

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ISD
CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT - SUPERINTENDENT**

This agreement made this 23rd day of March 2021, by and between the Board of Education of the St. Joseph County ISD in the State of Michigan (hereinafter called the Board) and **Teresa Belote** (hereinafter called the Superintendent), that pursuant to Section 1229 of the revised school code, the Board in accordance with its action as found in the minutes of the board meeting held on the 15th day of March 2021, has and does hereby employ said Superintendent from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 on a schedule of 260 contract days per year.

1. Teresa Belote represents that she is duly and legally qualified to act as Superintendent in the State of Michigan and will maintain all certificates and credentials required by law including regulation of Department of Education and the Board. If Superintendent fails to maintain these credentials this contract shall be terminated and the Board shall have no further obligation here under.
2. Teresa Belote agrees that during the term of the contract she will perform the duties of Superintendent in a competent and professional manner and that she will faithfully observe the rules, regulations, policies and directives issued by the Board of Education.

Extension: Following the evaluation of the Superintendent in March, the Board of Education, may take official action determining whether or not the contract is extended for an additional year and notify the Superintendent of its action in writing. If no action is taken by the Board, the contract shall be deemed to have been extended for an additional year. In exercising this option, the Board of Education also shall establish the annual salary to be paid to the Superintendent for the school year included in the extension. All other terms and conditions of this contract shall remain unchanged unless altered by the Board of Education.

Duties:

The Superintendent shall serve as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer of the Board. She shall be entitled to:

- a. Present her recommendations to the Board on any subject under consideration by the Board.
- b. Attend each meeting of the Board.
- c. Serve as an ex-officio member of each committee established by the Board.

The Superintendent shall have the authority to organize, re-organize and arrange the administrative and supervisory staff including business affairs, which in her judgment best serve the district.

The responsibility for selection, placement, and transfer of personnel shall be vested in the Superintendent subject to approval of the Board.

The Board, individually and collectively, shall refer promptly all criticisms, complaints, and suggestions called to its attention to the Superintendent for study and recommendations.

The Superintendent agrees to and shall, during the term of this agreement, devote her time, attention and energy to the position of the School District. The Superintendent shall use vacation leave to perform outside activities such as consulting to other districts or educational agencies, lectures, engage in writing activities and speaking engagements and she shall retain any compensation or honorarium paid. In no case will the District be responsible for any expense attendant to the performance of those outside activities.

3. It is mutually understood and agreed:

a. This contract shall be effective as of the 1st day of July, 2021.

For the 2021-2022 school year: the salary of One Hundred Forty Three Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Eight Dollars (143,198). This is a 2% increase based on having a 2020-2021 Highly Effective evaluation rating as indicated from the last contract. Said salary and fringe benefits contained in this contract shall be renegotiated at no less than stated, prior to the end of the 2022 contract year.

To pay a Merit Stipend, to be paid in July of \$1,000.00 for a Highly Effective or \$500.00 for Effective based on the 2021-2022 school year evaluation.

To pay an annuity of 7.4% (\$10,597) of the above wage compensation which is a .4% increase based upon having a 2020-2021 Highly Effective evaluation rating. This will be applied to an investment instrument of the Superintendent's choice and can be either pre-tax or taxed. The investment provider must be a vendor that is listed within the approved Michigan Retirement Investment Consortium Agreement document.

(The total of the salary and annuity only equals a 2.5% increase)

- b. The Superintendent shall receive a \$3,000 a year stipend, to be paid in July, to cover community relations to assist with all miscellaneous costs while conducting ISD business. This is a non-recurring stipend amount.
- c. The Superintendent shall be reimbursed mileage and other necessary expenses incurred at the local, state and national level in connection with her duties. In addition, she shall be granted mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate for travel within and outside St. Joseph County. Any expenses incurred due to traveling must be detailed receipts in order to be reimbursed. The Board shall pay Professional memberships in organizations and associations relating to the district and the duties of the Superintendent as well as all approved professional development.
- d. The Superintendent shall be granted at no cost, full family health insurance equal to the current medical plan benefits or in-lieu of health and including full family dental and vision insurance, long term disability insurance, group term life insurance of \$200,000 with \$300,000 AD&D, and professional liability insurance.

