

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT HITCHCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS

THIS CONTRACT is made by and between the **Board of Education of Hitchcock County Schools**, legally known as **Hitchcock County School District No. 44-0070**, and referred to as "the Board" and "the School District" respectively, and **Kelly Erickson**, referred to herein as "the Superintendent". In accordance with its action taken and recorded in the minutes of a duly advertised board meeting, the Board agrees to employ the Superintendent, and the Superintendent agrees to accept such employment, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Section 1. Term of Contract. The Superintendent shall be employed for a period of 2 year(s) beginning on July 1, 2026, and expiring on June 30, 2028. References to "contract year" shall mean the period from July 1st through June 30th and shall consist of all days except those on which: there are scheduled school holidays; school is cancelled; the Superintendent's illness makes attendance impossible or impracticable; the Superintendent's presence is not necessary to fulfill her contractual duties; or the Board otherwise excuses the Superintendent. The Superintendent agrees to work sufficient hours and days to satisfactorily complete the duties of this contract. The Superintendent shall keep complete and accurate records of her working days and shall provide the Board of Education with a report of her accumulated working days upon request.

Section 2. Renewal of Contract. During the first contract year of the initial contract, if a Board representative does not inform the Superintendent in writing on or before **April 15** of the Board's intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of this contract, the contract will automatically renew for a period of **one year** from and after the expiration date provided in Section 1 of this contract. During all subsequent contract years, if a Board representative does not inform the Superintendent in writing on or before **the seventh day after the regular December board meeting** of the Board's intention to consider the nonrenewal or amendment of this contract, the contract will automatically renew for a period of **one year** from and after the expiration date provided in Section 1 of this contract. During the first contract year of the initial contract, the Superintendent shall remind the Board in writing of this provision no later than **its regular March meeting** and shall make the renewal of her employment contract an agenda item for the regular **March** board meeting during the initial contract year. During all subsequent contract years, the Superintendent shall remind the Board in writing of this provision no later than **its regular November meeting** of each year of this contract and shall make the renewal of her employment contract an agenda item for the

regular **December** board meeting during each year of this contract. At the time of each contract renewal and/or amendment, the Superintendent shall be responsible for taking all necessary steps to ensure that the district has complied with the Superintendent Pay Transparency Act.

Section 3. Salary. The Superintendent's salary for the first contract year shall be \$135,000.00. The Superintendent's salary for the second contract year shall be set by the Board no later than its February meeting during the first contract year. The Superintendent's salary shall be paid in 12 equal monthly installments beginning in the month of July of each contract year. The Board shall not reduce the Superintendent's salary during the term of the contract, but may increase it and/or the benefits during the term of this contract, as an amendment to the contract, without the amendment constituting a new contract, requiring a hearing, or extending the term of this contract.

Section 4. Deductions. This contract shall conform to the statutes and regulations governing deductions from compensation. The Superintendent authorizes the District to deduct or withhold from each and every period of pay any amounts necessary to offset any damages caused by the Superintendent or the value of property or money entrusted to the Superintendent or owed by the Superintendent to the District during the course of or as a result of the Superintendent's employment, if such property or money have not properly been returned to the District. The school district shall withhold other deductions as the Superintendent and Board may agree.

Section 5. Professional Status. The Superintendent affirms that she is not under contract with any other board of education covering any part or all of the term provided in this contract. Throughout the contract term, she will hold a valid and appropriate certificate to act as a superintendent of schools in the State of Nebraska which he will register and maintain on file in the school district's central administrative office. This contract shall not be valid and the Board will not compensate the Superintendent for any service performed prior to the date that she registers her certificate. The Superintendent represents that: (1) all information provided in connection with the Superintendent's application for employment with the District was true and accurate at the time of application, and if there is or has been a material change in such information, the Superintendent will advise the Board immediately; (2) the Superintendent has never been convicted of or plead no contest to a felony as defined in Title 92, Chapter 21, Sections 003.11 and 003.13 of the Nebraska Administrative Code ("Rule 21"), or any offense involving moral turpitude, abuse, neglect, or sexual misconduct, as defined in Title 92, Chapter 21, Sections 003.12 and 003.13 of the Nebraska

Administrative Code; and (3) the Superintendent has not had any professional licenses or certificates suspended or revoked.

Section 6. Superintendent's Duties. The Superintendent's duties shall be as prescribed by statute and by Board policies, rules, regulations and directives. The Superintendent agrees to devote her time, skill, labor and attention to her duties throughout the contract term. She shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board at all times and shall perform such administrative duties as the Board assigns to her. By agreement with the Board, she may undertake consultative work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, or other professional duties and obligations as long as they do not interfere with carrying out her duties and obligations to the school district.

Section 7. Board-Superintendent Relationship. The Board shall be primarily responsible for formulating and adopting policy. The Superintendent shall be the chief administrative officer for the district and shall be responsible for implementing Board policy. She shall organize the administrative and supervisory staff, and select, place, and transfer personnel with the concurrence of the Board. She is responsible for administering the instruction of students and the business affairs of the school district. The Board members agree, individually and collectively, to promptly refer all criticisms, complaints, and suggestions called to their attention to the Superintendent for action, study and/or recommendation, as appropriate.

