

- e) Managing the day-to-day operations of the District as its administrative manager, including implementing and monitoring plans, procedures, programs, and systems to achieve clearly defined and desired results in major areas of District operations;
- f) Preparing and submitting to the Board a proposed budget and administering the budget;
- g) Preparing recommendations for policies to be adopted by the Board and overseeing the implementation of adopted policies;
- h) Developing or causing to be developed appropriate administrative regulations to implement policies established by the Board;
- i) Providing leadership for the attainment and, if necessary, improvement of student performance in the District based on the state's student achievement and quality of learning indicators and other indicators as may be adopted by the Commissioner or the Board;
- j) Organizing the District's central administration;
- k) Consulting with the District-level committee;
- l) Ensuring:
 - a. Adoption of a student code of conduct and enforcement of that code of conduct; and
 - b. Adoption and enforcement of other student disciplinary rules and procedures as necessary;
- m) Submitting reports as required by state or federal law, rule, or regulation;
- n) Providing joint leadership with the Board to ensure that the responsibilities of the Board and Superintendent team are carried out;
- o) Recommending the employment of personnel and employing certain personnel, consistent with TEC Section 11.1513 and Board Policy;
- p) Collaborating with the Board in accordance with TEC Section 11.1512; and
- q) Performing any other duties lawfully assigned by action of 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 state law, Board policy, and the professional role and responsibility of the Superintendent.

2.2 Professional Certification. The Superintendent shall, 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 is employed specifically and solely to perform the duties of Superintendent of Schools for the District and may not be reassigned from the position of Superintendent to any other position in the District except by mutual written agreement of the parties.

2.4 Board Meetings. The Superintendent shall attend all meetings of the Board, both public and closed, except for 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. In accordance with section 11.051(a-1) of the Education Code, the Board shall provide the Superintendent an opportunity to provide verbal or written recommendation(s) and/or information as to each of the items of business considered and voted on by the Board at each Board meeting.

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, by employees, students or members of the public, to the Superintendent for review and appropriate action. The Superintendent will either refer such matter(s): (a) 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 Board policies. Substantive complaints include, without limitation, allegations of possible wrongdoing by staff and/or students, complaints of possible criminal behavior by staff and/or students, and complaints about personnel which, if true, would require action by the superintendent and/or administration. The Superintendent shall refer all substantive complaints from staff and/or third parties regarding a Board member to the Board President for review and action. If the complaint is about the Board President, the Superintendent shall refer the complaint to the next most senior non-implicated Board officer.

2.6 Indemnification.

(a) To the extent it may be permitted by applicable law, including, but not limited to Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code Chapter 102, the District shall indemnify, defend, and hold the Superintendent harmless regarding any civil claims, demands, or other legal proceedings against the Superintendent for any act or failure to act involving the exercise of judgment and discretion within the normal course and scope of his duties as Superintendent of the District, to the fullest extent permitted by law, except for internal investigations conducted by the District and expressly authorized by the Board. The District has no obligation to indemnify, defend, or hold the Superintendent harmless regarding any claims, demands, or other legal proceedings against the Superintendent if the Superintendent admits in writing or under oath, or is found by a Court of competent jurisdiction (i) to have acted with gross negligence or malice; (ii) to have acted with the intent to violate a person's clearly established legal rights; or (iii) to have engaged in criminal conduct.

(b) Except for internal investigations conducted by the District and expressly authorized by the Board, the District shall advance the attorney's fees, expenses and costs reasonably necessary to defend the Superintendent in any civil claims, demands, duties, actions or other legal proceedings against the Superintendent in which the Superintendent is alleged (i) to have acted with gross negligence or malice; (ii) to have acted with the intent to violate a person's clearly established legal rights; or (iii) to have engaged in criminal conduct.

(c) If the Superintendent admits in writing or under oath, or is found by a court of competent jurisdiction (i) to have acted with gross negligence or malice; (ii) to have acted with the intent to violate a person's clearly established legal rights; or (iii) to have engaged in criminal conduct, then the Superintendent shall promptly reimburse the District all sums advanced by the District to defend the Superintendent in the court proceeding in which such admission or finding is made within one hundred and twenty (120) days or as agreed by the Board.

