encourage the use of data and information sources, and shall encourage the participation of the Superintendent in pertinent education seminars and courses offered by public or private institutions or by education associations, as well as the participation in informational meetings with those individuals whose particular skills, expertise, or backgrounds would serve to improve the capacity of the Superintendent to perform the Superintendent's professional responsibilities for the District. In its encouragement of the Superintendent to grow professionally, the Board shall permit a reasonable amount of release time for the Superintendent as the Superintendent and the Board deem appropriate, to attend such seminars, courses and meetings. The District shall pay the Superintendent's membership dues to the Texas Association of Business Officials and the Texas Association of School Administrators, as well as other memberships necessary to maintain and improve the Superintendent's professional skills. The District shall bear the reasonable cost and expense for registration, travel, meals, lodging, and other related expenses for such attendance and membership.

3.7 Civic Activities. The Board and the Superintendent shall mutually agree on the Superintendent's participation in community and civic affairs, including the chamber of commerce, Palestine Rotary Club, civic clubs, governmental

committees, and educational organizations. The Board concludes that such participation will serve a legitimate purpose related to the education mission of the District. The Superintendent may hold offices or accept responsibilities in these professional organizations, provided that such responsibilities do not interfere with the performance of his duties as Superintendent. Prior to engaging in these activities, the Superintendent will notify the Board in writing of the activity. The Board will notify the Superintendent if the activity presents a conflict or interferes with the performance of his duties as Superintendent. The District shall reimburse the Superintendent for the cost of membership in all local civic organizations in which the Superintendent participates and related travel outside of the District, subject to advance Board approval.

3.8 Outside Consultant Activities. The Superintendent may serve as a consultant or undertake speaking engagements, writing, teaching or other professional duties and obligations outside the District (referred to collectively herein as "Consulting Services") that do not conflict or interfere with the Superintendent's professional responsibilities to the District. The Superintendent may accept a reimbursement of expenses for such Consulting Services at no expense to the District. Consulting Services provided by the Superintendent under the terms and conditions of this paragraph must be consistent with state and federal law.

3.9 Expenses. The District shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for reasonable expenses incurred by the Superintendent in the continuing performance of the Superintendent's duties under this Contract. The District agrees to pay the actual and incidental costs incurred by the Superintendent for travel. Such actual or incidental costs may include, but are not limited to, gasoline, hotels and accommodations, meals, rental car, and other expenses incurred in the performance of the business of the District. The Superintendent shall comply with all procedures and documentation requirements in accordance with Board policies.

3.10 Deferred Compensation-Golden Handcuffs. The District desires to promote and encourage a long-term commitment in employing the Superintendent. The District will fund and continue to fund an annuity payable to the Superintendent under the following terms and conditions:

- (a) On behalf of the District, the Board shall establish a tax deferred annuity mutually acceptable to the Board and the Superintendent ("Annuity").
- (b) If the Superintendent remains continuously employed with the District through the end of his fifth year plus one day (August 16, 2021), the Annuity established by the District, including all monies and interest earned from that Annuity, shall immediately and automatically vest in the Superintendent, and shall become the property of the Superintendent.

- (c) So long as the Superintendent is employed under this Contract and any extension hereafter, the sum of Three Thousand No/ 100 (\$3,000.00) per year will be placed in the Annuity beginning on August 15, 2021 and on each August 15 of each year through August 1 5, 2026.

3.11 Superintendent of the Year Incentive. If the Superintendent is named as Superintendent of the Year for the State of Texas while employed by the District under this Contract (or any extension of this Contract), the Board agrees to pay the Superintendent an additional TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND XX/100 (\$10,000.00) in that year. The payment will be made by the District on the date the award is confirmed.

- 4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board a preliminary list of goals for the District each year for the Board's consideration and adoption. The Superintendent and the Board shall then meet, and the Board shall approve or revise the list of goals. The Superintendent and the Board shall meet biannually to assess the goals and may adjust or revise the goals either by action of the Board or upon recommendation of the Superintendent and approval of the Board. The goals approved by the Board shall at all times be reduced to writing ("District Goals") and shall be among the criteria on which the Superintendent's performance is reviewed and evaluated. The Board agrees to work with and support the Superintendent in achieving the District Goals.

5. REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.

- 5.1 Time and Basis of Evaluation. The Board shall evaluate and assess in writing the performance of the Superintendent at least once each year during the term of this Contract. The Board's evaluation and assessment of the Superintendent shall be reasonably related to the duties of the Superintendent as outlined in the Superintendent's job description and shall be based on the District's progress towards accomplishing the District Goals.

- 5.2 Confidentiality. Unless the Superintendent expressly requests otherwise in writing, the evaluation of the Superintendent shall always be conducted in executive session and shall be considered confidential to the extent permitted by law. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Board or the Superintendent from sharing the content of the Superintendent's evaluation with their respective legal counsel.

