

**GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027

AGREEMENT made this December 22, 2023, between the Greenfield School Committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee," and Karin Patenaude, hereinafter referred to as the "Superintendent."

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises contained herein, the parties hereto mutually covenant and agree as follows:

(1)

EMPLOYMENT:

The Committee hereby employs Karin Patenaude as Superintendent of the Greenfield Public Schools, and Karin Patenaude hereby accepts employment as Superintendent of the Greenfield Public Schools, subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter provided.

(2)

DURATION:

- A. The Superintendent shall be employed for a period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. For purposes of this Agreement, the anniversary date shall be July 1 of each year.
- B. The Superintendent shall notify the Committee in writing, on or before June 1, 2026, as to the Superintendent's desire for a successor contract.
- C. The Committee, on or before June 30, 2026, shall notify the Superintendent, in writing, as to whether or not it wishes to commence negotiations for a successor Agreement. Failure of the Committee to give such notice shall be considered the same as notice by the Committee that it does not wish to commence negotiations for a successor Agreement. In such event, this Agreement shall terminate, as herein before provided, on June 30, 2027.
- D. In the event that both the Superintendent and the Committee give notice to each other indicating their desire to commence negotiations for a successor Agreement, the parties hereto shall meet and shall attempt to conclude negotiations by October 1, 2026.
- E. Anything contained herein to the contrary notwithstanding, this contract will automatically terminate on June 30, 2027, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the parties.
- F. The Superintendent may resign from her position by providing ninety (90) calendar days of notice in writing to the Chair of the Committee.

(3)

COMPENSATION:

- A. Effective July 1, 2024, the Superintendent shall be paid an annual base salary of

\$166,000. Effective July 1, 2025, the Superintendent shall be paid an annual base salary of \$173,000.00. Effective July 1, 2026, the Superintendent shall be paid an annual base salary of \$180,000. Said amounts shall be payable in periodic installments on the same basis as other professional personnel in the School District, subject to such deductions for income taxes, retirement and other withholdings, as are authorized by the parties or required by law.

- B. Additional annual increases to the Superintendent’s base salary, beyond the minimum percentage increases set forth above, may be provided if the Superintendent’s overall performance rating based on the Superintendent’s annual evaluation is proficient or better.
- C. In no event shall the Superintendent’s salary be reduced during the term of this agreement.

(4)

WORK YEAR AND LEAVE BENEFITS:

- A. Work Year: The work year for the Superintendent is a twelve-month work year, between July 1 and June 30 of each Contract Year. The Superintendent shall devote the Superintendent’s full-time, skill, labor and attention to the discharge of the Superintendent’s duties for the Greenfield Public Schools. Because the Superintendent's work day frequently begins before and extends beyond normal working hours, reasonable time off during the day for personal reasons or business will be allowed without loss of pay or deduction from personal or vacation leave.
- B. Sick Leave: The Superintendent shall receive twenty-five (25) front-loaded sick days at the start of this contract. Each subsequent year of this agreement the Superintendent shall receive an additional fifteen (15) sick days. Fifteen (15) days of paid sick leave per year may be used for personal illness or injury. The Superintendent may carry over unused accrued sick leave days into subsequent Contract Years up to a maximum of two hundred and twenty-five (225) days. At separation of service from Greenfield Public Schools, one-quarter of any unused sick leave will be paid out.
- C. Holidays: The Superintendent shall receive the following paid holidays:

New Year’s Day (1/1)	Indigenous Peoples' Day
Martin Luther King Day	Veterans’ Day
Presidents’ Day	1/2 Day before Thanksgiving Day
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Day
Patriots’ Day	Friday after Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Day before Christmas (12/24)
Juneteenth (6/19)	Christmas Day (12/25)
Independence Day	Day After Christmas (12/26)
Labor Day	1/2 day on New Year's Eve (12/31)

- D. Personal Leave: The District may grant the Superintendent up to three (3) personal days with pay per Contract Year, for important legal or personal business which cannot be conducted outside of

the Superintendent's work day or for emergencies. Unused personal leave at the end of a Contract Year shall be added to the Superintendent's accrued sick leave.

