

**EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT - SUPERINTENDENT**

Pursuant to Section 1229(1) of the Revised School Code and in accordance with the action found in the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes of the **Board of Education** ("Board") of the **East Lansing Public Schools** ("School District"), the Board employs **Dr. Robyne Thompson** ("Superintendent") for a three (3)-year period beginning July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2017, according to the terms and conditions of this Contract of Employment as specifically described below. Any extension of this Contract requires the express approval of the Board. Not later than March 30, 2017, the Board shall review this Contract with the Superintendent and determine whether it will be extended beyond June 30, 2017.

1. **Duties.** Dr. Robyne Thompson shall faithfully and diligently perform the duties of Superintendent as required by law and as prescribed by the Board, as well as those duties that may be further established, modified, or amended from time to time by the Board. The Superintendent acknowledges the ultimate authority of the Board as to her duties and agrees to faithfully perform those duties and to diligently implement the Board's policies and education programs, including but not limited to Board Policy 2020 (Administrative Organization), Board Policy 2100 (School Superintendent), Board Policy 2105 (Board/Superintendent Relations), Board Policy 2120 (Duties of the Superintendent), Board Policy 2200 (Consulting Activities), and Board Policy 2750 (Administrative Rules).

2. **Qualifications.** The Superintendent represents that she possesses and will maintain all certificates, credentials, and qualifications required by law, including Sections 1246 and 1536 of the Revised School Code, Michigan Department of Education regulations, and those required by the Board to serve in the position assigned, including but not limited to Board Policy 2110 (Superintendent Qualifications).

A. As a condition of her continued employment, the Superintendent also agrees to meet all continuing education requirements for the position assigned, as may be required by law or by the Michigan State Board of Education, and/or the Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction.

B. If at any time the Superintendent fails to maintain all certificates, credentials, continuing education requirements, or qualifications for the assigned administrative position, this Contract shall automatically terminate and the Board shall have no further obligation under its terms.

3. **Performance.** The Superintendent agrees to devote her talents, skills, efforts, and abilities toward competently and proficiently fulfilling all duties and responsibilities of the position assigned, including compliance with the directives of the Board to carry out its policies and educational programs.

A. The Superintendent agrees to comply with and fulfill all responsibilities and tasks for which she is responsible as required by state and federal law, as well as by the Board through its policies, regulations, and directives.

- B. The Superintendent pledges to use her best efforts to maintain and improve the quality of School District operations and to constantly promote efficiency in all areas of her responsibility.
- C. The Superintendent agrees that she will diligently and competently discharge her duties on behalf of the School District to enhance its operations and will use her best efforts to maintain and improve the quality of the District's programs and services.

4. **Performance Evaluation.** The Superintendent's performance shall be evaluated by the Board, at least annually, and pursuant to Board Policy 2250. This evaluation process shall comply with Section 1249 of the Revised School Code (or its successor provision), using multiple rating categories that take into account student growth data as a significant factor. See MCL 380.1249.

5. **Compensation.** The Superintendent shall be paid at an annual (12-month) salary rate of not less than One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$138,000.00) in consideration of her performance of the duties and responsibilities of the position assigned in conformance with the requirements and expectations of the Board.

- A. The annual salary shall be paid in twenty-six (26) equal bi-weekly installments, beginning with the commencement of the Contract year (July 1 - June 30).
- B. The Board retains the right to increase the Superintendent's annual salary during the term of this Contract.
- C. Consistent with Section 1250 of the Revised School Code and Board Policy 2150 (Superintendent Compensation and Benefits), the Superintendent's job performance and job accomplishment will be significant factors in determining any adjustment to the Superintendent's compensation. See MCL 380.1250.
- D. Any adjustment in salary made during the term of this Contract shall be in the form of a written amendment and, when executed by the Superintendent and the Board, shall become a part of this Contract.

6. **Tax-Deferred Annuity.** If the Superintendent receives a rating of "effective" or "highly effective" on her annual performance evaluation under ¶ 4, the Board shall contribute the following amount as a non-elective contribution to a 403b annuity designated by the Superintendent from a list of eligible programs available through the District's 403b Plan:

- Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) at the end of the 2014-2015 school year only;
- Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) at the end of the 2015-2016 school year only; and
- Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) at the end of the 2016-2017 school year only;

The Board shall remit this contribution, if any, no later than June 30 as part of the Superintendent's compensation for the Contract year ending on that date.

