

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 § KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
COUNTY OF §
GALVESTON §

THIS SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT ("Contract") is made and entered into effective the 17th day of June 2024, by and between the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Santa Fe Independent School District (the "District") and Dr. Kevin Bott (the "Superintendent").

WITNESSETH:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board and the Superintendent, for and in consideration of the terms hereinafter established and pursuant to Section 11.20 I (b) and Chapter 21, Subchapter E of the Texas Education Code, have agreed, and do hereby agree, as follows:

I. Term

1.1 **Term.** The Board, by and on behalf of the District, does hereby continue to employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent does hereby accept employment as Superintendent of Schools for the District for a term of five (5) years, commencing on January 22, 2024, and ending on January 22, 2029. 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 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.

II. 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 to the Board or employ personnel of the District in accordance 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 further duty of the Superintendent to organize, reorganize, and manage the staff of the District, and to

develop and establish administrative 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 may only 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. This Contract is conditioned on the Superintendent's providing a valid and appropriate certification to act as superintendent in the state of Texas as prescribed by the laws of the state of Texas and the rules and regulations of the Texas Education Agency. The Superintendent shall at all times during the term of this Contract, and any renewal or extension thereof, hold and maintain a valid probationary/temporary or permanent certificate required of a superintendent by the state of Texas and issued by the Texas Education Agency and all other certificates required by law. Further, the Superintendent shall provide the Board with experience records, college transcripts, verification of earned degrees, medical records, proof of criminal records check, Social Security Number, and other records reasonably required and specifically requested by the District for the personnel files or payroll purposes. The Superintendent shall furnish to the Board evidence of maintaining throughout the life of this Contract such required documents. Failure to provide the necessary certification shall render this Contract void, and any material misrepresentation by the Superintendent in such records may be grounds for termination.

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

2.4 Board Meetings. The Superintendent shall 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 District's legal counsel. A legal defense may be provided through insurance coverage, in which case 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.

2.7. Residency Requirement. As a condition of this Contract, the Superintendent shall reside within five (5) miles of the boundary lines of the Santa Fe Independent School District.

2.8 Annual Physical Examination. The Superintendent shall annually undergo a physical examination performed by a licensed physician mutually acceptable to the Board President and the Superintendent. The examination will determine the Superintendent's continuing physical fitness to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position. The healthcare professional who performs the examination shall submit confidential reports to the Board, via the Board President, regarding the Superintendent's fitness to perform the functions of the job. These reports will be maintained as confidential medical records to the extent required by law. The District shall pay all reasonable costs of the examination. The examination shall be conducted in June of each year of the Contract unless the Board President and Superintendent agree to a different date.

III. Compensation

3.1 **Salary.** The District shall provide the Superintendent with an annual salary in the sum of one hundred eighty-five thousand two hundred thirty seven dollars and fifty cents (**\$185,237.50**) predicated on 226 work days each year. This annual salary rate shall be paid to the Superintendent in equal installments consistent with the Board's policies.

3.2 **Salary Adjustments.** At any time during the term of this Contract, the Board may, in its discretion, review and adjust the salary of the Superintendent, but in no event shall the Superintendent be paid less than the salary set forth in Section 3.1 of this Contract except by mutual agreement of the two parties or on a temporary basis in accordance with Section 21.4021 or Section 21.4032 of the Texas Education Code. Such adjustments, if any, shall be made pursuant to lawful Board action. Except for circumstances making a widespread salary reduction or furlough necessary, the parties agree to provide their best efforts and reasonable cooperation to execute a new contract or contract amendment incorporating the adjusted salary. Subject to and without waiving any Constitutional and/or other challenges by the Superintendent, the Superintendent acknowledges that the District may have certain rights pursuant to Texas Education Code Sections 21.4021 and/or 21.4032. Once the exigent financial conditions of the District making a widespread salary reduction necessary under Section 21.4032 of the Texas Education Code no longer exist, the Superintendent's annual salary shall return to the sum set forth in Section 3.1 of this Contract. If the Board implements a furlough under Texas Education Code section 21.4021, the Superintendent shall be furloughed for the same number of days as other contract personnel and the Superintendent's salary shall be reduced in proportion to the number of furlough days.

3.3 **Vacation, Holiday and Personal Leave.** The Superintendent may take, at the Superintendent's choice, 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. Taking more than five (5) consecutive work days shall require approval of the Board President, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. The vacation days taken by the Superintendent will be taken at such time or times as will least interfere with the performance of the Superintendent's duties as set forth in this Contract. Accrued but unused vacation days, up to a maximum of ten (10) days annually, shall accumulate and carry forward from year to year during the term of this Contract for a total of no more than fifty (50) days total accumulation. At separation for any reason, the District shall pay in a lump sum to the Superintendent any accrued but unused local days, vacation days, personal leave days, and nonduty days (up to fifty (50) days) at the Superintendent's daily rate of pay as of the payment date. The Superintendent shall observe the same legal holidays and receive the same sick leave and personal leave benefits as authorized by Board policies for administrative employees who serve 226 duty days each year.

3.4 **Insurance.** 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 should the Superintendent choose to timely request insurance coverage.

