

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

This Contract is entered into between Independent School District No. 363, the South Koochiching Rainy River School District, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the School District, and Tara Lere hereinafter referred to as the Superintendent, a legally qualified and licensed superintendent who agrees to perform the duties of the Superintendent of the School District.

ARTICLE II APPLICABLE STATUTE

This Contract for Superintendent Services is entered into between the School District and the Superintendent in conformance with and governed by Minnesota Statutes 123B.143.

ARTICLE III LICENSE

The Superintendent shall furnish the School Board, throughout the life of this Contract, a valid and appropriate license to act as superintendent in the State of Minnesota as provided by applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

ARTICLE IV DURATION, EXPIRATION, TERMINATION DURING THE TERM, MUTUAL CONSENT, AND CONTINGENCY

Section 1. Duration: This Contract is for a term of two (2) years commencing on July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2028. It shall remain in full force and effect unless modified by mutual consent of the School Board and the Superintendent or unless terminated as provided in this Contract.

Section 2. Expiration: This Contract shall expire at the end of the term specified in Section 1 above. At the conclusion of its term, neither party shall have any further claim against the other, and the School District's employment of the Superintendent shall cease, unless a subsequent Contract is entered into in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 123B.143, Subd. 1.

Section 3. Termination During the Term: The Superintendent's employment may be terminated during the term of this Contract only for cause as defined in Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subd. 9 and Subd. 13, but, except for purposes of describing grounds for

discharge, the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 122A.40 shall not be applicable. If the School Board proposes to terminate the Superintendent during the term of this Contract for cause as described in Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subd. 9 or Subd. 13, it shall notify the Superintendent in writing of the proposed grounds for termination. The Superintendent shall be entitled to a hearing before an arbitrator provided the Superintendent makes such a request in writing to the School Board Chair within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the written notice of the proposed termination. In such event, the parties shall jointly petition the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) for a list of five (5) arbitrators. The arbitrator shall be selected by the parties through the striking process as provided by BMS rules. The arbitrator shall conduct a hearing under arbitration procedure rules and issue a written decision. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties, subject to judicial review of arbitration decisions as provided by law. The Superintendent may be suspended with pay pending final determination by the arbitrator. If the Superintendent fails to request a hearing as provided in this section within the fifteen (15)-day calendar period, the Superintendent shall be deemed to have acquiesced to the School Board's proposed action, and the proposed action shall become final on such date as determined by the School Board, and the Superintendent shall have no further claim or recourse.

Section 4. Notice of Intent: If the Superintendent intends to pursue a subsequent contract, the Superintendent must reasonably notify the School Board in writing of the notice requirement in order for it to be binding and effective. Failure of the School Board to take action authorizing the negotiation of a subsequent Contract in the first six months of the final year of this Contract, will serve as notice to the Superintendent that the School Board will not enter into a subsequent Contract.

Section 5. Subsequent Contract: If the School Board takes action authorizing the negotiation of a subsequent Contract, the parties will act in good faith to complete negotiations and enter the subsequent Contract within 90 calendar days prior to the end of this Contract. This written School Board action authorizing subsequent Contract negotiations must include a provision that, in the event that negotiations for a subsequent Contract have not been completed by the end of this Contract's term, the parties agree to enter into a subsequent Contract for the term set forth in the School Board's action and that the new subsequent Contract's compensation and benefits level in the last year of this Contract is the same as in the current Contract pending final negotiations of compensation and benefit terms for the new Contract.

Section 6. Mutual Consent: This Contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the School Board and the Superintendent.

Section 7. Contingency: If this Contract is a subsequent Contract entered into prior to the completion of an existing Contract, this subsequent Contract is contingent upon the Superintendent completing the terms of the existing Contract.