7. **Reimbursed Expenses.** Consistent with Board Policy 3600, the District shall reimburse the Superintendent for all reasonable expenses resulting from the performance of her duties as Superintendent, including travel, meals, and lodging in accordance with the District's per diem

expense and reimbursement procedures. The Board shall supply the Superintendent with a credit card that she may use for District-related expenses in compliance with Board Policy 3605.

8. **Professional Development.** Subject to approval by the Board President and consistent with Board Policy 2170 (Professional Development Opportunities), the Superintendent may attend appropriate professional meetings, conferences, or workshops at the local, state, and national levels, as well as training related to professional development and certification. The District shall pay the Superintendent's reasonable expenses related to said attendance including registration fees, tuition, travel, lodging, and meal expenses for herself.

9. **Professional Dues.** The School District shall pay the Superintendent's association dues for membership in the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA), and the MASA region in which the School District is located. The School District will pay the costs of other memberships for the Superintendent with the Board President's approval.

10. **Transportation.** The School District shall reimburse the Superintendent for use of her motor vehicle while conducting School District business. Such reimbursement is limited to travel outside of Ingham County and shall be at the then-applicable School District mileage reimbursement rate.

11. **Residency.** Board Policy 2220 (Residency Requirements) provides that the Superintendent has 365 days from the beginning of the contracted employment date to establish residency within a 20 mile radius of the District's boundaries, subject to state law. Noncompliance with this Policy requirement shall result in the Superintendent's termination at the end of the first school year in which statutory and other required notices of termination can be timely given.

12. **Moving Expenses.** If the Superintendent elects to establish residency in the East Lansing Public Schools District, the Superintendent shall be reimbursed up to Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) towards the reasonable expenses to move customary household items to her residence in the East Lansing Public Schools District.

13. **Insurance Programs.** Upon proper application and acceptance for enrollment by the appropriate insurance underwriter, policyholder, or third-party administrator, the Board shall make premium payments on behalf of the Superintendent and her eligible dependents for the following insurance programs, subject to possible modification as stated in ¶ 14 below.

A. Health and hospitalization insurance.

The Board shall make premium payments on behalf of the Superintendent and her eligible dependents for MESSA Choices 2 (PAK) with: Saver RX; \$500/\$1,000 in-network deductible; \$20 OV, \$20 UR, \$50 ER. The Superintendent will be responsible, through payroll deduction for payment of 20% percent of the medical benefit plan cost attributable to the applicable enrollment category (i.e., single subscriber, two-person, family).

B. Dental insurance:

The Board shall provide a dental insurance program at 80% of Class I benefits, 80% of Class II benefits, and 80% of Class III benefits with a \$1,000 maximum, as provided by Delta Dental Insurance.

C. Vision insurance:

The Board shall provide MESSA Vision Services Plan 2 (VSP-2).

D. Term life insurance:

The Board shall provide the Superintendent group life insurance protection at a rate of two (2) times the sum of the Superintendent's current contracted salary; said insurance policy is payable to the Superintendent's designated beneficiary with provisions for double indemnity in the event of accidental death.

E. Long-term disability insurance:

The Board shall provide the Superintendent an insured income continuation plan for disability extending beyond the Superintendent's accumulated sick leave. The Board will guarantee sixty percent (60%) of the Superintendent's income from the tenth (10th) working day following the exhaustion of sick days and continuing to ninety (90) days at which time the long term disability (LTD) policy will activate. The benefits of this plan are summarized in the attached document entitled MESSA "Negotiated LTD Plan Highlights."

The Superintendent agrees that the Board has the right to allocate to the Superintendent responsibility for a portion of the benefit plan costs for the insurance coverage specified above, as may be determined by the Board, in its discretion. This contribution, however, shall not be less than the amount determined by the Board to be necessary to comply with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, MCL 15.561 et seq. The Board will notify the Superintendent of the amount for which she is responsible in excess of the Board-paid benefit plan costs contributions. The Superintendent agrees that the amount of benefit plan costs contributions designated by the Board as the Superintendent's responsibility shall be payroll-deducted from the Superintendent's compensation.

14. Insurance Contracts. The Board reserves the right to change the identity of the insurance carrier, policyholder, or third-party administrator for any of the coverage for the plans and programs identified in ¶ 13, provided that comparable coverage (as determined by the Board) is maintained during the term of this Contract.

