



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 11.1

**Meeting Date:** June 8, 2023

**Subject:** Lozano Smith Transition Contract

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Department:** Legal Department/Business Services

**Recommendation:** Board to approve transition contract with Lozano Smith.

**Background/Rationale:** The Board of Education previously approved a Legal Services Agreement for the 2022-23 school year with Lozano Smith. That contract expires on June 30, 2023. This transition contract will allow for the transition of legal services to new outside legal counsel and the Chief Legal Counsel. The current legal services requiring transition relate primarily to the areas of special education, employment matters, charter schools, general counsel, labor, student matters, and litigation.

**Financial Considerations:**

There will not be an increase in the hourly rate for legal fees for any transition work needed as directed by the Superintendent and Board.

**LCAP GOAL (s):** N/A

**Documents Attached:**

1. Transition Contract

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 5 minutes

**Submitted by:** Rose Ramos, Chief Business & Operations Officer

**Approved by:** Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent



AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, between the SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (“Client”) and the law firm of LOZANO SMITH, LLP (“Attorney”) (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”). Attorney shall provide legal services as requested by Client on the following terms and conditions:

1. **ENGAGEMENT.** Client hires Attorney on an as-requested basis as its legal counsel with respect to matters the Client refers to Attorney. When Client refers a matter to Attorney, Attorney shall confirm availability and ability to perform legal services regarding the matter. After Attorney has completed services for the specific matter referred by Client, then no continuing attorney-client relationship exists until Client requests further services and Attorney accepts a new engagement. If Attorney undertakes to provide legal services to represent Client in such matters, Attorney shall keep Client informed of significant developments and respond to Client’s inquiries regarding those matters. Client understands that Attorney cannot guarantee any particular results, including the costs and expenses of representation. Client agrees to be forthcoming with Attorney, to cooperate with Attorney in protecting Client’s interests, to keep Attorney fully informed of developments material to Attorney’s representation of client, and to abide by this Agreement. Client is hereby advised of the right to seek independent legal advice regarding this Agreement.
2. **RATES TO BE CHARGED.** Client agrees to pay Attorney for services rendered based on the attached rate schedule. Agreements for legal fees on other-than-an-hourly basis may be made by mutual agreement for special projects (including as set forth in future addenda to this Agreement).
3. **REIMBURSEMENT.** Client agrees to reimburse Attorney for actual and necessary expenses and costs incurred in the course of providing legal services to Client, including but not limited to expert, consultant, mediation and arbitration fees. Attorney shall not be required to advance costs on behalf of Client over the amount of \$1,000 unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Attorney. Typical expenses advanced for Client, without prior authorization, include messenger fees, witness fees, expedited delivery charges, travel expenses, court reporter fees and transcript fees. Client authorizes Attorney to retain experts or consultants to perform services.
4. **MONTHLY INVOICES.** Attorney shall send Client a statement for fees and costs incurred every calendar month (the “Statement”). Statements shall set forth the amount, rate and description of services provided. Client shall pay Attorney’s Statements within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt. An interest charge of one percent (1%) per month shall be assessed on balances that are more than thirty (30) calendar days past due, not to exceed 10% per annum.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ATTORNEY AND CLIENT.** The Parties recognize that all legal advice provided by Attorney is protected by the Attorney-Client and Work Product Privileges. In addition to regular telephone, mail and other common business communication

methods, Client hereby authorizes Attorney to use facsimile transmissions, cellular telephone calls and text, unencrypted email, and other electronic transmissions in communicating with Client. Unless otherwise instructed by Client, any such communications may include confidential information.

6. **POTENTIAL AND ACTUAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.** If Attorney becomes aware of any potential or actual conflict of interest between Client and one or more other clients represented by Attorney, Attorney will comply with applicable laws and rules of professional conduct.

7. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** Attorney is an independent contractor and not an employee of Client.