- E. **Vacation Leave:** The Superintendent shall receive each contract year twenty-five (25) working days of paid vacation, which shall be credited on the first day of each Contract Year. The Superintendent may carry over up to ten (10) vacation days to the following year (i.e., a total maximum of thirty-five (35) days in any Contract Year). The Superintendent may redeem unused vacation leave on an annual basis, not to exceed ten (10) days at the current per diem rate by notifying the Committee of his/her intent to do so on or before June 15 of each fiscal year. In the event that this Contract is terminated for any reason prior to its expiration date, the Superintendent's vacation entitlement in the year of termination shall be deemed earned pro rata on a monthly basis. Any additional unused vacation days shall be deemed waived. For example, if the Superintendent separated from employment halfway through the Contract Year and had not used any vacation days and the Superintendent has ten (10) vacation carry over days, the Superintendent would be entitled to payment for twenty-two and one-half (22.5) vacation days.
- F. **Bereavement Leave:** The Superintendent will be allowed up to five (5) bereavement days without loss of pay to make funeral arrangements and/or to attend the funeral/memorial service for the Superintendent's spouse, child, father, mother, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparent, grandchild or other person residing in the Superintendent's household. The Superintendent will be allowed up to three (3) bereavement days with pay per Contract Year to attend the funeral/memorial service for the Superintendent's aunt or uncle. Two (2) additional days shall be granted for the death of an immediate family member requiring travel in excess of two hundred (200) miles. Additional bereavement leave may be granted and approved by the School Committee Chair.
- G. **Leave Pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"):** The Superintendent may take any leave to which the Superintendent is entitled pursuant to the FMLA. The Superintendent shall use all of the Superintendent's accrued paid leave (sick leave and personal leave) to which the Superintendent is otherwise entitled during any FMLA leave (note: sick leave is only available in accordance with Section B above). Should the Superintendent exhaust the Superintendent's accrued paid leave prior to the expiration of the FMLA leave, the remainder of any such leave shall be unpaid.
- H. **Leave Pursuant to the Small Necessities Leave Act ("SNLA"), Domestic Violence Leave Act ("DVLA") and the Parental Leave Act ("PLA"):** The Superintendent may take any unpaid leave to which the Superintendent is entitled pursuant to the SNLA, DVLA, and/or PLA.
- I. **Snow Days/Emergency Closure:** The Superintendent will be on call on snow days, or when school is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency reasons. If the Superintendent is not required to report to work, there will be no loss of pay.
- J. **Jury Duty:** If Superintendent is required to be absent from work because of jury duty, the Superintendent shall continue to be paid the Superintendent's regular salary during the period of time that the Superintendent is on jury duty minus any remuneration received for such service. Absence from work because of jury duty will not adversely affect the retention and/or accrual of any benefits.

(5)

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

- A. Professional meeting, professional association memberships, and workshop time as follows:

- a. Days without loss of pay for appropriate professional meetings (e.g., D.E.S.E., CES, Conn. Valley Superintendents' Roundtable, M.A.S.S., M.A.S.C.).
 - b. Days without loss of pay for appropriate in-state workshops and conference days (i.e. with prior notification to the Greenfield School Committee) to meet D.E.S.E. re-certification requirements. This includes being asked to speak or present to a professional group or organization provided the Superintendent is not being paid for said presentation.
 - c. Days without loss of pay for attendance at meetings, workshops and conferences requested by the Greenfield School Committee.
- B. Days without loss of pay every year to attend a national school administrators' convention, dependent on the Superintendent's schedule and workload at the time of the convention.
Payment of fees for the following:
- a. Annual membership in MASS, AASA, and ASCD.
 - b. Ongoing participation in the MASS New Superintendent's Induction Program.
 - c. New Superintendents Induction Program sponsored by M.A.S.S.
 - d. Attendance, lodging, and registration for meetings and conferences referenced in paragraph 5 A above.

(6)

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES:

- A. The Superintendent may accept speaking, writing, lecturing or other engagements of a professional nature as the Superintendent sees fit, provided they do not interfere with the Superintendent's duties.
- B. The Superintendent may undertake or engage in consulting work of any nature, for a maximum of five (5) days per calendar year, after first notifying the Chairperson of the Committee, provided that the consulting work does not interfere with the performance of the Superintendent's duties.

