



MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

META SOLUTIONS

AND

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE:



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THIS MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT (hereinafter the “Agreement”) is made this the _____ day of _____, 20____ between META Solutions, an Ohio Regional Council of Government whose principal office is located at 100 Executive Drive Marion, OH 43302 (hereinafter “META”) and the Big Walnut Local School District whose address is 110 Tippett Court, Sunbury, Ohio 43074 (hereinafter “Owner”), (each a “party” and together “parties”).

WHEREAS, META is an information technology center comprised of a consortium of member school districts (hereinafter the Member Districts”) and is organized as a regional council of government as defined in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 167;

WHEREAS, Owner is an organization authorized by the Ohio Department of Education to utilize services of an information technology center; and

WHEREAS, Owner is a Member District of META as defined in META’s Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, for the agreements outlined herein and other good and valuable consideration the parties hereby agree as follows:

1.0 **Responsibilities of META.**

1.1 META shall perform all work and do all things necessary to perform the information technology services on behalf of Owner, as described in Schedule I attached hereto and identified as “Services Manifest”, which includes the scope of the work and other particulars with respect to the information technology services as more fully laid out in this section of the Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Services”). Services shall be provided in conformity with the policies of META generally applicable to recipients of similar services, as such policies currently exist or are hereafter adopted or amended.

1.2 META shall provide Owner with sufficient training opportunities as necessary for the Owner to effectively utilize the Services, based upon mutual agreement between the parties.

1.3 META will be the point of contact for all service problems experienced by Owner related to the provision of Services. If Education Management Information System (“EMIS”) Services are provided as included Services under this Agreement, META will work with Owner to fix EMIS fatal errors that may be generated regarding Owner’s data.

1.4 META will comply with any security standards necessary to meet state and federal auditing requirements.



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1.5 To comply with a change in governing law or regulatory requirements, or changes to any applicable Third-Party Agreement, META may discontinue or limit Services and/or impose additional restrictions or requirements on such Services upon thirty (30) days' written notice to Owner or such lesser amount as may be required by law or regulatory requests at the time such notice is given.

1.6 META may enter into agreements with third-party vendors and service providers for the purpose of securing discounted pricing and other favorable contract terms for the Owner. If META has entered into an agreement with a third party vendor/service provider for such Owner benefits, and if the Owner subsequently agrees to purchase goods or services pursuant to the agreement between META and the third-party vendor/service provider, Owner agrees to be bound to the terms and conditions of the corresponding META agreement with such vendor/service provider, and to be primarily liable for any payments due to the vendor/service provider on account of the Owner's agreement to receive goods or services from the vendor/service provider. META may condition the receipt of services pursuant to this paragraph upon the Owner's execution of a separate agreement with META concerning the same.

1.7 META reserves the right to discontinue Owner's access to the Services and/or seek other legal or equitable relief for use of the Services by Owner or its users that META deems Owner to be in violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; or in violation of, or contrary to the parties' expectations regarding the Owner's conduct as expressed herein, this Agreement; or in violation of state or federal law; or for knowingly permitting or encouraging unauthorized access to the Services.

1.8 The parties acknowledge that the services META is offering at least comply with the minimum state-subsidized services as identified in Ohio Administrative Code and required by the Ohio Department of Education.¹ META shall conform to the quality implementation standards, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education for all core services.

2.0 **Responsibilities of Owner.**

2.1 Owner shall fully cooperate and work with META in order to effectuate the implementation of this Agreement.

2.2 Owner shall be directly responsible to META for all charges billed by META to Owner for Services secured for Owner through this Agreement in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 5 of this Agreement.

2.3 Owner shall enter accurate data into the software and/or systems under this Agreement, and shall be responsible for maintaining the data, and for checking the accuracy of such data.

¹ OAC 3301-3-01 (B)(5), Effective 05/22/2010



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2.4 If data conversion is necessary in the course of providing Services and available from META, Owner shall pay META for data conversion costs as billed by META or, alternatively, Owner agrees to procure the necessary data conversion services from a third party vendor within a reasonable amount of time.