8. **TERMINATION.**

a. **Termination by Client.** Client may discharge Attorney at any time, with or without cause, by written notice to Attorney.

b. **Termination by Mutual Consent or by Attorney.** Attorney may terminate its services at any time with Client's consent or for good cause. Good cause exists if (a) Client fails to pay Attorney's Statement within sixty (60) calendar days of its date, (b) Client fails to comply with other terms of this Agreement, including Client's duty to cooperate with Attorney in protecting Client's interests, (c) Client has failed to disclose material facts to Attorney or (d) any other circumstance exists that requires termination of this engagement under the ethical rules applicable to Attorney. Additionally, to the extent allowed by law, Attorney may decline to provide services on new matters or may terminate the Agreement without cause upon written notice to Client if Attorney is not then providing any legal services to Client. Even if this Agreement is not terminated, under paragraph 1 an attorney-client relationship exists only when Attorney is providing legal services to Client.

c. **Following Termination.** Upon termination by either Party: (i) Client shall promptly pay all unpaid fees and costs for services provided or costs incurred pursuant to this Agreement up to the date of termination; (ii) unless otherwise required by law or agreed to by the Parties, Attorney will provide no legal services following notice of termination; (iii) Client will cooperate with Attorney in facilitating the orderly transfer of any outstanding matters to new counsel, including promptly signing a substitution of counsel form at Attorney's request; and (iv) Client shall, upon request, be provided the Client's file maintained for the Client by Attorney and shall sign acknowledgment of receipt upon delivery of that file. For all Statements received by Client from Attorney prior to the date of termination, Client's failure to notify Attorney in writing of any disagreement with either the services performed or the charges for those services as shown in the Statement within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of termination shall be deemed Client's acceptance of and agreement with the Statement. For any billing appearing for the first time on a Statement received by Client from Attorney after the date of termination, failure to notify Attorney in writing of any disagreement with either the

services performed or the charges for those services within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Statement shall be deemed to signify Client's acceptance of and agreement with the Statement.

9. **MAINTENANCE OF INSURANCE.** Attorney agrees that, during the term of this Agreement, Attorney shall maintain liability and errors and omissions insurance.

10. **CONSULTANT SERVICES.** Attorney works with professional consultants that provide services, including but not limited to, investigations, public relations, educational consulting, leadership mentoring and development, financial, budgeting, management auditing, board/superintendent/chancellor relations, administrator evaluation and best practices, and intergovernmental relations. Attorney does not share its legal fees with such consultants. Attorney may offer these services to Client upon request.

11. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

a. **Mediation.** Except as otherwise set forth in this section, Client and Attorney agree to make a good faith effort to settle any dispute or claim that arises under this Agreement through discussions and negotiations and in compliance with applicable law. In the event of a claim or dispute, either Party may request, in writing to the other Party, to refer the dispute to mediation. This request shall be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the action giving rise to the dispute. Upon receipt of a request for mediation, both Parties shall make a good faith effort to select a mediator and complete the mediation process within sixty (60) calendar days. The mediator's fee shall be shared equally between Client and Attorney. Each Party shall bear its own attorney fees and costs. Whenever possible, any mediator selected shall have expertise in the area of the dispute and any selected mediator must be knowledgeable regarding the mediation process. No person shall serve as mediator in any dispute in which that person has any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the mediation. The mediator's recommendation for settlement, if any, is non-binding on the Parties. Mediation pursuant to this provision shall be private and confidential. Only the Parties and their representatives may attend any mediation session. Other persons may attend only with the written permission of both Parties. All persons who attend any mediation session shall be bound by the confidentiality requirements of California Evidence Code section 1115, et seq., and shall sign an agreement to that effect. Completion of mediation shall be a condition precedent to arbitration, unless the other Party refuses to cooperate in the setting of mediation.

b. **Dispute Regarding Fees.** Any dispute as to attorney fees and/or costs charged under this Agreement shall to the extent required by law be resolved under the California Mandatory Fee Arbitration Act (Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6200, et seq.).