Section 8. Cancellation or Mid-Term Amendment. The Board may cancel or amend this contract during its term for any of the following reasons: (a) the cancellation, termination, revocation, or suspension of the Superintendent's certificate (Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate, or the Nebraska Professional Administrative and Supervisory Certificate) by the State Board of Education; (b) any of the reasons set forth in this contract; (c) the breach of any of the material provisions of this contract; (d) incompetence; (e) neglect of duty; (f) unprofessional conduct; (g) insubordination; (h) conduct involving moral turpitude; (i) physical or mental incapacity; (j) immorality; (k) conviction of a felony; (l) any conduct that substantially interferes with the Superintendent's continued performance of her duties; (m) any arrest, criminal charge, or criminal conviction of Superintendent or the failure to report the same; (n) any filing against the Superintendent under Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 43-247 or any other provision of the Nebraska Juvenile Code for child abuse and/or neglect or the failure to report the same; (o) knowingly falsifying school district records or documents; (p) misrepresentation of fact to the district and its personnel in the conduct of the district's official business; (q) the use or

possession of illegal drugs or controlled substances except as prescribed by a physician; or (r) being under the influence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol while on school grounds, at school events, or in a vehicle owned, leased or contracted by the district except as prescribed by a physician. The procedures for cancellation or amendment shall be in accordance with state statutes. The parties agree that the Superintendent's failure to comply with her duties under Section 2 (Renewal of Contract) or Section 15 (Evaluation) shall constitute a material breach of this contract.

Section 9. Disability. If the Superintendent is unable to perform her duties by reason of illness, accident or other disability beyond her control, and the disability continues for a period of more than sixty (60) days or if the disability is permanent, irreparable, or of such a nature as to make performance of her duties impossible, the Board may initiate action to cancel this contract, whereupon the respective rights, duties and obligations of the parties hereunder shall terminate, with the exception of any benefits to be paid to the Superintendent under any insurance coverage furnished by the district.

Section 10. Transportation. The Board shall provide the Superintendent with transportation or reimburse her for mileage required in the performance of her official duties at the rate approved by the Board.

Section 11. Fringe Benefits. The Board shall provide the Superintendent with the following fringe benefits:

- a. Health Insurance.** Family health insurance that is provided to certificated staff through the District's health insurance carrier.
- b. Dental Insurance.** Family dental insurance through the District's health insurance carrier.
- c. Life Insurance.** Term life insurance with a total death benefit of Thirty-Thousand Dollars (\$30,000).
- d. Sick Leave.** The Superintendent shall be entitled to ten (10) days of sick leave per year which may accumulate to a total of forty (40) days. Sick leave may only be used for personal illness or as otherwise provided in District policy. If the Superintendent qualifies for disability pay under the long-term disability policy, she shall be required to take the disability pay instead of sick leave pay. The Superintendent shall keep complete and accurate records

of her sick days and shall provide the Board of Education with a report of her accumulated sick days. The Superintendent shall not be compensated for unused days of sick leave upon the ending of her employment with the District.

- e. Disability Insurance.** The Superintendent shall purchase long-term disability insurance from the school district's carrier at her own expense.
- f. Vacation.** The Superintendent shall have twenty (20) vacation days for the first contract year which she may use at times she chooses so long as her absence does not interfere with the proper performance of her duties. Any extended vacation period while school is in session will require advance approval by the Board, and the parties will cooperate in arranging vacation time so as to cause the least inconvenience to the normal operation of the District. After the first contract year, the Board shall give the Superintendent the number of days necessary to restore her total to twenty (20) days. For example, if she uses 12 days of vacation one year, the board will provide her with 12 days the following year to bring her total to 20 days. The Superintendent shall develop a system for recording her use of vacation days and shall keep such records current and on file in the District's central office. The Superintendent shall keep complete and accurate records of her vacation days and shall provide the Board of Education with a report of her accumulated vacation days upon request.
- g. Professional Development.** The Superintendent is expected to continue her professional development and to participate in relevant learning experiences. With the approval of the Board, she may attend appropriate professional meetings at the local, state, regional and national level; and the Board will pay for valid expenses of attendance. If the Superintendent attends a national convention and does not return following the initial year of employment as Superintendent, the Superintendent agrees to repay the District in full for national convention expenses paid by the District.

- h. Professional Dues.** The school district will pay the annual dues for the Superintendent's membership in the following organizations: Nebraska Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Administrators.
- i. Bereavement Leave.** The Superintendent shall be permitted bereavement leave as provided in the Negotiated Agreement with the Hitchcock County Education Association.
- j. Cell Phone.** The Superintendent shall be required to purchase and maintain a cellular phone so that she can be reached at all times for work-related emergencies or while away from school grounds during the work day. The School District will reimburse the Superintendent up to a maximum of \$100 per month for the actual cost of a cellular phone service plan.
- k. Expense Reimbursement.** The Board shall pay or reimburse the Superintendent for expenses pursuant to board policy that are actually, necessarily, and reasonably incurred in attending educational seminars, conventions, and workshops; conferences; training programs; official school functions, hearings or meetings, provided that such payment or expense must be authorized by board policy and by the Local Government Miscellaneous Expenditures Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2201 *et seq.*) or some other provision of law.

