

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WITH SUPERINTENDENT

THIS CONTRACT is made by and between the Board of Education of the **Scotts Bluff County School District 79-0031, a/k/a Mitchell Public Schools**, hereinafter referred to as “the Board,” and **Katherine Urbanek**, hereinafter referred to as “the Superintendent.”

WITNESSETH: That in accordance with action taken by the Board as recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting held on the 12th day of February, 2024, the Board hereby agrees to employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent hereby agrees to accept such employment, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Term of Contract. This Contract is for a term of two (2) years beginning on the 1st day of July, 2024 and expiring on the 30th day of June, 2026. A “contract year” for purposes of this Contract shall be from July 1 to June 30. Extensions (“roll-overs”) may occur as follows:

- A. Superintendent’s Notice of Intent to Extend. In the Initial Term, the Superintendent shall, between December 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, give the President of the Board a “Superintendent’s Notice of Intent to Extend,” which is a written notice that the Superintendent intends to extend the Contract for a period of one (1) year. In an Extended Term, the Superintendent’s Notice of Intent to Extend shall be given between December 1 and December 31 each year. In the event a Superintendent’s Notice of Intent to Extend is not given within the specified time, the Contract shall not be extended.
- B. Board Action on Notice of Intent to Extend. In the event the Board has received a Superintendent’s Notice of Intent to Extend, the Board shall, in the Initial Term, have until on or before February 10, 2024 to give the Superintendent a “Notice of Intent to Not Extend,” which is a written notice that the Board does not want to extend the Contract. The Board shall have until on or before February 16th in an Extended Term to give a Notice of Intent to Not Extend. In the event the Board does not give a Notice of Intent to Not Extend, or of a notice of possible non-renewal or cancellation, the Contract shall be extended for an additional term of one (1) contract year.
- C. Notice of Non-Renewal. The failure to extend does not automatically effect a non-renewal of the Contract. The deadline to give a notice of non-renewal is, by law, April 15th.

2. Salary. The annual salary for the 2024-2025 contract year shall be: One Hundred fifty-one thousand dollars (\$151,000.00). The annual salary for the second and any subsequent year of this contract will be set by the Board in or prior to the month of January preceding the second and any subsequent contract year. The annual salary shall not be less than the salary for the prior contract year in the absence of mutual agreement between the Board and the Superintendent. Said annual salary shall be paid in equal installments in accordance with the policy of the Board governing payment of certificated employees of the District.

In the event that the Superintendent is elected to any other office or offices of the Board of Education or in connection with the District, the Superintendent shall perform the duties of such other office or offices without remuneration other than that as provided in this Contract.

The District, acting by and through its Board of Education, reserves the right to adjust the annual salary during the term of this Contract, said salary adjustment, however, not to reduce the annual salary to any lesser amount than that as above stated. Any adjustment in salary made during the term of this Contract shall be in the form of an amendment and shall become a part of this Contract; provided, however, that in making any such salary adjustment, it shall not be considered that the District has entered into a new Contract, nor shall the termination date of this Contract be thereby extended unless the Board of Education, by specific action, shall expressly extend such termination date. In no event shall any such extension, together with the unexpired term of this Contract or any prior extension, be for a period in excess of three (3) years.

This Contract shall conform to the regulations governing deductions with reference to Withholding Tax, Social Security and School Employees' Retirement Act. Other deductions may be withheld as agreed to by the parties to this contract.

3. Benefits. As further consideration for the services to be performed by the Superintendent, it is agreed as follows:

- A. Leave Benefits. Paid leave is available to the Superintendent when the following specific conditions are met: (1) the Superintendent is currently employed by the District and (2) the paid leave day is taken on a day Superintendent would otherwise be expected to be at work.
 1. Vacation: SUPERINTENDENT shall have regular school holidays (including summer federal holidays of Memorial Day and 4th of July) and in addition shall have twenty (20) working days of paid vacation leave for each twelve month period of employment. The parties agree that paid vacation leave shall not accrue. The parties recognize that vacation is an important aspect of employment and employees are encouraged to utilize vacation time. Therefore, unused vacation shall not be compensated. Only such vacation that is used shall qualify as paid vacation.
 2. Carry-over and Accumulation of Vacation Days. Vacation is to be used during each contract year. Vacation days are to be used in the contract year in which it becomes available. There is no carry-over or accumulation of unused vacation leave from one contract year to another contract year. Any unused vacation days remaining from a prior contract year shall be subtracted from the number of vacation days the Superintendent has for the following contract year, such that the total vacation days at the beginning of each contract year be twenty (20) days. Upon ending employment, unused vacation days will not be paid except to the extent required by law. If payable, unused vacation will be paid at the effective daily rate of pay at the time each unused vacation day first became available. There shall be no pay for unused vacation days in the event the Board determines that the Superintendent has engaged in misconduct which provides just cause for termination or cancellation.
 3. Sick Leave. The Superintendent shall be allowed ten (10) working days of sick leave each contract year.
 4. Carry-over and Accumulation of Sick Days. Unused sick leave may be carried over from one contract year to the next succeeding contract year to

a maximum of sixty (60) sick leave days. Once the maximum is accumulated, no further sick leave days will be available or granted for the ensuing contract year or years until the accumulated number of days is less than 60, and then only to the extent necessary to restore the total number of available sick leave days to the maximum of 60 days.

