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MPERA

**Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Resolution to Participate in the State of Montana 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan administered by the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative on this 27th day of January, 2015, adopts this Resolution to enter into an agreement with the Public Employees' Retirement Board for the voluntary participation by any of the Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative's eligible employees in the State of Montana Deferred Compensation (457(b)) Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative ("Cooperative"), that the Cooperative become a contracting employer for the purposes of section 19-50-201, MCA, and that the Cooperative participate in the State of Montana Deferred Compensation (457(b)) Plan ("Montana Deferred Compensation Plan") administered by the Montana Public Employees' Retirement Board ("Board"). The Cooperative shall abide by the terms of the Montana Deferred Compensation Plan, and all applicable provisions of the Montana Code Annotated. Any eligible employee of the Cooperative may voluntarily choose to participate in the Deferred Compensation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Deferred Compensation Plan is subject to amendment as permitted by the Plan Document, Title 19, chapter 50 of the Montana Code Annotated, and is eligible under section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 457), as amended or superseded; and complies with regulations of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a participating employee may defer receipt of a part of their compensation and the deferred amount shall be invested in one or more of the investment options provided for in section 19-50-102, MCA. The total amount of compensation deferred may not exceed the amount permitted by the Internal Revenue Code. Compensation deferred pursuant to this Resolution is included as compensation for the purpose of computing retirement or pension benefits, but is not subject to state and federal income tax until properly distributed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Cooperative's employees may make contributions to only this Deferred Compensation Plan, not to additional 457 plans sponsored by

the Cooperative. The Cooperative understands that it must choose one of the following with respect to any additional 457 plans sponsored by the Cooperative:

- (a) leave existing account balances in the prior 457 plan with all new contributions being made to this Plan;
- (b) do a direct transfer of all funds from the prior plan to this Plan; or
- (c) allow employees to elect to retain existing account balances in the prior 457 plan or to do direct transfers to this Plan. All new contributions will be made to this Plan, regardless of whether employees chose to maintain their prior account balances in the prior 457 plan or transfer such balances to this Plan.

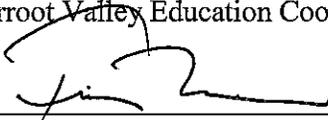
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will hold the deferred compensation funds invested pursuant to this Resolution and contract in trust for the exclusive benefit of the Montana Deferred Compensation Plan participants and their beneficiaries. The Montana Deferred Compensation Plan's administrator may allocate any necessary costs against the assets and interest earnings of each participant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that neither the Board nor the Cooperative shall be financially liable for any investment losses incurred.

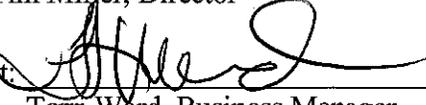
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative body of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to enter into an Adoption Agreement with the Board that carries out the intent of this Resolution. The contract shall be effective on the 12th, day of February, 2015.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in the event subsequent legislative assemblies of the state of Montana amend Title 19, Chapter 50 as to benefits, rights, or deferrals, or the Board amends the Montana Deferred Compensation Plan Document, the contract established pursuant to this Resolution shall be deemed amended to correspond thereto and the legislative amendments and Plan Document amendments shall be made a part of this Resolution and the ensuing contract.

Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative

By:  _____

Tim Miller, Director

Attest:  _____

Terri Ward, Business Manager

Date: 1/27/2015

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**Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative Deferred Compensation
ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this February 12, 2015, by and between the Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative (“Cooperative”), and the Public Employees’ Retirement Board (“Board”), establishes that the parties mutually covenant and agree that:

1. Effective the later of the first regular employer pay period beginning one month after Board approval, or the 1st day of March, 2015, the rights, benefits, payments, duties, and obligations with respect to membership and participation in the state of Montana’s deferred compensation program (Title 19, chapter 50, MCA), shall be available to the employees of the Cooperative upon the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable statutes, regulations, and plan document.