(7)

REIMBURSEMENT:

- A. Travel: The District shall pay the Superintendent a travel stipend of \$5,000.00 per year, payable in two installments during each contract year in May and November. This stipend is to cover in-district travel as well as in-state travel to meetings as necessary in accordance with the Superintendent's job responsibilities. This amount shall be payable without submission of receipts, and includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. To conduct the appropriate business of the Greenfield School District (i.e., for mileage and parking when traveling outside the school district).
 - b. With advance approval of the School Committee Chair, to attend any additional professional meetings, conventions, seminars or workshops not specified in paragraph 5 A or B above, which further the professional development or training of the Superintendent.
- B. Cell Phone: The District will pay for the cost of the Superintendent's phone. In addition to any desktop computer that remains at the Central Office, the District will provide a laptop computer for the Superintendent's use. The laptop shall be returned to the District upon separation from employment.

(8)

HEALTH INSURANCE:

- A. Group Health Insurance: The Superintendent may elect to obtain group health, dental, prescription and vision insurance available to employees and their dependents in the Greenfield Public Schools on the same terms and conditions as such insurance is generally available to employees in the Greenfield Public Schools, and the Superintendent recognizes that the Greenfield Public Schools and the City of Greenfield may change such terms and conditions and such insurance, applicable to all municipal employees, from time to time. If the Superintendent declines to obtain such health insurance, the Superintendent shall provide proof of health insurance coverage through another source and shall complete any required documentation including the Massachusetts Health Insurance Responsibility Disclosure ("HIRD") form.
- B. Life Insurance: Greenfield Public Schools will pay for \$300,000 in Life Insurance coverage for the Superintendent.
- C. Other Insurances: The Superintendent is eligible for other insurances on the same terms and conditions as such insurances are generally available to other non-unionized employees in the Greenfield Public Schools and the Superintendent recognizes that the Greenfield Public Schools and the City of Greenfield may change such terms and conditions and such insurances, applicable to all municipal employees, from time to time.

(9)

DUTIES:

- A. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 59B, other applicable laws, the Superintendent's job description in effect as of the date of execution of this agreement, and the lawful policies of the District, the Superintendent shall be responsible to manage the Greenfield Public Schools and will act as the Executive Officer of the School Committee. The Superintendent recognizes that the Superintendent's responsibilities and conduct are not determined by prescribed hours and conditions and will perform the duties of the position as determined by the Committee and will expend the time and effort necessary to effectively achieve the goals and purposes of the Greenfield Public Schools. The Committee reserves the right to request lawful amendments to the Superintendent's job description with commensurate increases in compensation at any time. The Superintendent's job performance will be evaluated in accordance with such amended job description, provided the Superintendent receives adequate advanced notice of such amendments in the job description that would make it fair for the Committee to evaluate the Superintendent in accordance with such amended job description.
- B. The Superintendent's powers, as described in paragraph A of this Section 8, may be limited by any official action of the Committee that is consistent with the provisions of the Education Reform Act and not in conflict with the terms of this Agreement or with state or federal law.
- C. The Committee, individually and collectively, will promptly refer to the Superintendent for the Superintendent's study and recommendation all criticisms, complaints and suggestions that are brought to their attention and which they deem important enough to warrant the Superintendent's attention. Such matters not brought to the Superintendent's attention pursuant to this clause will not be used against the Superintendent in the evaluation or in any disciplinary proceedings including termination proceedings.

(10)

EVALUATIONS:

Greenfield School Committee has the right to evaluate the Superintendent annually, utilizing the Massachusetts Model System for Evaluation, including but not limited to: the DESE Model Rubric for Superintendents and the DESE Implementation Guide for Superintendent Evaluation and mutually agreed upon (by both the Superintendent and School Committee) performance goals, none of which shall contain performance standards or expectations that are in conflict with the Education Reform Act, the DESE Model System of Superintendent Evaluation, or any other statute or official regulation thereof and, provided further that all such evaluation activities will be conducted with the knowledge of the Superintendent and anonymous or unsigned evaluative materials or comments shall not be considered by the Committee, in the course of fulfilling the DESE regulations. The Superintendent and the Chair will develop an evaluation timeline that is agreeable to both parties. All evaluations shall be compiled by the Greenfield School Committee and be signed by both the Chair of the Greenfield School Committee and Superintendent.