3.5 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 educational 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 or meetings. The District shall pay the Superintendent's membership dues in relevant professional organizations subject to prior Board approval. The District shall bear the reasonable cost and expense for registration, travel, meals, lodging, and other related expenses for such attendance and membership with notice to and prior approval by the Board.

3.6 Civic Activities. The Board encourages the Superintendent to become a member of and participate in community and civic affairs, including civic clubs, governmental committees, and educational organizations. The Board concludes that such participation will serve a legitimate purpose related to the educational 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 also pay the reasonable and customary dues for the Superintendent's membership in local civic and community organizations of the Superintendent's choice subject to prior Board approval.

3.7 Outside Employment. The Superintendent may continue the Superintendent's university adjunct teaching at Texas A&M University or other institutions of higher learning as may be appropriate during the term of this Contract so long as such outside employment does not conflict with or interfere with the Superintendent's professional responsibilities to the District. In addition, the Superintendent may, with the prior consent of the Board, undertake other consulting work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing and other professional duties and obligations that do not conflict or interfere with the Superintendent's professional responsibilities to the District. For all outside employment, the Superintendent agrees to comply with applicable ethics rules, laws, and Board policy regarding repatriating potential and actual conflicts of interest. In addition, the

Superintendent agrees to provide information regarding income from such activities to the District as necessary for financial reporting requirements.

3.8 Expenses. The District shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for reasonable reimbursable expenses, including travel outside of the boundaries of the District, incurred by the Superintendent in the continuing performance of the Superintendent's duties under this Contract pursuant to local Board Policy or Board approval. The Superintendent shall comply with all policies, procedures, and documentation requirements in accordance with Board policies and established procedures which shall be subject to review by the District's independent auditors. The Board shall retain the authority to refuse any reimbursement request that is determined to be excessive or which the Board reasonably believes falls outside the scope of the Superintendent's duties.

3.9 Teacher Retirement System (TRS). In addition to established requirements, the school district shall, on behalf of the Superintendent, supplement the Superintendent's annual salary by an amount equal to the Superintendent's portion of the monthly member contribution to the Texas Teacher Retirement System ("TRS"). This supplement shall include both the retirement and TRS-Care portions of the TRS member contribution, as applicable. This additional salary supplement shall be paid to the Superintendent in regular monthly payroll installments and shall be reported as "creditable compensation" by the District for purposes of TRS, to the extent permitted by TRS.

3.10 Technology. The District shall provide the Superintendent with a desktop and/or laptop computer for professional use during the Term of this Contract. Personal use shall be in accordance with Board Policy.

IV. Annual Performance Goals

4.1 Development of Goals. The Superintendent and Board shall work together to develop goals for the District in accordance with Board Policy and applicable law. 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.

V. 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 at all times 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. In the event that 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. 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 of time to demonstrate such expected performance before being evaluated.

VI. Extension or Nonrenewal of Employment Contract

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.

VII. Termination of Employment Contract

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 Retirement or Death. This Contract shall be terminated upon the retirement or death of the Superintendent.

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 as follows:

- (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 incompetency 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;
- (i) 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 on 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 constituting "good cause" under Texas law.

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

7.5 Termination for Disability. In the event that the Superintendent becomes physically or mentally disabled and is no longer able to perform the essential functions of his position under this Contract with reasonable accommodation that does not cause undue hardship to the District, the Board may terminate this Contract and the employment of the Superintendent. Verification of the illness or disability of the Superintendent shall be required whenever a majority of the Board requests it. Verification shall be by a physician designated by the Board and Superintendent; however, should the Board and Superintendent be unable to agree, the physician shall be the physician (or such physician's designee) chosen under Subsection 2.8.

7.6 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.

7.7 **No-Cause Termination.** Notwithstanding any other provision in this Contract, the Board may terminate the Contract if a majority of the full board determines in its sole discretion that termination of the Contract is in the District's best interest. In such event, the Board shall pay to the Superintendent as severance pay all accrued pay and benefits due the Superintendent as of the date of termination and a payment equal to eighteen months of the then current salary and benefits under and pursuant to the Contract within thirty (30) days of the date of termination less deductions (including withholding) required by law. Payment of such amounts under this provision shall terminate any and all rights of the Superintendent to further payment of salary or benefits under this Contract. Acceptance of the payments as set forth in this Paragraph by the Superintendent shall constitute a full and complete release by the Superintendent of the District, its agents, officers, and employees from and of any and all claims, demands, disputes, and/or causes of action of whatever nature, known or unknown, past, present, or future, state and/or federal the Superintendent has or may have relating to the Superintendent's employment and/or separation from employment through the date of Contract termination.

VIII. Miscellaneous

8.1 **Controlling Law.** This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Galveston County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law. Venue for any legal proceeding related to this Contract and/or the Superintendent's employment at the District shall lie in Galveston County, Texas.

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. This Contract supersedes all prior agreements and resolutions concerning employment of the Superintendent into one document. This Contract may only be amended by written instrument, executed by both parties.

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.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

SANTA FE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 

President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

By: 

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executed this 17th day of June, 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT

By: 

Dr. Kevin Bott

Executed this 17th day of June, 2024.