2.5 Except as specifically provided in this Agreement, Owner shall be responsible for maintaining the hardware and connections necessary to access the Services provided under this Agreement, including internet access, Local Area Networks, and other utilities as needed.

2.6 Owner shall not resell access to any of the Services provided under this Agreement.

2.7 Owner may utilize the Services provided hereunder only for educational and educational administrative-related services.

2.8 If requested for an audit of META or its Services, Owner will, to the fullest extent permissible under the law, provide such information as META or its auditors may request.

2.9 Owner shall be solely responsible for unauthorized access to the Services or data.

2.10 META will require current written authorization from Owner authorizing user access to, or the discontinuance of access to, username and password protected data.

2.11 Owner understands and agrees that, except as required by state and federal regulations, META will exercise no control over the information that Owner and its users may transmit and receive as a result of the provision of Services by META. Owner assumes full responsibility for any and all access to, transmission, and usage information accessed or sent by its users through the Services.

2.12 Owner understands and agrees that META shall have no responsibility for the Owner's or its users' accessing or transmitting offensive or unlawful information, interference, or unlawful access to others' information or networks, or other offense or unlawful activity for which the Services may be used.

2.13 Any violation of these requirements of Owner contained in this Agreement, the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, federal law, or state law, or for knowingly permitting or encouraging unauthorized access to the Services may result in termination of Services to Owner and/or could result in legal action against Owner.

3.0 **The Contract Documents**. The Contract Documents consist of this Agreement and any Exhibits attached hereto, and META's Constitution, META's Bylaws, and any agreements with third-parties which currently impact the Services to be provided under this Agreement. These documents shall be a part of this Agreement as if attached to this Agreement or repeated herein.



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META and Owner acknowledge that they have received and reviewed all of the above named documents and agree that they shall be bound by the terms of those documents, as applicable.

4.0 **Term of Agreement.** The Services to be performed under this Agreement shall be commenced on July 1, 2021 and shall continue until June 30, 2022, (hereinafter the "Contract Term") subject to any amendments hereto between the parties, and shall be performed in accordance with the Contract Documents. This Agreement shall automatically renew for one year terms absent either party to this Agreement delivering written notice to the other party of their intention to not continue under the terms of this Agreement no later than thirty (30) days prior to end of the then prevailing term of this Agreement.

5.0 **Contract Price and Payment by Member Districts.**

5.1 META is specifically authorized to bill and collect monies for the Services provided directly to and from Owner. Owner shall pay a fee of \$16.75 per student based upon the annual Ohio Department of Education headcount for the District (hereinafter the "Contract Price") along with all taxes, fees, charges, surcharges, and other similar amounts due in regards to the Services provided under this Agreement and as further described in Schedule I and/or II which is attached to this Agreement.

5.2 Such charges as described in the Subsection 5.1 of this Agreement shall be billed on an annual basis on the first day of July. Owner shall tender payment for the Services within thirty (30) business days after receipt of any invoice from META.

5.3 Owner shall pay all costs incurred by META on behalf of Owner to provide the Services including but not limited to charges related to Third-Party Agreements, license fees, collection costs, late fees, service charges, and termination costs to the extent permitted by law. Owner shall tender payment for such charges within thirty (30) business days after receipt of any invoice from META.

5.4 Owner shall pay for any installation costs if such costs are incurred as a result of providing Services to Owner.

5.5 In the event that Owner fails to comply with any provision of Section 5 of this Agreement, then Owner will be in default with respect to its obligations hereunder. Should Owner be in default under the terms of this Section of the Agreement, then META, at META's sole discretion may elect to either 1. Suspend the Services of Owner until Owner has paid its balance in full; or 2. Permanently cease providing Services to Owner. In the event META exercises its right to enforce either of these options, in no way will it be deemed a waiver of other legal or equitable rights META may have for full payment.



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6.0 META's Responsibilities and Warranties.