2. The Cooperative agrees that the Board is the administrator of the deferred compensation program and agrees to the rules and conditions established by the Board for the proper administration of the plan. Account balances in the Cooperative’s previous 457 plan, if any, may be directly transferred from that plan to the state’s program.

3. The Cooperative’s payroll officer shall withhold from the compensation of a participating employee (“participant”) the deferral amount specified in that employee’s salary deferral agreement, provided that the employee has signed a participant enrollment form indicating their desire to participate in the deferred compensation program and a salary deferral agreement.

4. The Cooperative agrees, within a reasonable time but no later than 5 business days after each pay day, to submit to the Board required participant data and funds for the participant

deferrals indicated on each participant's salary deferral agreement.

5. The Cooperative further agrees, at the same time the participant data and funds referenced in section 3 above are submitted, to submit to the Board as additional deferral amounts the appropriate employer's contribution, if any, in the amount of \$0.

6. The total amount of compensation deferred in a calendar year, including participant's deferral and employer's contribution, may not exceed the lesser of the amount permitted by the Internal Revenue Code (\$17,500 as of January 1, 2014), or 100% of the participant's includible compensation.

7. The Cooperative further agrees that its employees will not be permitted to make contributions to any other 457 plan sponsored by the Cooperative. However, this provision does not preclude the Cooperative's employees from having existing account balances retained in prior 457 plans.

8. All plan assets, including participant deferrals, employer contributions, and all income attributable to those assets, are held in trust by the Board for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries.

9. The Board agrees to maintain, or have maintained by a service manager, an account for each participant. Each participant's account will be credited with the participant's deferral amount, and any employer contribution, for each pay period upon receipt of the deferral amount from the Cooperative.

10. The Board further agrees to invest, or have invested by a third party, a participant's deferral amounts pursuant to instructions on the participant's enrollment form and Title 19, Chapter 50, MCA. The participant's account will be adjusted daily to reflect any distribution to

the participant and all interest, dividends, account charges, and changes in market value resulting from the investment of the participant's deferred amounts. Pursuant to 19-50-204, MCA, neither the Board nor the Cooperative are financially liable for any investment losses incurred.

11. The Board further agrees that a written statement of account shall be provided to each participant within thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter of the calendar year. The statement shall show participant deferrals and employer contributions for each payroll period.

12. Benefits will be payable to each participant pursuant to the appropriate plan document. Benefits are normally available following a participant's separation of service, death, or disability, or the occurrence of an unforeseeable emergency. Voluntary in-service distributions are available to participants whose account does not exceed \$5,000 on the date of distribution; who have not previously received an in-service distribution; and who have had no amount deferred under the Plan during the two-year period ending on the date of the in-service distribution. Participants' accounts may also be subject to partial or full distribution, before or following separation from service, pursuant to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

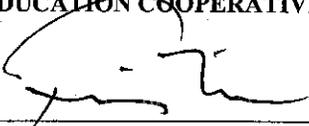
13. Any amendments made by the Montana Legislature to the Deferred Compensation Program, Title 19, Chapter 50, MCA, shall apply to and become a part of this Adoption Agreement on the effective date of the amendments, and the Adoption Agreement shall be deemed amended accordingly.

14. Any amendments made to the State of Montana Public Employee Deferred Compensation Plan Document shall apply to and become a part of this Adoption Agreement on the effective date of the amended plan document, and the Adoption Agreement shall be deemed amended accordingly.

15. This Adoption Agreement shall not be cancelled, amended, or abrogated by any act of the parties except as provided for in the Title 19, Chapter 50, MCA, specifically 19-50-201, MCA.

**BITTERROOT VALLEY
EDUCATION COOPERATIVE**

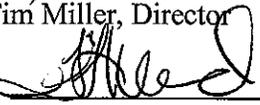
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

By:  _____

Tim Miller, Director

By: _____

Scott E. Moore, President

Attest:  _____

Terri Ward, Business Manager

Attest: _____

Dore Schwinden, Executive Director

Date: 1/27/2015 _____

Date: _____