ARTICLE V DUTIES

The Superintendent shall have charge of the administration of the schools under the direction of the School Board. The Superintendent shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the School District; shall direct and assign teachers and other School District employees under the Superintendent's supervision; shall organize, reorganize, and arrange the administrative and supervisory staff, including instruction and business affairs, as best serves the School District subject to the approval of the School Board; shall select all personnel subject to the approval of the School Board; shall, from time to time, suggest policies, regulations, rules, and procedures deemed necessary for the School District; and, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the Superintendent and such other duties as may be prescribed by the School Board from time to time. The Superintendent shall abide by the policies, regulations, rules, and procedures established by the School Board and the State of Minnesota. The Superintendent shall have the right to attend all School Board meetings and all School Board and citizen committee meetings, serve as an ex-officio member of the School Board and all School Board committees, and provide administrative recommendations on each item of business considered by each of these groups.

ARTICLE VI DUTY YEAR AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Basic Work Year: The Superintendent's duty year shall be for the entire twelve (12)-month Contract year, and the Superintendent shall perform duties on those legal holidays on which the School Board is authorized to conduct school if the School Board so determines. The Superintendent shall be on duty during any emergency, natural or unnatural, unless otherwise excused in accordance with School Board administrative policy.

Section 2. Vacation: The Superintendent shall earn twenty (20) working days of annual paid vacation each Contract year. Unused vacation must be taken within six (6) months after the end of the Contract year in which it is earned. Upon voluntary termination of employment or expiration of the Contract, if not offered a subsequent Contract, the Superintendent shall be entitled to payment for any unused vacation days earned and accrued pursuant to the provisions of this section; however, if the Superintendent is involuntarily terminated, the Superintendent shall not be entitled to unused earned and accrued vacation days.

Section 3. Holidays: The Superintendent shall be entitled to 13 (thirteen) paid holidays as designated by the School Board each Contract year. Those holidays shall be New Year's Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Friday following Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.

Section 4. Sick Leave: Sick leave will not be earned during the term of this contract. Any unused sick leave accumulation earned prior to January 1, 2024, will be available for the Superintendent to use in conformance with Minnesota Statutes 181.9445 – 181.9448. Any unused sick leave accumulation earned after January 1, 2024, as provided for in a previous contract, will be added to the ESST accumulation, subject to the maximum accumulation, defined in Article VI, Section 5. Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST). Upon voluntary termination of employment or expiration of the Contract, if not offered a subsequent Contract, the Superintendent shall be entitled to payment for any unused sick leave days earned and accrued prior to January 1, 2024; however, if the Superintendent is involuntarily terminated, the Superintendent shall not be entitled to unused sick leave days earned and accrued prior to January 1, 2024.

Section 5. Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST): Earning, accumulation, usage, documentation, and notification will be in conformance with Minnesota Statutes 181.9445 – 181.9448. The Superintendent shall earn ESST at the rate of 15 (fifteen) days each working month and earned ESST may accumulate to a maximum of 90 (ninety) days.

Section 6. Workers' Compensation: Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 176, the Superintendent injured on the job in the service of the School District and collecting workers' compensation insurance may draw accrued leave and receive full salary from the School District, the salary to be reduced by an amount equal to the insurance payments, and only that fraction of the days not covered by insurance will be deducted from accrued leave.

Section 7. Bereavement Leave and Grieving Time:

Subd. 1. Bereavement Leave: ESST can be used for bereavement leave to make arrangements for or attend funeral services or a memorial, or address financial or legal matters that arise after the death of a family member. For the purposes of bereavement leave, "family member" is defined in Minnesota Statute, section 181.9445, subdivision 7.

Subd. 2. Grieving Time: The Superintendent shall be granted grieving leave following the death in the Superintendent's immediate family. "Immediate family" is defined as the Superintendent's child, adult child, spouse or registered domestic partner, sibling, parent, parent-in-law, grandchild,

grandparent, and all similar relationships that are preceded with "step" or "foster." The amount of time shall be determined after conferring with the School Board Chairperson.