- A. The Board shall not be required to remit premiums for any insurance coverage for the Superintendent and her eligible dependents if enrollment or coverage is denied by the insurance underwriter, policyholder, or third-party administrator.

- B. The terms of any contract or policy issued by any insurance company or third-party administrator shall be controlling as to all matters concerning benefits, eligibility, coverage, termination of coverage, and other related matters.
- C. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring the completion of all forms and documents needed to receive the above-described insurance coverage.
- D. The Board, by remitting the premium payments required to provide the above-described insurance coverage(s), shall be relieved from all liability with respect to insurance benefits.

15. **Errors and Omissions Insurance.** The Board agrees to pay the premium amount for errors and omissions insurance coverage which includes the Superintendent while engaged in the performance of a governmental function and while the Superintendent is acting within the scope of her authority. The policy limits for this coverage shall be not less than Five Million Dollars (\$5 million).

- A. The terms of the errors and omissions insurance policy shall control the Superintendent's defense and indemnity. The Board's sole obligation shall be limited to the payment of premium amounts for the above errors and omissions coverage.
- B. If such insurance coverage cannot be purchased in the above amount or at a reasonable premium rate, the Board will promptly notify the Superintendent of that fact and the parties will promptly meet and confer to reach a mutually agreeable solution to address that situation. In that event, the Board agrees on a case-by-case basis to consider providing legal defense or indemnification to the Superintendent as authorized under MCL 691.1408 and MCL 380.11a(3)(d).

16. **Vacation.** The Superintendent is employed on the basis of fifty-two (52) weeks of work per contract year (July 1 - June 30), as scheduled by the Board. The Superintendent shall be granted vacation time of twenty (20) days per contract year, in addition to the holidays recognized by the School District and identified in ¶ 17 below.

- A. The Superintendent shall schedule use of vacation days in a manner to minimize interference with the School District's business and orderly operation. All vacation scheduling is subject to the approval of the Board President.
- B. Vacation days must be used within the Contract year for which they are made available and shall not accumulate beyond the Contract year. The Superintendent may carry over up to five (5) unused vacation days into the next contract year.
- C. Upon separation from employment with the District, the Superintendent shall be paid on a per-diem basis for up to a maximum of five (5) unused vacation days.

17. **Holidays.** Consistent with the School District's calendar, the Superintendent is entitled to the following holidays for which no service to the School District is required: Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day and Christmas (or the two days surrounding December 24 and 25 if they fall on a non-work day), New Year's Eve Day, New Year's

Day (or the two days surrounding December 31 and January 1 if they fall on a non-work day), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day.

18. **Paid Leave Days.** If the Superintendent is absent from duty due to personal illness or personal business, she shall be allowed full pay for a total of thirteen (13) days per Contract year. Unused paid leave days shall accumulate to a maximum of ninety (90) days for use for absence due to personal illness only. Unused paid leave days are not subject to pay-out upon the Superintendent's employment separation with the District.

19. **Disability Leave.** In the event of the Superintendent's mental or physical incapacity to perform the duties of her assignment, she shall be granted an initial leave of ninety (90) work days for purpose of recovery. The Superintendent shall first exhaust any accumulated sick leave and accrued vacation time, with the balance of the ninety (90) work day period to be unpaid. Upon using leave under this provision, the Superintendent shall furnish medical certification to the Board (or its designee) as to the necessity for the leave.

- A. If the Board (or designee) has reason to doubt the validity of the medical certification supplied by the Superintendent, it may require a second opinion, at Board expense.
- B. The Superintendent may request a ninety (90) work-day unpaid leave extension in the event of her physical or mental inability to return to work at the expiration of the initial leave interval, as described above, provided that there is a verified prognosis that the Superintendent will be able to resume her duties at the end of the extended leave interval. Medical certification shall be supplied by the Superintendent as a condition to any leave extension. Any extensions of leave for this purpose shall be at the Board's discretion.
- C. If the Superintendent is unable to or does not resume work at the conclusion of a leave taken under this paragraph (or any leave extension); her employment and this Contract may be terminated at the Board's option. However, no such termination shall occur when restoration after leave is required by the Family and Medical Leave Act.
- D. Before any resumption of duty after an unpaid leave of absence for a serious health condition, the Superintendent shall provide to the Board a fitness for duty certification from the Superintendent's health care provider. A second opinion may be required by the Board, at its expense, unless the securing of the second opinion is precluded by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

20. **Medical Examination.** The Superintendent shall submit to such medical examinations (including drug or alcohol tests, as well as psychological or psychiatric evaluation), supply such information, and execute such documents as may be required by any underwriter, policyholder, or third-party administrator providing insurance programs specified under this Contract, or as may be directed by the Board to determine the Superintendent's ability to perform the essential job functions required by her assignment, with or without reasonable job accommodation(s).