Section 12. Residence/Domicile in School District. The Board prefers that the Superintendent establish her principal place of residence and domicile within the boundaries of the District throughout her employment. It is the purpose of this paragraph to incentivize the Superintendent, at all times during such employment, to live and maintain her domicile and principal place of residence in the District to encourage the Superintendent: (1) to be highly motivated and deeply committed to the District's educational system; (2) to speak to and vote on ballot issues affecting the district as a legal voter of the school district; (3) to be involved in school and community activities bringing her in contact with parents and community leaders and be committed to the future of the district and its schools; (4) to be accessible to parents and students, and allow parents and students to become personally acquainted with the Superintendent; and, (5) to gain sympathy and understanding for the cultural basis of the community, and the social,

economic, and environmental problems of the children of the school community and are thus less likely to be considered isolated from the community in which she is the educational leader. For purposes of this provision, "residence" means the place in which the employee is actually domiciled; which is the employee's established home; where the employee is actually living full-time; the employee's true, fixed and permanent home; and the place to which the employee intends to return when absent therefrom. The Board will increase the monthly salary of the Superintendent by \$1,000 each month in which the Superintendent establishes her residence and domicile within the boundaries of the District. The Superintendent is entitled to this incentive during each month of each contract year under this Agreement.

Section 13. No Penalty for Release or Resignation. There shall not be a penalty for the release or resignation of the Superintendent from this contract; provided no resignation shall become effective until the expiration of the contract unless it is accepted by the Board, and the Board shall fix the date at which the resignation shall take effect.

Section 14. Compensation Upon Termination and Credit for Accrued Vacation. 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 12 months in the annual salary period in which termination occurs. The Superintendent shall refund any portion of the salary she was paid but had not earned prior to the date of termination of this contract. She shall be paid for any unused vacation days at the daily compensation rate then in effect at the termination of employment.

Section 15. Evaluation. The Board shall evaluate the Superintendent twice during the Superintendent's first year of employment and at least once each year thereafter. The first evaluation during the first year of employment and the yearly evaluations after the first year of employment shall occur no later than the **regular December meeting**. The Superintendent shall: remind the Board members in writing of this provision no later than its **regular November meeting**; if the evaluation will be conducted at a board meeting, make the Superintendent evaluation an agenda item for the **regular December Board meeting** during each year of this contract; and provide the Board members with the written evaluation instrument that is on file with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Section 16. Legal Actions. The Board will support the Superintendent if there is a legal dispute caused by her carrying out her

duties properly. If a legal action, including a professional practice complaint, is threatened or filed against the Superintendent as a result of her performance of her duties or her position as Superintendent of the district, the Board will provide her with a legal defense to the maximum extent permitted by law so long as she acted in good faith and in a manner which she reasonably believes to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the district and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that her conduct was unlawful.

Section 17. Physical or Mental Examination. The Superintendent agrees that, at the request of the Board, she will have a comprehensive physical and/or mental examination performed by one or more licensed physicians or psychologists of the Board's choosing during the term of this Contract. In deference to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and HIPAA, the physician's report to the Board must address whether the Superintendent is able to perform the "essential functions" of her position.

Section 18. Disciplinary Action. The parties agree that the Board president may place the Superintendent on paid leave by delivering written notice of the same when the Board president determines it is in the best interests of the school district to do so. The paid leave shall continue unless and until a majority of the Board determines otherwise at a duly convened meeting. The Board may suspend the Superintendent without pay for a period not to exceed thirty (30) working days. Prior to suspending the Superintendent without pay, the Board president or secretary shall deliver a written notice to the Superintendent advising her of the alleged reasons for the proposed action and provided the opportunity to present her version of the facts. Within seven calendar days after receipt of such notice, the Superintendent may make a written request to the secretary of the school board for a formal due process hearing under section 79-832. If such a request is not delivered within such time, the action of the Board shall become final.

Section 19. Governing Laws. The parties shall be governed by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations in performance of their respective duties and obligations under this contract.

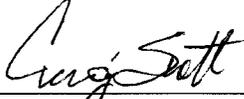
Section 20. Amendments to be in Writing. This contract may be modified or amended only by a writing duly authorized and executed by the Superintendent and the Board.

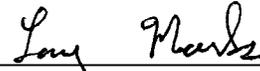
Section 21. Severability. If any portion of this contract is declared invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such

declaration shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining provisions of this contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this contract on the dates indicated below.

Executed by the Board this 9 day of February, 2026.


President, Board of Education


Secretary, Board of Education

Executed by the Superintendent this 30 day of January, 2026.


Superintendent