- e. Paid sick leave benefits shall be granted at 15 days per year with unlimited accumulation. Accumulated sick leave may be utilized prior to the implementation of long term disability benefits. In the event there is not adequate accumulated sick leave to meet the terms of the long-term disability plan, the Board shall grant required days to the Superintendent. The Board agrees to pay the difference between benefits and full salary for up to 200 days. A physical examination shall be required by the Board every other year (or) as requested by the Board (Board to pay costs not covered by Health Insurance). Fifty percent (50%) of accrued sick leave will be paid at daily rate up to a maximum of 80 days upon retirement.
- f. The Board shall grant 5 days of bereavement leave (non-cumulative) for the death of a family member. Family member to include spouse, child, mother, father, sibling, grandparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparent-in-law, and sibling-in-law.
- g. The Superintendent shall be granted vacation time of 30 days per contract year. Vacation time will be paid at daily rate per allocated number of days accrued upon separation of this contract. Vacation time must be used within 24 months from the date it is earned. In lieu of roll over, the Superintendent has the option to sell back up to 10 vacation days each fiscal year. The Superintendent is also entitled to 14 paid holidays and 2 personal days per contract.
- h. This contract and/or the performance of service there under do not confer tenure on the Superintendent or any other administration position in the district.
- i. The Board will also pay for a personal laptop and various remote technology access for personal and business use.
- j. The Board will pay for a health reimbursement up to \$600.00 per school year for items such as individual/family health memberships, equipment, etc.

4. Indemnification and Hold Harmless:

- a. The District agrees that it shall defend, hold harmless and indemnify Superintendent from any and all demands, claims, suits, actions and legal proceedings brought against Superintendent in her individual capacity, or in her official capacity as agent and employee of the ISD, provided the incident arose while Superintendent was acting within the scope of her employment.
- b. The Board of Education shall provide liability insurance for the Superintendent to cover legal expenses in defense of claims and payment of judgments resulting from her functioning as Superintendent and will reimburse her for any portion of such expense and judgments not covered by insurance. In no case will individual Board members be considered personally liable for indemnifying the Superintendent against such demands, claims, suits, actions and legal proceedings.

Amendment

This amendment constitutes the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and may not be amended, renewed or extended except by an instrument in writing duly adopted and executed by both parties.

Termination Provisions

- A. The Superintendent shall be subject to discharge for good and just cause, but the Board shall not arbitrarily dismiss her. No discharge shall be effective until written charges have been served upon her and she shall have an opportunity for a fair hearing before the Board after ten (10) days notice in writing. Said hearing shall be public or private at the option of the Superintendent. At such hearing, she may have legal counsel at her own expense.
- B. In the event of termination of this contract due to the death of the Superintendent, the Board shall pay her beneficiary or beneficiaries her salary and all transferable fringe benefits for a period of not less than ninety (90) workdays.
- C. In the event of termination of this contract through mutual consent, the Superintendent shall be entitled to compensation as mutually agreed upon.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute between the parties relating to any provision of this Agreement, or a dispute concerning any of the parties' rights or obligations as defined pursuant to this Agreement, the parties hereby agree to submit such to binding arbitration. Such arbitration shall be conducted under the labor arbitration rules of, and administered by, the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator's fee and the expense of the American Arbitration Association shall be shared equally by the parties. All parties are entitled to have representation of their own designation; however each party shall be responsible for the costs of such respective representation.

Evaluation

The Board shall evaluate the Superintendent in writing during March of each year. The evaluation shall be presented to and discussed with the Superintendent by the President of the Board of Education. Before the commencement of each year of this agreement, the Board and Superintendent shall meet to discuss and determine the performance standards for said year. A summary evaluation shall be given at a regularly scheduled board meeting. At the time of the annual evaluation the Board will develop a compensation package.

In witness of this contract, we have set our hands and seals on this day and year.

St. Joseph County ISD Board of Education

By *[Signature]* President of the Board 6-21-21 Date

By *Terry L. Cropper, Jr.* Treasurer of the Board 6/23/2021 Date

By *[Signature]* Superintendent 6-21-21 Date

This contract was approved by a vote of the Board of Education at a public meeting on June 21, 2021, and the Board action has been made a part of its minutes.

3/23/2021