- A. Upon the Board's request, the Superintendent shall authorize the release of medical information necessary to determine if the Superintendent is able to perform the essential job functions required by her assignment, with or without reasonable job accommodation(s).

- B. Any medical examination or disclosure of such information required of the Superintendent by the Board shall be job-related and consistent with business necessity.
- C. Any medical examination under this section shall be at Board expense and shall be conducted by appropriate medical personnel of the Board's choice.
- D. Any information obtained from medical examinations or inquiries shall be confidential. The Superintendent may receive the results of Board-ordered tests and examinations upon written request.

21. **Administrator Benefits.** The Superintendent shall be entitled to any other benefits that the Board authorizes and approves for other School District administrators. In any case of inconsistency or contradiction, the terms of the Superintendent's Contract shall control.

22. **No Tenure in Position.** In accordance with Board Policy 2140 (Superintendent Appointment) and applicable law, the Superintendent agrees that she shall not be deemed to have been granted tenure in the administrative position initially assigned or to which she may be assigned or transferred or in any capacity other than that of a classroom teacher.

23. **Nonrenewal.** The Board's decision not to continue or renew the Superintendent's employment for any subsequent period in any capacity (other than as a classroom teacher as may be required by the Michigan Teachers' Tenure Act) shall not be deemed a breach of this Contract or a discharge or demotion under the Michigan Teachers' Tenure Act.

24. **Termination.** The Board is entitled to terminate the Superintendent's employment at any time during the term of this Contract when it determines that the Superintendent has engaged in any act of moral turpitude, misconduct, dishonesty, fraud, insubordination, incompetency, inefficiency, or if the Superintendent materially breaches the terms and conditions of this Contract, or for any other reason determined to be sufficient by the Board.

- A. The foregoing standard for termination of this Contract during its term shall not apply to nonrenewal of this Contract at the expiration of its term, which decision is discretionary with the Board and shall be governed by Section 1229 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1229.
- B. If the Board undertakes to dismiss the Superintendent during the term of this Contract, she shall be entitled to written notice of charges and an opportunity for a hearing before the Board.
- C. If the Board terminates the Superintendent's employment during the term of this Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate and the Board shall have no further contractual obligation to the Superintendent.

25. **Arbitration.** If a dispute relating to the Superintendent's termination arises during the term of this Contract, the parties agree to submit such dispute to binding arbitration. Selection of the arbitrator and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted under the National Rules for the Resolution of Employment Disputes of, and administered by, the American Arbitration Association, and shall comply with the Michigan Uniform Arbitration Act, MCL 691.1681 et seq.

- A. The parties intend that this process of dispute resolution shall include all contract and statutory claims advanced by the Superintendent arising from her termination during the term of this Contract, including (but not limited to) claims of unlawful discrimination and all claims for damages or other relief. However, this agreement to arbitrate does not restrict the Superintendent from filing a claim or charge with any state or federal agency (such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights), and does not apply to any claims for unemployment compensation or workers' compensation which may be brought by the Superintendent. Instead, this agreement to arbitrate claims applies to those matters which would otherwise be subject to state or federal court proceedings.
- B. This agreement to arbitrate means that the Superintendent is waiving her right to adjudicate discrimination claims in a judicial forum and is instead opting to arbitrate those claims. In any such arbitration proceeding, the Superintendent has the right to representation by counsel of her choice, the right to appointment of a neutral arbitrator, the right to reasonable discovery, and the right to a fair hearing. However, the Superintendent, through this agreement to arbitrate such claims, does not waive any statutory rights or remedies in the context of such arbitration proceedings.
- C. The arbitrator's fee and the costs imposed by the American Arbitration Association shall be shared equally by the Board and the Superintendent, subject to the Superintendent's right to seek to tax such fees as costs against the Board.
- D. Any claim for arbitration under this provision must be filed with the American Arbitration Association, in writing, and served on the Board within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of the Superintendent's termination during the term of this Contract. The arbitrator's Decision and Award shall be final and binding on the parties. Judgment thereon may be entered in a court of competent jurisdiction.