(11)

LICENSE:

Prior to commencement of employment, the Superintendent shall furnish to the Committee a copy of the Superintendent's license. The Superintendent hereby represents to the Committee that the Superintendent is currently licensed to serve as a School Superintendent pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Superintendent shall maintain, throughout the term of this Agreement, a valid and appropriate license qualifying the Superintendent to serve as a School Superintendent in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as required by Massachusetts General Laws, as such may be amended from time to time. The Superintendent agrees to notify the Committee within 24 hours of the Superintendent's license being revoked, rescinded, or lapsed.

(12)

INDEMNIFICATION:

A. The Committee agrees to indemnify the Superintendent when the Superintendent is acting within the scope of the Superintendent's official duties to the extent permitted by and subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws. The Superintendent shall, within five (5) workdays of the time the Superintendent is served with any summons, complaint, process, notice, demand or pleading, deliver a copy of the same to the District. The parties understand and agree that this indemnification provision shall not apply to actions by the District to suspend and/or terminate the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall comply with all obligations to assist in any litigation instituted in which the statutory indemnification is applicable provided, however, that upon cessation of the employment relationship, the Superintendent shall be compensated for participation in the presentation or preparation of a case in a judicial, administrative or arbitral forum at the per diem rate of pay that was in effect as of the last date of employment with the district.

B. This Section 12 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

(13)

TERMINATION:

A. The Committee may dismiss the Superintendent at any time prior to the expiration date of this Agreement for

inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a superintendent, insubordination, failure to meet the performance standards of the contract, as modified by the DESE Model System for Superintendent Evaluation, and approved job description, or other good cause. Good cause shall be defined as any ground put forth by the Committee in good faith that is not arbitrary, irrational, unreasonable or irrelevant to the task of building and maintaining an efficient school system(s). In the event the Committee intends to dismiss the Superintendent, the Superintendent will be given at least thirty (30) days prior written notice, including a statement of the charges against the Superintendent, provision of documents relating to the reasons for the termination, and a hearing by the Committee, at which the Superintendent shall have the right to have legal representation present.

- B. Any dispute about the termination of the Superintendent by the Committee shall be settled and determined by arbitration in accordance with the Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA), and an award by an Arbitrator selected pursuant to such rules shall be final and binding on the parties. These proceedings may be initiated by filing a demand for arbitration with AAA. The remedy of the arbitrator shall be reasonable financial compensation rather than reinstatement to the position.
- C. A dismissal by the Committee in compliance with Paragraph 12(A) shall sever any and all rights that the Superintendent shall have under this Agreement for the balance of the contract period subsequent to the dismissal, including, without limitation, any claim to compensation.
- D. In the event that the Superintendent desires to terminate this Agreement before the term of service shall have expired, the Superintendent may do so by giving at least ninety (90) calendar days' notice to the Chair of the School Committee.

(14)

NOTICES:

All notices required or desired to be given under this Agreement will be deemed to be served if delivered in writing to the Superintendent at the Superintendent's office address, or sent by certified mail to the Superintendent's residence in the case of the Superintendent, or delivered in writing to the School Committee Chair at the Central Office, or sent by certified mail to the School Committee Chair in the case of the District.

(15)

ENTIRE AGREEMENT:

This Agreement contains the whole agreement between the District and the Superintendent. There have been no inducements, promises, terms, conditions, or obligations made or entered into by either party other than those set forth herein. No modification of or addition to this Agreement shall be effective unless and until set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

(16)

SEVERABILITY:

If any term(s) or provision(s) of this Agreement are held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity and enforceability of the remaining terms and provisions shall not be affected, and such invalid and/or unenforceable term(s) and/or provision(s) shall be modified to the extent necessary to make it or them enforceable.

(17)

GOVERNING LAW:

This Agreement shall be interpreted, enforced, governed and construed under and in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(18)

COUNTERPARTS:

This Agreement shall be executed in two counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and both of which taken together will be deemed one and the same instrument.

(19)

STATE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION:

The Superintendent shall be a member of the Teachers' Retirement System as required by M.G.L. c.32, §2.

(20)

PERFORMANCE:

The Superintendent shall fulfill all obligations under this Contract. Any exceptions thereto shall be by mutual agreement between the Committee and the Superintendent in writing.

Karin Patenaude
Superintendent of Schools

Amy L Proietti,
Chairperson, Greenfield School Committee

Date : _____

Date: _____

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