- 5.3 Evaluation Format and Procedures. The evaluation format and procedure shall be in accordance with the Board's policies and state and federal law. If the Board determines that the performance of the Superintendent is unsatisfactory in any respect, it shall describe in writing, in reasonable detail, specific instances of unsatisfactory performance. The evaluation shall include recommendations as to areas of improvement in all instances where the Board deems performance to be unsatisfactory. A copy of the written evaluation shall be delivered to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have the right to make a written response

to the evaluation within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written evaluation from the board. That response shall become a permanent attachment to the evaluation in the Superintendent's personnel file. Within sixty (60) days of the delivery of the written evaluation to the Superintendent, the Board shall meet with the Superintendent to discuss the evaluation. The Board shall devote a portion of, or all of, one executive session annually to a discussion of the working relationship between the Superintendent and the Board. In the event the Board deems that the evaluation instrument, format, and/or procedure is to be modified by the Board and such modifications would require new or different performance expectations, the Superintendent shall be provided a reasonable period to demonstrate such expected performance before being evaluated.

6. RENEWAL OR NON-RENEWAL

- 6.1 Extension / Nonrenewal. Extension and/or nonrenewal shall be in accordance with Board policy, Texas Education Code Chapter 21, Subchapter E, and applicable law.

7. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

7.1 Mutual Agreement. This Contract may be terminated by the mutual agreement of the Superintendent and the Board in writing, upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon.

7.2 Death / Retirement. This Contract shall be terminated upon the death of the Superintendent or upon the Superintendent's retirement under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

7.3 Dismissal for Good Cause. The Board may dismiss the Superintendent during the term of the Contract for good cause. The term "good cause" is defined by law and interpreted by decisions of the Texas Commissioner of Education, and includes but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Failure to fulfill duties or responsibilities as set forth under the terms and conditions of this Contract.
- (b) Incompetence or inefficiency in the performance of required or assigned duties as documented by evaluations, supplemental memoranda, or other written communication from the Board; provided, however, the terms and conditions of this paragraph shall not justify good cause unless the Board has provided the Superintendent a reasonable opportunity to remediate any incompetence or inefficiency.
- (c) Insubordination or failure to comply with lawful written Board directives.
- (d) Failure to comply with the Board's policies or the District's administrative regulations.

- (e) Neglect of duties.
- (f) Drunkenness or excessive use of alcoholic beverages.
- (g) Illegal use of drugs, hallucinogens, or other substances regulated by the Texas Controlled Substances Act.
- (h) Conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.
- (i) Failure to meet the District's standards of professional conduct.
- (j) Failure to comply with reasonable District professional development requirements regarding advanced course work or professional development.
- (k) Disability not otherwise protected by law, that impairs performance of the required duties of the Superintendent.
- (l) Immorality, which is conduct the Board determines is not in conformity with the accepted moral standards of the community encompassed by the District. Immorality is not confined to sexual matters, but includes conduct inconsistent with rectitude or indicative of corruption, indecency, or depravity.
- (m) Assault of an employee or student.
- (n) Knowingly falsifying records or documents related to the District's activities.
- (o) Conscious misrepresentation of facts to the Board or other District officials in the conduct of the District's business.
- (p) Failure to fulfill requirements for superintendent certification; or, (q) Any other reason constitutes "good cause" under Texas law.

7.4 Termination Procedure. In the event that the Board terminates this Agreement for good cause, the Superintendent shall be afforded all the rights set forth in the Board's policies and state and federal law.

7.5 Resignation of Superintendent. The Superintendent may leave the employment of the District at the end of a school year without penalty by filing a written resignation with the Board. The resignation must be addressed to the Board and filed not later than the 45th day before the first day of instruction of the following year. The Superintendent may resign with the consent of the Board at any other time.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 Controlling Law. This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to any choice of law provisions therein, and shall be performable in Anderson County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law.

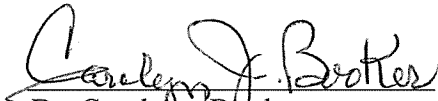
8.2 Complete Agreement. This Contract embodies the entire agreement between the parties hereto and cannot be varied except by written agreement of the undersigned parties, except as expressly provided herein.

8.3 Conflicts. In the event of any conflict between the terms, conditions, and provisions of this Contract and the provisions of the Board's policies, or any permissive state or federal law, then, unless otherwise prohibited by law, the terms of this Contract shall take precedence over the contrary provisions of the Board's policies or any such permissive law during the term of the Contract.

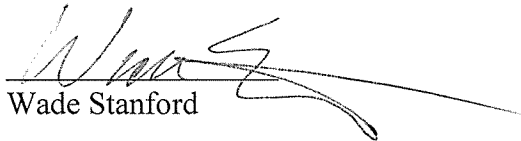
8.4 Savings Clause. In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract, shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof, and this Contract shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. All existing agreements and contracts, both verbal and written, between the parties hereto regarding the employment of the Superintendent have been superseded by this Contract, and this Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the parties unless amended pursuant to the terms of this Contract.

WESTWOOD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carolyn Booker
President, Board of Trustees


Wade Stanford

Executed this 1st day of July, 2023.

ATTESTED:

Executed this 1st day of July, 2023.