26. **Limitations.** The Superintendent agrees that any claim or suit arising out of her employment with the Board must be filed no more than six (6) months after the date of the employment action that is the subject of the claim or suit. The Superintendent understands that the statute of limitations for claims arising out of an employment action may be longer than six (6) months, but agrees to be bound by the six (6) month period of limitation set forth in this Contract and expressly waives any statute of limitations to the contrary. Should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this provision allows an unreasonably short period of time to commence a lawsuit, it is the parties' intent that the court will enforce this provision to the extent possible and declare the lawsuit barred unless it was brought within the minimum reasonable time within which the suit should have been commenced.

27. **Entire Agreement.** This Contract contains the entire agreement and understanding between the Board and the Superintendent about the Superintendent's employment. Prior or concurrent representations, promises, contracts, or understandings (written or oral) not contained in this Contract have no effect.

- A. Any prior agreement (written or oral) pertaining to the terms of this Contract is cancelled and superseded by this Contract. Provided, however, that this Contract is voidable under the Revised School Code's provisions pertaining to criminal history and records checks.

B. No change or modification of this Contract shall be valid or binding unless it is in writing, approved by official action of the Board as reflected in its minutes, and signed by the Superintendent and the President and Secretary of the Board.


C. No valid waiver of any provision of this Contract, at any time, shall be deemed a waiver of any other provisions of this Contract at such time or at any other time.

28. **Voidability.** If any provision of this Contract becomes or is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, unenforceable, or void, this Contract shall continue in full force and effect without said provision(s).

29. **Authorization.** This Contract is executed on behalf of the School District pursuant to the authority contained in the Board resolution adopted on June 9, 2014, the same to be incorporated by reference.

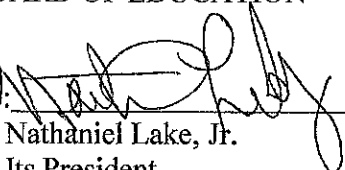
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Contract to be executed on the date noted.

Date: June 9, 2014

SUPERINTENDENT


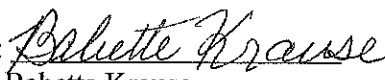
Dr. Robyn Thompson

Date: June 9, 2014

EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
By: 

Nathaniel Lake, Jr.
Its President

Date: June 9, 2014

By: 

Babette Krause
Its Secretary

**FIRST AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION TO EAST LANSING
PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT -
SUPERINTENDENT**

NOW COME the parties hereto, the Board of Education of the School District of the City of East Lansing (“the Board”), also known as East Lansing Public Schools, and Dr. Robyne Thompson (“the Superintendent) and, pursuant to Paragraph 5D and 27B of the Contract of Employment between the Board and the Superintendent dated June 9, 2014, modify said contract as follows:

Paragraph 5B of the Contract of Employment shall be modified as follows:

- For contract year 2015-2016 the Superintendent shall receive a one percent (1.0%) off-schedule salary increase.

Paragraph 16 of the Contract of Employment shall be modified as follows:

- Beginning with contract year 2015-2016 the Superintendent shall be granted vacation time of twenty (25) days per contract year.
- B. Unused vacation days exceeding the carryover limit of five (5) days shall be placed in the Superintendent’s personal leave bank.

Paragraph 18 of the Contract of Employment shall be modified as follows:

- Beginning with contract year 2015-2016 the Superintendent shall be granted a total of seventeen (17) personal business / illness days.
- Unused paid leave days are subject to payout upon the Superintendent’s employment separation with the District at one hundred dollars (\$100) for each unused day and per the following limitations:
 - There shall be no payout for completion of less than three (3) years of employment as the Superintendent of the District.
 - The maximum payout shall be three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) for completion of three (3) to five (5) years of employment as the Superintendent of the District.

- o The maximum payout shall be seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) for completion of six (6) or more years of employment as the Superintendent of the District.

All other provisions of the contract of employment entered into on June 9, 2014 shall remain the same.

IT WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this FIRST AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION TO CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT to be executed in their respective names and in case of the Board of Education, by its President, on the 28th day of September, 2015.

Paul J. [Signature]
Witness

[Signature]
Dr. Robyne Thompson, Superintendent

Paul J. [Signature]
Witness

[Signature]
Neil Kuhnmuensch, President of the Board of Education