5. Holidays. The following days shall be holiday days and not working days: Easter Break, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Break, and the Winter Holiday Break.
6. Log. The Superintendent shall maintain a current log of used vacation and sick leave days with the Superintendent's secretary. The Superintendent will notify the Board President when vacation days are used.

- B. Meetings and Dues. The Superintendent shall attend appropriate professional meetings at the local, state and national levels, provided that such attendance does not interfere with the proper performance of the Superintendent's duties under this Contract. The expenses of attendance at other professional meetings, when attendance has been authorized by the Board of Education, shall be paid by the District consistent with Board policies. The District shall pay for the Superintendent's attendance at three (3) state administrator's conferences. The School District shall pay the annual membership dues of the Superintendent in the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce, a Mitchell service club (of the Superintendent's choice), the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, and American Association of School Administrators.

The Superintendent shall be a member and attend appropriate professional meetings of appropriate educational organizations at the local and state level. Approved organizations are: the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Greater Nebraska Superintendents, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Others may be approved by the Board upon the Superintendent's request. The dues for such membership and the reasonable and necessary expenses of such meetings shall be reimbursed by the District.

- C. Transportation Expenses. The School District will pay the Superintendent a net mileage at the current federal rate to reimburse the Superintendent for the use of the Superintendent's personal vehicle in the performance of the Superintendent's official duties.

- D. Cell Phone Stipend. The School District will provide the Superintendent with a cell phone for use in the performance of the Superintendent's official duties.

- E. Indemnification. The District shall, to the extent permitted by law, defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the Superintendent from any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, and legal proceedings brought against the Superintendent in the Superintendent's individual capacity or the Superintendent's official capacity as an agent or employee of the District, provided that the incident arose while the Superintendent was acting (or, in good faith, reasonably believed that the Superintendent was acting) within the scope of the Superintendent's employment with the District and the District is not in an adverse position in the legal

proceedings. This provision shall not apply to criminal proceedings against the Superintendent and shall not obligate the District beyond any applicable insurance coverage the District has available.

- F. Other Fringe Benefits. The Superintendent shall receive such fringe benefits related to insurance (health, dental, life and disability) and 403(b) participation as are provided to certificated administrators of the School District, provided the Superintendent meets the conditions and eligibility requirements for such benefits.

4. Duties. The Superintendent is employed as the Superintendent for the District. The Superintendent shall perform the duties of such position as are regularly and customarily expected for such positions and such duties and responsibilities as are set forth in Board Policy or Regulation for such positions. It is further agreed and specifically acknowledged that the duties of the Superintendent as set forth herein and in the Board of Education Policy Manual may be further defined by the parties and any such changes shall be incorporated into this contract by a written addendum as provided in paragraph 10 of this contract. The Superintendent shall be subject to such other duties as the Board may assign from time to time. The Superintendent agrees to devote full time to the assigned duties, provided that with the advance agreement of the Board of Education, the Superintendent may undertake consultative work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing or other professional duties.

- ❖ In performing the assigned duties, the Superintendent shall be governed by the policies, regulations and directions of the Board of Education. The Superintendent shall in all respects to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the Superintendent's professional ability. Regular dependable attendance at meetings of the Board and committees of the Board and other assigned duties is an essential function of the Superintendent's position.
- ❖ **Board-Superintendent Relationship.** The Board shall have primary responsibility for formulating and adopting Board policy. The Superintendent shall be the chief administrative officer for the District, and shall have primary responsibility for implementation of Board policy. The Superintendent shall be responsible for development of policies for adoption by the Board and for development of regulations and rules consistent with Board policy. In the absence of Board policy on matters which require prompt action, the Superintendent shall have the authority to act using the Superintendent's professional judgment and consistent with legal requirements; provided that the Superintendent shall report the nature of the matter and the action taken to the Board no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The parties agree, individually and collectively, to promptly refer all criticism, complaints and suggestions called to its attention to the Superintendent for action, study or recommendation, as appropriate.

5. Evaluation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall be evaluated twice during the first contract year and once during each subsequent contract year, unless the Board deems additional evaluations appropriate. The Superintendent shall receive a copy of the evaluation and shall have the right to submit a response to the evaluation, which response shall be placed in the Superintendent's personnel file. The Superintendent shall notify the President of the Board to remind the Board of the need to evaluate.