(d) In the case of any criminal proceeding arising out of the Superintendent's responsibilities as Superintendent or other actions against the District, the District shall advance the attorneys' fees, expenses and costs reasonably necessary to defend the Superintendent in any criminal claims, demands, duties, actions or legal proceedings against the Superintendent. If the Superintendent admits in writing or under oath or is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have engaged in criminal conduct, then the Superintendent shall promptly reimburse the District all sums advanced by the District to defend the Superintendent in court within one hundred and twenty (120) days or as agreed by the Board.

(e) The District may fulfill its obligation by (i) purchasing appropriate insurance coverage for the benefit of the Superintendent, or (ii) including the Superintendent as a covered party under any errors and omissions insurance coverage purchased for the protection of the Board and the professional employees of the District.

(f) The Superintendent agrees to provide reasonable assistance to and cooperate with the District, its Trustees, agents, employees and attorneys in response to any legal proceeding or claims brought against the District.

(g) No individual member of the Board shall be personally liable for indemnifying, defending or holding harmless the Superintendent, or for any other obligation assumed by the District.

(h) If the Superintendent does not consent to being represented by the same counsel representing the District in any proceeding the District is obligated to defend under this Section 2.6, then the Superintendent may elect to be represented in such proceeding by independent counsel. In such event, the District will pay the attorney's fees, expenses and costs reasonably necessary for the independent counsel to defend the Superintendent, subject to the provisions of this Section 2.6.

2.7 Duties of Board/Governance. The District is governed by the Board who, acting as a body corporate, (1) oversee the management of the district; and (2) ensure the Superintendent implements and monitors plans, procedures, programs, and systems to achieve appropriate, clearly defined and desired results in the major areas of District operations. Unless authorized by the Board, a member of the Board may not, individually, act on behalf of the Board. The Board may act only by majority vote of the members present at a meeting held in compliance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, at which a quorum of the Board is present and voting. The Board shall comply with state and federal law, District policy, rules, and regulations as they exist or may hereafter be amended and shall provide the Superintendent an opportunity to present at a meeting an oral or written recommendation to the Board on any item that is voted on by the Board at the meeting.

2.8 Residence in District. The Superintendent shall have until July 31, 2027 to establish a residence in the District. The parties may extend this timeframe upon mutual agreement. The Superintendent shall reside within the geographic boundaries of the District at all other times while employed as Superintendent by the District.

III. COMPENSATION

3.1 Salary. The District shall provide the Superintendent with an annual salary in the sum of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$330,000.00), which amount shall be automatically increased each year by an amount equal to the greater of (i) the highest percentage raise given to the District's teachers or (ii) a percentage mutually agreeable to the Board and the Superintendent. 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. Such adjustments, if any, shall be made pursuant to a lawful Board resolution. In such event, the parties agree to provide their best efforts and reasonable cooperation to execute a new contract incorporating the adjusted salary.

3.3 Vacation, Holiday and Personal Leave. The Superintendent may take, at the Superintendent's choice, the greater of (i) twenty (20) days of vacation annually or (ii) 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 time or times as will not substantially 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, 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 daily rate shall be calculated by dividing the Superintendent's TRS creditable compensation by 226. 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, the days to be taken in a single period or at different times during the term of this Contract.

3.4 Insurance. The District shall pay the same premiums for hospitalization and major medical, dental and vision insurance coverage for the Superintendent as it does for other administrators on twelve-month contracts, pursuant to the group health care plan(s) provided by the District for its administrative employees.

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 to the American Association of School Administrators 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.

3.6 Civic Activities. The Board encourages the Superintendent to become a member of and participate in community and civic affairs, including the chamber of commerce, 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 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.

3.7 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 Technology. The Superintendent shall maintain a personal account for mobile telephone service and shall not open an account in the name of the District. The Superintendent shall have total responsibility for payment of such personal account and the District shall have no obligation or responsibility related to said mobile telephone account. The District shall provide the Superintendent with other technology devices for the Superintendent's professional and personal use, consistent with Board policy and District practices. The Superintendent understands that information stored in his/her cell phone, computer or other device is subject to public disclosure if such information is related to the public business of the School District or to his/her duties as Superintendent. Notwithstanding the location of personal data on the cell phone, computer or other device, whether such device is owned by the District or Superintendent, the parties agree that any personal or private information of the Superintendent contained on such devices shall be deemed private and the Superintendent's sole property; provided it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to assert, and to bear any costs of asserting, privacy or other confidentiality privileges or rights as to any such data or information.