Section 8. Emergency Leave: The Superintendent may be granted paid emergency leave at the discretion of the School Board.

Section 9. Jury Service: The Superintendent who serves on jury duty shall be granted the day or days necessary as stipulated by the court to discharge this responsibility without any salary deduction or loss of basic leave allowance. The compensation received for jury duty service shall be remitted to the School District.

Section 10. Military Leave: Military leave shall be granted pursuant to applicable law.

Section 11. Disability: If the Superintendent is unable to perform their regular duties because of personal illness or disability and has exhausted all accumulated leave, the School Board shall provide additional paid leave at a salary equal to ___ percent of the Superintendent's regular salary until the expiration of the waiting period for long-term disability insurance.

Section 12. Medical Leave: The Superintendent may be placed on a leave of absence for health reasons pursuant to the procedures outlined in Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, Subd. 12.

Section 13. Minnesota Paid Leave:

Subd. 1. Use: Effective January 1, 2026, Minnesota Paid Leave will provide partial wage replacement, job protection, benefit continuation, non-interference, non-retaliation to eligible Superintendents, as prescribed in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268B.

Subd 2. Request: When this program is implemented, Superintendents shall follow the process prescribed by the State of Minnesota to request leave.

Subd. 3. Premiums: The School District shall deduct .0044 percent (.44%) of the Superintendent's MN Paid Leave premium from wages and shall submit the wage deductions to the State of Minnesota as required by law.

Subd. 4. Supplemental Benefits: Superintendents may opt to use available leave to supplement the partial wage replacement benefits received from the Minnesota Paid Leave program so long as: (1) District policy permits District employees to do so; and (2) such policy is in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 268B.06. Total compensation received may not exceed the employee's regular wages.

Section 14. Insurance Application: A Superintendent on unpaid leave is eligible to continue to participate in group insurance programs if permitted under the insurance policy provisions. If the leave is not covered under the Minnesota Paid Leave law, the Superintendent shall pay the entire premium for such insurance commencing with the beginning of the leave and shall pay to the School District the monthly premium in advance. In the event the Superintendent is on paid leave from the School District, the School District will continue insurance contributions as provided in this Contract until paid leave is exhausted. Thereafter, the Superintendent must pay the entire premium for any insurance retained.

ARTICLE VII INSURANCE

Section 1. Health and Hospitalization and Dental Insurance: The School District shall provide the Superintendent with 100% single health and hospitalization insurance coverage under the School District's group health and hospitalization plan at the expense of the School District. The Superintendent shall also have the opportunity to enroll in the School District's voluntary dental insurance plan at the expense of the employee.

In the event this Contract will cause or does cause penalties, fees, or fines to be assessed against the School District, the parties agree to reopen negotiations that result in a revised Contract between the parties that eliminates or reduces penalties, fees, or fines to be assessed against the School District. The amount of any reduction in the School District's contribution toward the Superintendent's healthcare benefits as a result of addressing the "highly compensated employee" component of the ACA will be placed into another School District provided benefit) (i. e., a retirement HRA, salary, etc.) as agreed upon between the parties.

Section 2. Life Insurance: The School District shall provide, at its own expense, term life insurance for the Superintendent under the School District's group term life insurance plan in the amount of \$50,000 payable to the Superintendent's named beneficiary(ies).

Section 3. Long-Term Disability Insurance: The School District shall provide, at its own expense, long-term disability insurance for the Superintendent under the School District's group long-term disability insurance plan.

Section 4. Eligibility: The eligibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's dependent(s) and beneficiary(ies) for insurance benefits shall be governed by the terms of the insurance policies purchased by the School District pursuant to this article.

Section 5. Claims Against the School District: The School District's only obligation is to purchase the insurance policies described in this article, and no claim shall be made

against the School District as a result of denial of insurance benefits by an insurer if the School District has purchased the policies and paid the premiums described in this article.

