



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.1k

**Meeting Date:** March 1, 2012

**Subject:** Board of Education Contract for Legal Services

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

**Division:** Board of Education

**Recommendation:** Approve Board of Education Contract for Legal Services.

**Background/Rationale:**

Board Bylaws 9124 allows the Board to hire counsel to advise the Board as it relates to district matters. The Board "shall select and hire counsel to the district who is supervised by the Superintendent and is accountable to the Board and the Superintendent."

If approved, the Board would like to enter into a contract with Fagen, Friedman & Fulfrost, LLP to serve as legal counsel under the direction of the Board.

**Financial Considerations:**

Not available at this time. Costs will be based on an hourly rate as specified in the contract and services will be provided on an as needed basis to the Board of Education.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Contract

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** N/A

**Submitted by:** Diana Rodriguez, President, Board of Education

**Approved by:** N/A



**AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

This agreement is by and between Sacramento City Unified School District ("Client") and the law firm of Fagen Friedman & Fulfroft LLP ("Attorney"). In consideration of the promises and the mutual agreements hereinafter contained, Attorney agrees to provide legal services to Client on the terms set forth below effective March 1, 2012:

1. **CONDITIONS.** This Agreement will not take effect, and Attorney will have no obligation to provide legal services, until Client returns a signed copy of this Agreement.

2. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** Client hires Attorney as its legal representative/counsel with respect to matters Client specifically refers to Attorney. Attorney will provide those legal services reasonably required to represent Client. Attorney will take reasonable steps to keep Client informed of progress and to respond to Client's inquiries.

3. **CLIENT'S DUTIES.** Client agrees to cooperate with Attorney and to communicate with candor while keeping the Attorney apprised of any information or developments which may come to Client's attention, to abide by this Agreement, to pay Attorney's bills on time and to keep Attorney advised of Client's address and telephone number. Client will assist Attorney in providing information and documents necessary for the representation in the described matter.

4. **LEGAL FEES AND BILLING PRACTICES.** Client agrees to pay by the hour, in minimum units of one tenth (.1) of an hour, at Attorney's prevailing rates for all time spent on Client's matter by Attorney's legal personnel. Current hourly rates are noted in an attached rate schedule and the actual rate billed is based on the attorney's number of years of experience.

The rates on this schedule are subject to change on 30 days' written notice to client. If Client declines to pay any increased rates, Attorney will have the right to withdraw as Attorney for Client. The time charged will include the time Attorney spends on telephone calls relating to Client's matter, including calls with Client and other parties and attorneys. The legal personnel assigned to Client's matter may confer among themselves about the matter, as required and appropriate. When they do confer, each person will charge for the time expended, as long as the work done is reasonably necessary and not duplicative. Likewise, if more than one of the legal personnel attends a meeting or other proceeding, each will charge for the time spent.

5. **COSTS AND OTHER CHARGES.** (a) In general, Attorney will incur various costs and expenses in performing legal services under this Agreement. Client agrees to pay for all costs, disbursements and expenses in addition to the hourly fees. The costs and expenses commonly include fees fixed by law or assessed by public agencies, messenger and other delivery fees, postage, photocopying and other reproduction costs, travel costs including parking, mileage, transportation, meals and hotel costs, investigation expenses and consultants' fees and other

similar items. Except for in-office photocopying, facsimile charges and mileage, all costs and expenses will be charged at Firm's cost.

In office Photocopying	\$0.25/page
Facsimile Charges	\$1.00/page
Mileage	IRS Standard Rate
Postage	Actual Cost

(b) Out of town travel. Client agrees to pay transportation, meals, lodging and all other costs of any necessary out-of-town travel by law firm personnel. Client will also be charged the hourly rates for the time legal personnel spend traveling.

(c) Consultants and Investigators. To aid in the representation in Client's matter, it may become necessary to hire consultants or investigators. Client agrees to pay such fees and charges.

**6. BILLING STATEMENTS.** Attorney will send Client monthly statements for fees and costs incurred. Each statement will be payable within thirty (30) days of its mailing date. An interest charge of one percent (1%) per month shall be assessed on balances that are more than thirty (30) days past due. Client may request a statement at intervals of less than 30 days. If Client requests a bill, Attorney will provide one within 10 days. The statements shall include the amount, rate, basis of calculation or other method of determination of the fees and costs, which costs will be clearly identified by item and amount.

**7. DISCHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL.** Client may discharge Attorney at any time. Attorney may withdraw with Client's consent, for good cause or as allowed or required by law upon ten (10) days written notice. Good cause includes Client's breach of this Agreement, refusal to cooperate or to follow Attorney's advice on a material matter or any fact or circumstance that would render Attorney's continuing representation unlawful or unethical. When Attorney's services conclude, all unpaid charges will immediately become due and payable. After services conclude, Attorney will, upon Client's request, deliver Client's file(s) and property in Attorney's possession, whether or not Client has paid for all services. Attorney shall transition all outstanding legal work and services to others as Client shall direct.

**8. DISCLAIMER OF GUARANTEE AND ESTIMATES.** Nothing in this Agreement and nothing in Attorney's statements to Client will be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of the matter. Attorney makes no such promises or guarantees. Attorney's comments about the outcome of the matter are expressions of opinion only. Actual fees may vary from estimates given.

**9. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. No other agreement, statement, or promise made on or before the effective date of this Agreement will be binding on the parties.

**10. MODIFICATION BY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.** This Agreement may be modified by subsequent agreement of the parties only by an instrument in writing signed by both of them or an oral agreement only to the extent that the parties carry it out.

**11. SEVERABILITY IN EVENT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY.** If any provision of this Agreement is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire Agreement will be severable and remain in effect.

**12. MEDIATION CLAUSE.** If a dispute arises out of or relating to any aspect of this Agreement between the Client and Attorney, or the breach thereof, and if the dispute cannot be settled through negotiation, Attorney and Client agree to use mediation before resorting to arbitration, litigation, or any other dispute resolution procedure.

**13. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Agreement will govern all legal services performed by Attorney on behalf of Client commencing with the date Attorney first performed services. The date at the beginning of this Agreement is for reference only. Even if this Agreement does not take effect, Client will be obligated to pay Attorney the reasonable value of any services Attorney may have performed for Client.

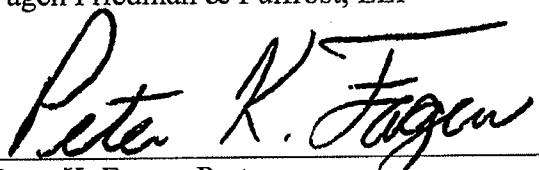
THE PARTIES HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE FOREGOING TERMS AND AGREE TO THEM AS OF THE DATE ATTORNEY FIRST PROVIDED SERVICES. THE CLIENT SHALL RECEIVE A FULLY EXECUTED DUPLICATE OF THIS AGREEMENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed this Agreement for Legal Services.

Sacramento City Unified School District

Fagen Friedman & Fulfroft, LLP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana Rodriguez, Board President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter K. Fagen, Partner

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 2/21/12



**PROFESSIONAL RATE SCHEDULE**

Sacramento City Unified School District  
(Effective March 1, 2012)

1. **HOURLY PROFESSIONAL RATES**

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

Associate	\$ 185 - \$ 215 per hour
Partner	\$ 215 - \$ 265 per hour
Of-Counsel	\$ 220 - \$ 265 per hour
Paralegal/Law Clerk	\$ 110 - \$ 130 per hour
Consultant	\$ 145 - \$ 195 per hour

Travel time shall be charged only from the attorney's nearest office to the destination and shall be prorated if the assigned attorney travels for two or more clients on the same trip. If Client requests a specific attorney, Client agrees to pay for all travel time of that specific attorney in connection with the matter.

2. **COSTS AND EXPENSES**

In-office Photocopying	\$0.25 per page
Facsimile	\$1.00 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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