c. **Binding Arbitration.** Except as otherwise set forth in section (b) above, Client and Attorney agree to submit all disputes to final and binding arbitration, either following mediation which fails to resolve all disputes or in lieu of mediation as may be agreed by the Parties in writing. Either Party may make a written request to the other for

arbitration. If made in lieu of mediation, the request must be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the action giving rise to the dispute. If the request for arbitration is made following an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the Parties' disputes, the request must be made within ten (10) calendar days of termination of the mediation. The Parties shall make a good faith attempt to select an arbitrator and complete the arbitration within ninety (90) calendar days. If there is no agreement on an arbitrator, the Parties shall use the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Service (JAMS). The arbitrator's qualifications must meet the criteria set forth above for a mediator, except, in addition, the arbitrator shall be an attorney unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The arbitrator's fee shall be shared equally by both Parties. Each Party shall bear its own attorney fees and other costs. The arbitrator shall render a written decision and provide it to both Parties. The arbitrator may award any remedy or relief otherwise available in court and the decision shall set forth the reasons for the award. The arbitrator shall not have any authority to amend or modify this agreement. Any arbitration conducted pursuant to this paragraph shall be governed by California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1281, et seq. By signing this Agreement, Client acknowledges that this agreement to arbitrate results in a waiver of Client's right to a court or jury trial for any fee dispute or malpractice claim. This also means that Client is giving up Client's right to discovery and appeal. If Client later refuses to submit to arbitration after agreeing to do so, Client maybe ordered to arbitrate pursuant to the provisions of California law. Client acknowledges that before signing this Agreement and agreeing to binding arbitration, Client is entitled, and has been given a reasonable opportunity, to seek the advice of independent counsel.

d. Effect of Termination. The terms of this section shall survive the termination of the Agreement.

12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement with its exhibit supersedes any and all other prior or contemporaneous oral or written agreements between the Parties. Each Party acknowledges that no representations, inducements, promises or agreements have been made by any person which are not incorporated herein, and that any other agreements shall be void. Furthermore, any modification of this Agreement shall only be effective if in writing signed by all Parties hereto.


13. SEVERABILITY. Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, but the remainder of the Agreement can be enforced without failure of material consideration to any Party, then this Agreement shall not be affected and it shall remain in full force and effect, unless amended or modified by mutual consent of the Parties; provided, however, that if the invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement results in a material failure of consideration, then, to the extent allowed by law, the Party adversely affected thereby shall have the right in its sole discretion to terminate this Agreement upon providing written notice of such termination to the other Party.

14. NON-WAIVER. None of the provisions of this Agreement shall be considered waived by either Party unless such waiver is specified in writing.

15. NO THIRD PARTY RIGHTS. This Agreement shall not create any rights in, or inure to the benefit of, any third party.

16. ASSIGNMENT. The terms of this Agreement may not be assigned to any third party. Neither Party may assign any right of recovery under or related to the Agreement to any third party.

SO AGREED:

CLIENT SIGNATURE	ATTORNEY SIGNATURE
<b>Sacramento City Unified School District</b>	<b>Lozano Smith, LLP</b>
BY <i>(Authorized Signature)</i>	BY <i>(Authorized Signature)</i> 
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING	PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Karen M. Rezendes, Managing Partner
DATE EXECUTED	DATE EXECUTED 04/28/2023



# Lozano Smith

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROFESSIONAL RATE SCHEDULE  
FOR SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
(Effective July 1, 2023)

1. HOURLY PROFESSIONAL RATES

Client agrees to pay Attorney by the following standard hourly rate:

Partner	\$ 275 per hour
Senior Counsel / Of Counsel	\$ 265 per hour
Senior Associate	\$ 240 per hour
Associate	\$ 230 per hour
Paralegal / Law Clerk	\$ 150 per hour
Consultant	\$ 275 - \$395 per hour

2. BILLING PRACTICE

Lozano Smith will provide a monthly, itemized Statement for services rendered. Time billed is broken into 1/10 (.10) hour increments, allowing for maximum efficiency in the use of attorney time. Invoices will clearly indicate the department or individuals for whom services were rendered.

Written responses to audit letter inquiries will be charged to Client on an hourly basis, with the minimum charge for such responses equaling .5 hours. Travel time shall be prorated if the assigned attorney travels for two or more clients on the same trip.

3. COSTS AND EXPENSES

In-office copying/electronic communication printing	\$ 0.25 per page
Facsimile	\$ 0.25 per page
Postage	Actual Usage
Mileage	IRS Standard Rate

Other costs, such as messenger, meals, and lodging shall be charged on an actual and necessary basis.

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Sale or Lease of Real Property Work:

Partner / Senior Counsel / Of Counsel	\$ 400 per hour
Associate	\$ 375 per hour
Paralegal / Law Clerk	\$ 200 per hour