6. Contract Termination. In the event the Superintendent violates any of the provisions of this Contract or performs any act or does anything which is materially harmful to the District, or which substantially inhibits the Superintendent's ability to discharge the duties as set forth herein, including, but not limited to (1) becoming legally disqualified to perform as a superintendent or elementary principal in the State of Nebraska; (2) participation in any fraud; (3) causing any intentional damage to school property; (4) engaging in any unlawful act; (5) any representations in this Contract being determined to be false or incorrect; (6) failure to return a Renewal Agreement by the required date, provided that such date not be prior to March 15 of the final year of the Contract or any extension of the Contract term; and (7) just cause, including: (a) incompetency, which includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated deficiencies or shortcomings in knowledge of subject matter or teaching or administrative skills; (b) neglect of duty; (c) unprofessional conduct; (d) insubordination; (e) immorality; (f) physical or mental incapacity; (g) failure to give evidence of professional growth as required by law; or (h) other conduct which interferes substantially with the continued performance of duties; then the Superintendent may be discharged in accordance with applicable law. Suspension or other disciplinary action may be enforced in accordance with applicable law. Upon lawful termination of this Contract for any reason, the compensation to be paid hereunder shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the annual salary specified as the number of months or fraction thereof to the date of such termination bears to the twelve months in the annual salary period in which termination occurs. Any portion of the salary paid, but not earned, prior to the date of termination of this Contract, and any sums owing to the District by the Superintendent, shall be set off from sums due to the Superintendent and, if the sums owing to the District are in excess of the sums due the Superintendent, the amount owing shall be immediately refunded by the Superintendent.

The Board of Education may require a certificate of health and physical fitness of Superintendent in accordance with applicable law at any time while this Contract is in force. Should the Superintendent be unable to perform the Superintendent's duties by reason of mental or physical capacity or any reason beyond the Superintendent's control, and said disability exists for a period exceeding the Superintendent's sick leave allowance, the Board of Education may, in its discretion, make a proportionate reduction from the salary and benefits, and if such disability continues or is permanent, or of such nature as to make the Superintendent unable to perform essential functions of the positions for which the Superintendent is employed, the Board of Education may, at its option, cancel or terminate this agreement whereupon the respective duties, rights and obligations hereof shall terminate.

8. Physical Examination. The Superintendent may, upon request, have a comprehensive physical examination performed by a licensed physician once each year during the term of this Contract. A written report by the physician performing each such examination certifying to the physical competency of the Superintendent shall be filed with the President of the Board and treated as confidential information by the Board. The cost of such physical examinations and physician's reports shall be paid by the District. The Board of Education may require a certificate of health and physical fitness of the Superintendent in accordance with applicable law at any time while this Contract is in force.

9. Representations and Legal Requirements. The Superintendent affirms that: (1) the Superintendent holds or will hold a valid and appropriate certificate to act as a certificated employee in the State of Nebraska to perform the assigned duties throughout the term of this

Contract and any extensions of this Contract; (2) the required certificate to perform the assigned duties shall be registered as required by law; it being understood and agreed that this contract is not valid until the required certificate is registered in accordance with law and that the Superintendent shall not be compensated for any services performed prior to the date of registration of this certificate; and (3) the Superintendent is not under contract with another board of education within the State of Nebraska covering any part of or all of the same time of performance as provided for in this Contract.

The Superintendent further warrants and represents as follows: (1) all information set forth in the Superintendent's application for employment and other information provided by the Superintendent in seeking employment are true and accurate, and if said information ceases to be true, Superintendent will advise the Board of Education immediately; (2) Superintendent has never been convicted or plead no contest or otherwise been adjudicated as having committed a felony, any other offense involving moral turpitude or any other offense involving abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct as defined in Sections 003.12 through 003.14 of 92 NAC 21; and (3) Superintendent has not suffered suspension or revocation of any educational professional license or certificate, nor voluntarily surrendered such a license or certificate where charges or potential charges were pending or imminent.

There shall be no penalty for release or resignation by the Superintendent from this Contract; provided no resignation shall become effective until expiration of the remaining term of the Contract unless the Board fixes an earlier effective date. This Contract is subject to provisions of the School Employees' Retirement Act.

10. Governing Laws. The parties shall be governed by all applicable Nebraska and federal laws, rules, and regulations in performance of their respective duties and obligations under this Contract.

11. Amendments & Severability. This Contract may be modified or amended only by a writing duly authorized and executed by the Superintendent and the Board. If any portion of this Contract shall be declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Contract.

The failure to return a signed copy of this Contract to the President or Secretary of the Board of Education of the District on or before February 20, 2024 shall constitute a rejection by the Superintendent of the offer of employment.

Executed this ____ day of February, 2024.	Executed this ____ day of February, 2024.
Signature:	Signature:
<hr/> Dr. Katherine J. Urbanek, Superintendent	<hr/> County of Scotts Bluff-District No. 31 Mitchell Public Schools School Board President, Jeff Jenkins
	<hr/> County of Scotts Bluff-District No. 31 Mitchell Public Schools School Board Secretary, Doug Keener

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