

CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WITH SUPERINTENDENT

THIS CONTRACT is made by and between the Board of Education of the **Garden County School District 0001, a/k/a Garden County Schools**, hereinafter referred to as “the Board,” and **Jess Underwood**, hereinafter referred to as “the Superintendent.” This contract shall supersede all prior contracts of employment between the parties.

WITNESSETH: That in accordance with action taken by the Board as recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting held on the 13th day of February, 2023, 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 three (3) 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. The Superintendent shall, prior to December 1 of each contract year, 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 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 have until five days following the regular meeting in December of each contract year 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. 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 contract year of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 shall be: One Hundred and Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$157,500.00). 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. The salary shall be paid in equal installments in accordance with the policy of the Board governing payment of other professional staff employees of the District. Salary payments shall be subject to state and federal withholding required by law, including without limitation retirement contributions, FICA, FUTA, Medicare, and state or federal unemployment contributions.

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

a. Vacation and Leave Benefits.

- i. Amount and Use. The Superintendent shall be allowed twenty (20) working days of vacation and ten (10) days of sick leave (for sick or bereavement) each contract year, all exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. It is understood, however, that the Superintendent may from time to time be required to perform duties on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Vacations days are to be used in a manner and at times selected by the Superintendent; provided that the Superintendent shall make reasonable efforts to not schedule leaves which would cause the Superintendent to not be able to attend regular scheduled meetings of the Board of Education or important school functions, and the Superintendent shall provide information such that the Superintendent may be contacted when necessary.
 - ii. Vacation Accumulation. Since the Board and the Superintendent agree that periodic vacation is beneficial to “recharge,” the Superintendent shall use at least ten (10) days of vacation each year. The maximum accumulation of vacation days shall be twenty (20). Once the maximum accumulation is reached, no additional vacation leave may be given. When the number of vacation days falls below the maximum, additional vacation days may be given to restore the vacation days to the maximum as of the beginning of any contract year.
 - iii. Sick Accumulation. Unused sick leaves may be accumulated from one contract year to the next, subject to a maximum accumulation of sixty (60) days.
 - iv. Reimbursement. Reimbursement of unused vacation days will be made at the conclusion of the Superintendent's final contract year at the Superintendent's effective daily rate of pay established in the Superintendent's final contract year. Reimbursement of other unused leave days will not be made.
 - v. Log. The Superintendent shall maintain a vacation and annual leave log which shall be available to the Board for review upon request of the Board President from time to time.
- 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 Superintendent's duties. The reasonable and necessary expenses of such meetings shall be reimbursed by the District consistent with Board policies. In addition, the District shall pay the Superintendent's annual dues to the following organizations: NASA (NCSA), NRCSA, and NASCD (ASCD). The Board may pay dues for other professional organizations suitable for the Superintendent's position upon the Superintendent's request.
- c. Transportation Expenses. The reasonable and necessary expenses of transportation required in the performance of Superintendent's official duties shall be reimbursed at the rate set by the Board for District travel.
- d. 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.

- e. Other Benefits. The Superintendent may be provided such other benefits as are provided to certificated employees of the District in the Board's discretion, except as otherwise provided herein, provided the Superintendent meets the conditions and eligibility requirements for such benefits.
- f. Avoidance of Fines or Penalties. The District may elect to not provide any benefit set forth herein in the event the District determines in its discretion that the provision of the benefit would result in a fine or penalty. In the event the District makes such an election, the District shall negotiate with the Superintendent to obtain a like-benefit that would not result in a fine or penalty, and in the event such is not available, the Superintendent's salary shall be grossed up in an amount equal to the cost savings from not providing the benefit (excluding the costs of fines and penalties).

4. Duties.

- a. Specification of Duties. The Superintendent shall perform the duties of Superintendent as are regularly and customarily expected for such position and such duties and responsibilities as are set forth in Board Policy or Regulation for such position. The duties as prescribed in the Board of Education Policies shall not be substantially changed during this Contract without the consent of the Superintendent by an amendment to this Contract. The Superintendent shall be subject to such other duties as the Board may assign from time to time. The Superintendent shall not be responsible for performance of duties assigned by individual members of the Board of Education, or duties assigned without official action of the Board of Education, except as specifically set forth in the Board of Education Policies. 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.
- b. Use of 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.
- c. Performance of 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, in-person attendance at meetings and committees of the Board and other assigned duties is an essential function of the Superintendent's position.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 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, terminate this agreement whereupon the respective duties, rights and obligations hereof shall terminate.

8. Residency. The Superintendent shall reside within the School District during the term of this contract.

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 March 13th, 2023 shall constitute a rejection by the Superintendent of the offer of employment.

Jess Underwood, Superintendent

Board of Education of Garden County School
District 0001, a/k/a Garden County
Schools

Attest: _____
Secretary