TRAVELERS

Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America
Travelers Casualty and Surety Company
St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America, Travelers Casualty and Surety Company, and St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company are corporations duly organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut (herein collectively called the "Companies"), and the Companies do hereby make, constitute and appoint **CHAD E KLEINE** of **GALESBURG**, **Illinois**, their true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact to sign, execute, seal and acknowledge any and all bonds, recognizances, conditional undertakings and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof on behalf of the Companies in their business of guaranteeing the fidelity of persons, guaranteeing the performance of contracts and executing or guaranteeing bonds and undertakings required or permitted in any actions or proceedings allowed by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Companies have caused this instrument to be signed, and their corporate seals to be hereto affixed, this **13th** day of **May, 2026.**

SEAL SEAL SEAL

State of Connecticut

By: _____
Bryce Grissom, Senior Vice President

City of Hartford ss.

On this the **13th** day of **May, 2026**, before me personally appeared **Bryce Grissom**, who acknowledged himself to be the Senior Vice President, Surety, Bond & Specialty Insurance, of each of the Companies, and that he, as such, being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing on behalf of said Companies by himself as a duly authorized officer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires the **31st** day of **March, 2031**

NOTARY PUBLIC

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Marie E. Sorensen, Notary Public

This Power of Attorney is granted under and by the authority of the following resolutions adopted by the Boards of Directors of each of the Companies, which resolutions are now in full force and effect, reading as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may appoint Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents to act for and on behalf of the Company and may give such appointee such authority as his or her certificate of authority may prescribe to sign with the Company's name and seal with the Company's seal bonds, recognizances, contracts of indemnity, and other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking, and any of said officers or the Board of Directors at any time may remove any such appointee and revoke the power given him or her; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman, the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President may delegate all or any part of the foregoing authority to one or more officers or employees of this Company, provided that each such delegation is in writing and a copy thereof is filed in the office of the Secretary; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that any bond, recognizance, contract of indemnity, or writing obligatory in the nature of a bond, recognizance, or conditional undertaking shall be valid and binding upon the Company when (a) signed by the President, any Vice Chairman, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President or any Vice President, any Second Vice President, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer, the Corporate Secretary or any Assistant Secretary and duly attested and sealed with the Company's seal by a Secretary or Assistant Secretary; or (b) duly executed (under seal, if required) by one or more Attorneys-in-Fact and Agents pursuant to the power prescribed in his or her certificate or their certificates of authority or by one or more Company officers pursuant to a written delegation of authority; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the signature of each of the following officers: President, any Executive Vice President, any Senior Vice President, any Vice President, any Assistant Vice President, any Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any Power of Attorney or to any certificate relating thereto appointing Resident Vice Presidents, Resident Assistant Secretaries or Attorneys-in-Fact for purposes only of executing and attesting bonds and undertakings and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof, and any such Power of Attorney or certificate bearing such facsimile signature or facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company and any such power so executed and certified by such facsimile signature and facsimile seal shall be valid and binding on the Company in the future with respect to any bond or understanding to which it is attached.

I, **Kevin E. Hughes**, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary of each of the Companies, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Power of Attorney executed by said Companies, which remains in full force and effect.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2026.

SEAL SEAL SEAL

_____
Kevin E. Hughes, Assistant Secretary

To verify the authenticity of this Power of Attorney, please call us at 1-800-421-3880.
Please refer to the above-named Attorney(s)-in-Fact and the details of the bond to which this Power of Attorney is attached.

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

STATE OF ILLINOIS
SPECIAL BOND ISSUE BOND

Bond No. 108613981

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of this Bond, Elizabeth A. Danekas of Ashton, Illinois, as Principal, and TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto Meridian CUSD #223, as Obligee, State of Illinois, County of Ogle in the Penal Sum of Two Million Three Hundred Eleven Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($2,311,000.00) for the payment of which, well and truly to be made, said Principal and Surety bind themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns jointly and severally by these presents.

WHEREAS, on the 2nd day of December, 2026, at a special election or duly authorized and called board meeting, there was authorized to be issued by the aforementioned Obligee, a special bond issue for the specific purpose of Health Life Safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION is such that is the above bounden Principal shall faithfully perform the duties which may or will be required by law to be performed as School Secretary of the Special Bond Issue, in the time and manner prescribed by law, and account for the monies coming into said special fund until the funds of the bond issue are fully disbursed in accordance with the law, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, it is expressly understood and intended that obligation of the Surety shall not extend to any loss sustained by the insolvency, failure, or closing of any bank or savings and loan association or other financial institution organized and operating either under the laws of the State of Illinois or the United States wherein such treasurer has placed the funds in his custody or control, or any part thereof, provided, such depository has been approved by the governing body of the Meridian CUSD #223 and, if this provision shall be held void, this entire bond shall be void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 2nd day of December, 2026.

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA ★ HARTFORD, CONN. ★

Witness: Kari Wheeler

Elizabeth A Danekas (Principal)

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

By: _____
Chad E. Kleine (Attorney-in-Fact)

Approved and accepted by the Board of Education or Board of Directors of District Number _____ by

_____
President, Secretary, Clerk or Township Trustee
(Print Name and Title)

Approved on this _____ day

of _____, _____.

_____
Signature