6.1 OWNER EXPRESSLY AGREES THAT USE OF META'S SERVICES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE AT OWNER'S SOLE RISK. OWNER ALSO EXPRESSLY AGREES THAT THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON (a) AN "AS IS," "AS AVAILABLE" BASIS WITHOUT WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF TITLE, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, MERCHANTABILITY, NONINFRINGEMENT, OR WARRANTIES ARISING FROM ANY COURSE OF DEALING OR USAGE OF TRADE; (b) NO ADVICE GIVEN BY META'S EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, OR THE EMPLOYEES OF META'S AGENTS OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, SHALL CREATE ANY WARRANTY OF ANY KIND; and (c) UPLOADING, DOWNLOADING, STORING, TRANSMITTING, AND OTHERWISE ACCESSING OR DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION VIA THE SERVICES BY MEMBER DISTRICTS AND/OR THEIR USERS IS AT MEMBER DISTRICT'S OWN RISK.

6.2 OWNER ALSO EXPRESSLY AGREES THAT META DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SOFTWARE WILL MEET ANY SPECIFIC USER REQUIREMENTS, OR THAT SERVICES PROVIDED WILL BE ERROR FREE OR UNINTERRUPTED; NOR SHALL META BE LIABLE FOR ANY ACTUAL DAMAGES OR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING AS A RESULT OF LOSS OF DATA OR MISINFORMATION) SUSTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE USE, OPERATION, OR INABILITY TO USE META'S SERVICES BY OWNER OR ITS USERS. THE AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF META FOR ALL ACTIONS IN CONTRACT AND/OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY) SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE FEES PAID BY THE MEMBER DISTRICTS IN THE SIX (6) MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE THE CLAIM ARISES.

6.3 META shall not be liable for failure to provide Services if such failure is caused by any cause outside of META's control, acts of God, epidemics, lightning, winds, fires, landslides, floods, earthquakes, droughts, famines, acts of public enemies, explosions, insurrection, military action, sabotage, riots, civil disturbances, failure of a utility or utility-type services which is essential for META to provide the Services, or other event(s) not reasonably within the control of META.

6.4 META shall not be liable as a result of the actions, errors, omissions, or negligence of Owner or its personnel, employees, agents, or users.

6.5 META shall not be liable with regards to third parties for any action, error, omission, or negligence of Owner and/or its users.



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7.0 **Changes in the Services.** There shall be no changes to the Services to be performed under this Agreement unless the parties hereto agree to such change in a written amendment to this Agreement. However, the parties expressly agree and understand that should there be a change in Ohio or Federal laws or regulations that affect the services provided under this Agreement, such services shall be changed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement to conform with such laws or regulations.

8.0 **Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, Owner shall hold harmless META and all of its agents and employees from any and all claims, obligations, liabilities, losses and expenses, direct, indirect or consequential, including but not limited to attorney's fees, arising prior to the execution of this Agreement.

9.0 **Ownership of Property.**

9.1 Any hardware and/or software installed by META in regards to the Services provided under this Agreement remain the property of META. In the event this Agreement is terminated, Owner shall permit META to remove any such hardware and/or software as soon as may be reasonably practicable after the date of termination.

9.2 Any data files shall remain the property of Owner. In the event this Agreement is terminated, META agrees to return all available files to Owner as soon as may be reasonably practicable after the date of termination.

9.3 All other rights of ownership in all materials, products, and Services provided by META, including the rights to ideas and inventions and rights under patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, or other applicable laws, that have not been specifically addressed in Subsections 9.1 and 9.2 shall belong exclusively to META. Any modification or derivative works of Owner's property or the property of Owner by META shall be considered "work for hire" and will be considered property of META.

9.4 The parties agree that nothing in this Agreement shall give either party any right, title or interest in the property of the other after termination or expiration of this Agreement.

10.0 **Confidentiality.** META shall exercise ordinary care in preserving and protecting the confidentiality of information and materials furnished by Owner, to the extent required by law. Each party shall protect the intellectual property, proprietary information, and trade secrets of the other from unauthorized use and disclosure. Except as required by law, including but not limited to Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43, Owner agrees not to disclose any information of documentation obtained from META.

11.0 **Termination by Owner.** If META defaults, or persistently or repeatedly fails or neglects to provide Services in accordance with this Agreement without reasonable cause, then Owner shall notify META in writing of its failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement. Upon receipt of



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such written notice, META shall have thirty (30) days to conform its behavior to meet the requirements of this Agreement. In the event that META is still in breach of this Agreement at the expiration of this thirty (30) day period without reasonable cause, then Owner may, without prejudice to any other remedy it may have, terminate this Agreement.

