

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. Further, the Superintendent shall provide recommendation(s) and/or information as to each of the items of business considered at each meeting 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 either: (a) to the Superintendent for study and/or appropriate action, and the Superintendent shall refer such matter(s) 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.

2.6 **Indemnification.** To the extent it may be permitted to do by applicable law, including, but not limited to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 102 and Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 16.061 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 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 selection of Superintendent's legal counsel shall be with the mutual agreement of Superintendent and the District if such legal counsel is not also District's legal counsel. A legal defense may be provided through insurance coverage, in which case Superintendent's right to agree to legal counsel provided for her will depend on the terms of the applicable insurance contract. To the extent this Section 2.6 exceeds the authority provided and limitations imposed by Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Chapter 102, and Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and 16.061, it shall be construed and modified accordingly. The provisions of this Section 2.6 shall survive the termination of this Contract.

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 in accordance with applicable law and Board policies.

2.8 **Employment of Staff.** The Superintendent shall have the sole authority to select and employ all contract and noncontract staff, except for the Internal Auditor and related personnel in the Internal Audit Services Department and subject to the District's salary schedule and budget as approved by the Board, including the authority to organize, reorganize, arrange, direct, assign, reassign and transfer staff in the manner which best serves the District.

Further, the Superintendent shall have the authority to terminate or non-renew all staff, and any other administrators who are not covered by Chapter 21, Texas Education Code. Prior to publicly announcing the hiring, assignment, reassignment, transfer or termination of any Administration's Senior Staff as defined hereinafter, the Superintendent shall inform the Board of said hiring, assignment, reassignment, transfer or termination. Administration's Senior Staff is defined as Chief Officer, Deputy Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and General Counsel, and their equivalents. Further, the Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative procedures, rules and regulations that the Superintendent believes necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the District, and which are consistent with Board Policies, state and federal law.

III. COMPENSATION

3.1 **Salary.** The District shall provide the Superintendent with an annual salary in the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$245,000.00), 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 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 least interfere with the performance of the Superintendent's duties as set forth in this Contract. 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 in a single period or at different times.

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 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. As part of Superintendent's professional development, the Superintendent, with prior approval of the Board president, may hire an educational executive coach. The cost of such executive coaching services shall be borne by the District and must be approved in advance by the Board president. 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 her 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 her 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 mobile telephone service account in the name of the District for the Superintendent's business and personal use. The Superintendent will also be issued a District laptop, and other devices it deems necessary for the Superintendent's business and personal use. The Superintendent understands that information stored in her personal 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 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 the cell phone, computer or other devices, whether owned by the District or Superintendent, containing such data or information 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 mutually acceptable to the Board and the Superintendent. 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 **Automobile – Allowance.** The Board shall provide the Superintendent with an automobile allowance for in-District travel in the sum of Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00) per month. In addition to the allowance provided herein, the Board shall reimburse the Superintendent for out-of-District travel incurred by the Superintendent in the continuing performance of the Superintendent's duties under this Contract in accordance with Section 3.8.

3.12 **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. 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 Student Outcome Goals and Constraints.** The Board and Superintendent shall work collaboratively to develop student outcome goals and constraints and other goals for the District consistent with Board Policies. The Superintendent shall submit to the Board a preliminary list of targets for the District on a date mutually agreeable by the Board and the Superintendent and annually thereafter for the Board's consideration and adoption. The goals approved by the Board shall always be reduced to writing ("District Goals"), and the targets shall be among the criteria on which the Superintendent's performance is reviewed and evaluated. Once the board has adopted the District Goals including 3–5-year student outcome goals and constraints, the Superintendent shall develop appropriate goal progress measures and constraint progress measures for use in monthly progress monitoring sessions with the Board. 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 based on the District's accomplishment of the District Goals and adherence to the constraints established under 4.1 above.

5.2 **Confidentiality.** Unless the Superintendent expressly requests otherwise in writing, the evaluation of the Superintendent shall 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, methods, instruments 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 in accordance with Chapter 21 and applicable law. 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 **Residence.** The Superintendent will make a good faith effort to obtain a residence within the DeSoto Independent School District (the "District") as soon as practical, but shall have until May 15, 2023, to establish a residence within the District. The Parties may extend this date by mutual agreement. Thereafter, the Superintendent shall maintain a residence within the District during the term of this Contract.

7.5 **Termination Procedure.** If the Board 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.

7.6 **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 Dallas County, Texas, unless otherwise provided by law.

8.2 **Complete Agreement.** This Contract embodies the entire agreement between the parties hereto and cannot be varied except by written agreement of the undersigned parties, except as expressly provided herein.

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. All existing agreements and contracts, both verbal and written, between the parties hereto regarding the employment of the Superintendent 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.

8.5 **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 16, 2022.

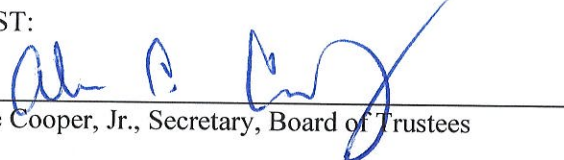
[signatures to follow]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, all the parties hereto have executed the Contract in multiple originals to be effective from and after May 16, 2022.

DESOTO ISD

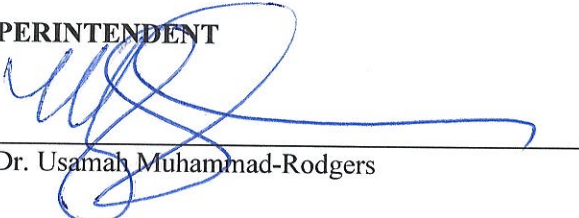
By: 
DeAndrea Fleming, President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

By: 
Abe Cooper, Jr., Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executed this May 16, 2022.

SUPERINTENDENT

By: 
Dr. Usamah Muhammad-Rodgers

Executed this May 16, 2022.