

**PEASTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

THIS SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT (“Contract”) is made and entered into effective May 4, 2026, by and between the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (the “Board”) of the **PEASTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** (the “District”) and **REBECCA STEPHENS** (the “Superintendent”).

WITNESSETH:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board and the Superintendent, for and in consideration of the terms hereinafter established and pursuant to Chapter 11, Subchapters D and E, Section 11.201 and Chapter 21 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 employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent does hereby accept employment as Superintendent of Schools for the District for a term, commencing on May 4, 2026, and ending on June 30, 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 of Superintendent.** The Superintendent is the chief executive of the District and shall faithfully perform the duties of the Superintendent of Schools for the District as set out in Texas Education Code sections 11.201(d), 11.1512 and 11.1513, 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, the duties of the Superintendent include:

- a) Exercising administrative responsibility and leadership for the planning, organization, operation, supervision, and evaluation of the education programs, services, and facilities of the District and for the annual performance appraisal of the District’s staff;
- b) Exercising administrative authority and responsibility for the assignment, supervision, and evaluation of all personnel of the District other than the Superintendent;
- c) Overseeing compliance with the standards for school facilities established by the Commissioner of Education under Education Code section 46.008;
- d) Initiating the termination or suspension of an employee or the nonrenewal of an employee’s term contract;

- 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 as provided by Education Code section 44.002 and rules adopted under that section, 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 indicators adopted under Education Code sections 39.053 and 39.301 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 as required under Education Code section 11.252(f);
- l) Ensuring:
 - a. Adoption of a student code of conduct as required under Education Code section 37.001 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, and ensuring that a copy of any report required by federal law, rule, or regulation is also delivered to the Texas Education Agency;
- 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 professional personnel, employing non-certified personnel and accepting resignations of employees consistent with Board Policy;
- p) Collaborating with the Board in accordance with TEC Section 11.1512; and
- q) Performing any other duties 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 Policies, 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. The Superintendent shall provide recommendation(s) and/or information as to each of the items of business considered and voted on by the Board at each Board meeting and as needed or requested by the Board.

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 and applicable law. 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.** 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 and/or administrative 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 District may satisfy its obligation to provide a legal defense under this Section by providing insurance coverage. 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 shall survive the termination of this Contract. Additionally, the District will reimburse the Superintendent for the cost of obtaining a personal professional liability insurance policy in an amount not to exceed \$150 annually.

III. COMPENSATION

3.1 **Salary.** The District shall provide the Superintendent with an initial salary at the rate of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$159,000.00) annually for the period of May 4, 2026 through June 30, 2026. Beginning on July 1, 2026, the annual salary shall be increased to ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$185,000.00). This salary 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 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 this term following district policy in the same manner provided by District policies for administrative personnel.

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

3.5 **Texas Teacher Retirement System.** For performance of Superintendent duties, beginning on July 1, 2026 and continuing through the remaining term of this Contract, 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.

3.6 **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 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 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, within the budget adopted for this purpose by the Board.

3.7 **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.

3.8 **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, including TEC §11.006.

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 **Technology.** The District shall provide the Superintendent with a laptop computer. 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 professional and

personal use, consistent with Board policy and District practices. The Superintendent understands that information stored in 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 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.

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 each year in June. 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.

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 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;
- (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 Parker 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 signed by 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 **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.

8.6 **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 May 4, 2026.

[signatures to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, all the parties hereto have executed the Contract in multiple originals to be effective from and after May 4, 2026.

PEASTER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 


President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

By: 

Secretary, Board of Trustees

SUPERINTENDENT



Rebecca Stephens