3.10 Annual Physical Examination. The Superintendent shall undergo an annual physical examination performed by a licensed physician selected by the Superintendent, to include without limitation, the Cooper Clinic. The examination will determine the Superintendent's continuing physical fitness to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position and may include laboratory analysis of blood, urine, stress, EKG and other procedures as deemed appropriate by the licensed physician. The health care professional who performs the examination shall submit confidential reports to the Board regarding the Superintendent's fitness to perform the essential functions of the job. These reports will be maintained as confidential medical records to the extent permitted by law. The District shall pay all reasonable costs of the examination.

3.11 Texas Teacher Retirement System. For performance of Superintendent duties, the District shall supplement the Superintendent's salary by an amount equal to the Superintendent's portion of the member contribution to the Texas Teacher Retirement System ("TRS") during the Term of this Contract, including any extensions thereof. This supplement shall include both the retirement and TRS-Care parts of the TRS member contribution, as applicable. This additional salary supplement for services rendered 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.

3.12 Supplemental Retirement Plan. Annually during the term of this Contract, the District shall add to the Salary of the Superintendent the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the annual maximum voluntary contribution allowable under Section 402(g) of the Code for a 403(b) and 457(b) Plan, at the beginning of the Contract year, as indexed, including the age 50 catch-up, if applicable ("Additional Salary"). One-twelfth of this amount shall be paid as a monthly salary deferral contribution, at the election of the Superintendent, to a plan established by the District under Section 403(b) and/or Section 457(b) of the Code. In the event the Superintendent executes a salary deferral agreement in accordance with the requirements of Sections 403(b) and/or 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") in at least the amount of the Additional Salary, the Additional Salary shall be paid as a salary deferral contribution ("Salary Deferral Contribution"). Under and pursuant to applicable Internal Revenue Service rules the Superintendent shall have the option to elect to receive the Additional Salary in cash rather than as a Salary Deferral Contribution. All such Salary Deferral Contributions contemplated herein shall be paid to a plan that is (i) established by the District under Section 403(b) and/or Section 457(b) of the Code; and (ii) available to all TRS members employed by the District. Such plans shall include investments as allowed under Sections 403(b), 403(b)(7) and/or 457(b) of the Code, respectively, and the investments for the Superintendent's accounts shall be solely at his/her discretion. The Superintendent shall always be 100% vested in his/her account under the 403(b) and/or 457(b) plan. The Salary Deferral Contributions contemplated herein shall be treated as salary deferrals under the Code and shall be reported as "creditable compensation" by the District for purposes of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. No payments under this Section shall be made after the Superintendent's employment terminates.

3.13 Benefits. In addition to the benefits expressly set forth herein, the District shall provide other benefits to the Superintendent as provided to District employees by state law and Board policies including, without limitation, any stipends/bonuses/incentives provided to other administrative employees of the District. The Board reserves the right to amend its policies at any time during the term of this Contract to reduce or increase the benefits not expressly provided herein, at the Board's sole discretion.

IV. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

4.1 Development of 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 shall submit to the Board for its approval a plan to implement the 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 District Goals approved by the Board shall be specific, definitive and measurable, to the extent feasible. 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 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, such modifications must be adopted with input from the Superintendent and the Superintendent shall be provided a reasonable period 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 the failure of the Superintendent to perform the duties in the scope of his/her employment that a person of ordinary prudence would have done under the same or similar circumstances, and includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- (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 or possession, use or being under the influence of alcohol or alcoholic beverages while on school property, while working in the scope of the Superintendent's duties, or while attending any school or District sponsored activity;
- (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 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.** If the Board terminates or proposes to terminate 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 **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.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 **Controlling Law.** This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Denton County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law.

8.2 **Modifications.** This Contract embodies the entire agreement between the parties hereto and cannot be varied, modified or amended except by written agreement of the undersigned 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.

8.5 **Entire Agreement.** All existing agreements and contracts, both verbal and written, between the parties hereto regarding the employment of the Superintendent for the term stated herein 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.

8.6 **Paragraph Headings.** The headings used at the beginning of each numbered paragraph in this Contract are not intended to have any legal effect; the headings do not limit or expand the meaning of the paragraphs that follow them.

8.7 **Authority.** The Board President and Secretary have been authorized to execute this Contract on behalf of the District by action of a majority of a quorum of the Trustees present at a properly called and posted meeting on July 30, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, all the parties hereto have executed the Contract in multiple originals to be effective from and after July 30, 2024.

DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 

President, Board of Trustees


ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executed this July 30, 2024.

SUPERINTENDENT

By: 

Dr. Susannah O'Bara

Executed this July 30, 2024.