12.0 **Effect of Termination by Owner.** In the event that Owner decides to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 4.0 or Section 11.0 of this Agreement, then, upon such termination, Owner shall immediately withdraw as a Member District of META in accordance with META's Constitution and Bylaws.

13.0 **Assignment.** This Agreement and Owner's rights, duties, and/or responsibilities herein may not be assigned to another individual or entity without the written consent of META.

14.0 **Miscellaneous Provisions.**

14.1 This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the state of Ohio. The parties agree that any action brought by either party against the other in state court shall be properly venued only in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in Columbus (Franklin County), Ohio and that any action brought in federal court shall be properly venued only in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, located in Columbus, Ohio. The parties further agree that they do hereby waive all questions of personal jurisdiction or venue for purposes of giving effect to this provision.

14.2 There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either party.

14.3 This Agreement along with all exhibits attached hereto and other Contract Documents represents the entire agreement between the parties on this subject matter and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument signed by both parties. If any of the provisions contained in this Agreement, as amended from time to time, are inconsistent with the provisions of the other Contract Documents, then the provisions of this Agreement, as amended, shall prevail.

14.4 The obligations, warranties, and representations of either party under this Agreement that are of a continuing nature shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement, unless otherwise explicitly agreed to in the Contract Documents or by operation of law.

14.5 No delay or failure by either party to exercise any right hereunder and no partial or single exercise of any such right shall constitute a waiver of that or any other right, unless otherwise expressly provided herein.



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14.6 In case any one or more provisions set forth in the Contract Documents shall for any reason be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, any such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of the Contract Documents, and the Contract Documents shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been incorporated therein, provided the economic or legal substance of the transactions contemplated hereby is not affected in any manner materially adverse to either party. If either party determines in good faith that so construing the Contract Documents is materially adverse to it, the parties shall negotiate in good faith to modify the Contract Documents so as to achieve their original intent as closely as possible in a mutually acceptable manner and so that the transactions intended hereunder are consummated as originally contemplated to the greatest extent possible.

14.7 All notices under this Agreement shall be in writing, sent by registered or certified U.S. Mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the party at the address set forth at the beginning of this Agreement or at such other address of which a party has provided notice pursuant to this provision.

14.8 The headings of the sections hereof have been inserted for convenience only and shall in no way modify or restrict any provisions hereof or be used to construe any such provisions.

14.9 The parties shall not be required to perform any obligation under this Agreement or be liable to each other for damages so long as performance or non-performance of the obligation is delayed, caused or prevented by Force Majeure. "Force Majeure" means: hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, fire, acts of God, unusual transportation delays, wars, insurrections, acts of terrorism, and any other cause not reasonably within control of META or Owner, and which, by exercise of reasonable diligent effort, the non-performing party is unable in whole or in part to prevent or overcome.

14.10 The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision hereof shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision, and to this end the provisions of this Agreement are declared to be severable. It is the intention of the parties that, if any provision of this Agreement is susceptible of two or more constructions, one which would render the provision enforceable and the other or others of which would render the provision unenforceable, then the provision shall have the meaning that renders it enforceable.

15.0 **Signatures.** By signing this Agreement, the individuals indicate all of the following:

15.1 They are authorized to sign on behalf of their respective entities; and

15.2 That they have read, understand and agree to the terms of this Agreement, including the provisions of the Contract Documents and any attachments to this Agreement, on behalf of their respective entities; and

15.3 All information provided in connection with this Agreement is true and accurate; and



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15.4 This Agreement has been approved by formal action of the Board of the respective party;
and

15.5 By execution of this Agreement the parties are not creating a breach of any third party agreements.

{Signature Page Follows}

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement to be effective on the date first set forth above.

FOR OWNER:

Big Walnut Local School District

Authorized Signature

Date

Printed name of Authorized Signature

META Solutions

Authorized Signature

Date

Printed name of Authorized Signature

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