ARTICLE VIII OTHER BENEFITS

Section 1. Tax-Sheltered Annuities: The Superintendent is eligible to participate in a tax-sheltered annuity plan through payroll deduction established pursuant to Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Subd. 15., School District policy, and as otherwise provided by law. The School District will provide a contribution match of up to \$3,000 for each contracted year into a District approved 403(b) vendor.

Section 2. Vehicle: The School District shall compensate the Superintendent for business use of the Superintendent's private vehicle at the rate of .70 cents per mile if no school vehicle is available for the trip and at .25 cents per mile when an employee chooses to use their own vehicle even though a school vehicle is available pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 471.665, Subd. 1 as allowed by Internal Revenue Service guidelines.

Section 3. Conferences and Meetings: The School District shall pay all legally valid expenses and fees for the Superintendent's attendance at professional conferences and meetings with other educational agencies when such attendance is required, directed, or permitted by the School Board. The Superintendent shall periodically report to the School Board relative to all meetings and conferences attended. The Superintendent shall file itemized expense statements to be processed and approved as provided by School Board policy and law.

ARTICLE IX SALARY

The Superintendent shall be paid an annual salary of \$115,000 for the 2026-2027 Contract year and \$117,000 for the 2027-2028 Contract year. During the term of this Contract, the annual salary may be modified but shall not be reduced. The annual salary shall be paid in equal installments during the Contract year.

ARTICLE X EVALUATE PERFORMANCE

The School Board and Superintendent shall mutually agree to an annual evaluation process consistent with the Minnesota Data Practices Act that includes, at a minimum, the following components: the establishment of goals and priorities, and selection of an evaluation tool which includes: timelines, responsibilities and steps. The content within the process of establishing goals and priorities is a School Board responsibility with consultation of the Superintendent on an annual basis.

ARTICLE XI OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1. Outside Activities: While the Superintendent shall devote full time and due diligence to the affairs and the activities of the School District, the Superintendent may also serve as a consultant to other school districts or educational agencies, lecture, engage in writing and speaking activities, and engage in other activities if, as solely determined by the School Board, such activities do not impede the Superintendent's ability to perform the duties of the superintendency. However, the Superintendent may not engage in other employment, consultant service, or other activity for which a salary, fee, or honorarium is paid without the prior approval of the School Board.

Section 2. Indemnification and Provision of Counsel: In the event that an action is brought or a claim is made against the Superintendent arising out of or in connection with their employment and the Superintendent is acting within the scope of employment or official duties, the School District shall defend and indemnify the Superintendent to the extent provided by law. Indemnification, as provided in this section, shall not apply in the case of malfeasance in office or willful or wanton neglect of duty, and the obligation of the School District in this regard shall be subject to the limitations as provided in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466. This indemnification and defense obligation extends to all costs and fees incurred by the Superintendent in any internal investigation of a claim against the Superintendent that does not result or would not have resulted in substantial disciplinary action against the Superintendent (defined as sufficient to create public data under the final disposition of a disciplinary action provisions of Minnesota Statutes 13.43, Subd. 2). Payment of legal fees includes when the Superintendent incurs individual legal costs in serving as a witness in a claim against the School District. Nothing herein affects the Superintendent's right to legal counsel of the Superintendent's choice. Nothing herein affects the parties' right to negotiate payment of legal fees as part of a separation agreement.

Section 3. Dues: The Superintendent is encouraged to belong to and participate in appropriate professional, educational, economic development, community, and civic organizations when such membership will serve the best interests of the School District. Accordingly, the School District will pay the membership dues for such organizations as are required, directed, or permitted by the School Board. The Superintendent shall present appropriate statements for approval as provided by law.

ARTICLE XII SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Contract shall be severable, and if any such provision or the application of any such provision under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provisions of this Contract or the application of any provision thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
subscribed my signature this ____ day of _____,
20__.

Superintendent

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed
my signature this ____ day of _____,
20__.

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk