From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

#### Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

To his final parties of the parties

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts **Attachments:** Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely, Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer

**From:** Dedrick Martin <martind@calschools.org>

Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 4:58 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Katie Isic; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries;

Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

**Attachments:** 2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf; Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf;

4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf; Op

Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- <u>Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey</u> The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- <u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote: Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

616 437-1510 timmorris@calschools.org



**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185 From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

#### Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

To his final parties of the parties

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts **Attachments:** Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely, Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



**ICHIGAN** 

# Grosse Pointe school board breaks ranks by pursuing 'own' legal counsel; others mull new firms



Published 11:00 p.m. ET Jan. 15, 2023

In at least one Metro Detroit community where the school board has been roiled by political divisions, board members are saying they need legal protection — independent of district counsel — to protect themselves and serve their own interests.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System board of education began a search process earlier this month to find new legal counsel exclusive to the board and separate from the legal representation it already receives from multiple law firms working for the affluent Wayne County district. The board made the move after a November election in voters chose three new members to the seven-member board. The board's president and secretary were defeated and its vice president decided not to seek reelection.

A school board hiring its "own" separate legal counsel would be unusual, said Brad Banasik, legal counsel for the Michigan Association of School Boards. It may have happened once or twice in the last 20 years in Michigan, Banasik said, but he could not recall the reason.

The Grosse Pointe board's move came as a small fraction of Michigan's 537 traditional school district boards are reviewing whether to change their districts' legal firms, a discussion frequently led by newly elected board members who appear at odds with how their districts previously handled themselves. For example, west Michigan's Allendale school board voted 4-3 this month to shift to the Kallman Legal Group, a Lansing-based firm headed by attorney David Kallman, who told The Detroit News the firm has been approached by up to 10 school boards across the state about becoming their counsel.

In Grosse Pointe, board Treasurer Sean Cotton, an attorney himself who was elected in November, proposed the idea of separate legal representation during a Jan. 4 board meeting, saying the board needs its own lawyers to whom it can ask questions. The matter was approved by a vote of 4-3. Board Secretary Ginny Jeup, also a new board member, voted to approve the move.

The Grosse Pointe district confirmed it spends between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year on legal expenses in a typical year. It was unclear what the cost would be for legal representation specifically for the board.

"There are lot of issues with boards these days," Cotton said at the board meeting. "Having that kind of access I think is important. I think it's important for governance. ... There are a lot of issues boards run into. (It's about) having your own access where you can call that attorney and ask them the questions."

Cotton, a businessman and real estate investor who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, did not return Detroit News requests for comment.

Grosse Pointe school board trustee David Brumbaugh, who voted against the measure, called the idea "interesting" during the meeting but asked for it to be tabled so more information could be provided.

Board trustee Colleen Worden, an assistant prosecutor in Macomb County, asked why the board would need another firm.

"The district has a few law firms," Worden, who also voted against the measure, said during the meeting. "One for general questions, we have one for real estate, labor laws. We act in whole on behalf of the school system. We have an attorney who works on behalf of the school system."

At the meeting, Cotton asked Worden the last time she spoke to board legal counsel herself.

"Me? That's not my role to engage with legal counsel," she said. "We act as a whole. We do our business as a board, the law firms the district has retained is through the administration. Why would I need to talk to Clark Hill?"

Newly elected trustee Valarie St. John asked Cotton how many other districts have hired separate legal counsel. He did not respond.

"Like if this is a common practice for a lot of other school boards?" said St. John, who voted against the measure. "If it's not something anybody else does, why we would be unique?"

#### 'A separation of powers'

On the Grosse Pointe board, Vice President Lisa Papas supported the idea of seeking new counsel during the meeting, saying there is an advantage to having a separation of powers when it comes to legal counsel because school board members take a "significant risk" as private citizens.

"Across the country, there is lots going on with school boards," Papas said. "I think there is an advantage to having a separation of powers in consulting and legal issues.

"There are a lot of liability issues with school boards across the country," she continued. "There are cross issues that go on with (the) school board getting sued. I think it's important that we have a lawyer we can consult that is not wrapped in with administration."

In 2021, Papas did not agree with the opinion of the district's legal counsel over wearing masks in schools because of COVID-19. Papas advocated for releasing students, teachers and staff from Wayne County's emergency mask mandate, but that did not happen.

Her plan came after the district's legal counsel, Clark Hill, issued an opinion on the possible consequences of defying the lawful order issued by the Wayne County Health Department. A person who violated the health department regulation could face a misdemeanor charge, up to six months in jail and up to a \$200 fine, according to the opinion.

The Clark Hill law firm also told the board that the district, board members, administrators and employees could lose the protection of government immunity "if they engaged in acts that are considered criminal."

#### **Competing legal interests**

Grosse Pointe's hiring of separate legal counsel is an unusual move, said Banasik with the Michigan Association of School Boards, and comes with potential pitfalls.

"It would be confusing for the law firms" to have two sets of counsel, Banasik said. "Each firm is representing the board. I don't see as a board how you can tell one firm, 'You aren't representing us. We have this other attorney."

"It comes down to: The school board is the client of the district's legal counsel," he said. "An attorney has an ethical responsibility to represent the school board interest in all matters. There should not be any question that the district legal counsel is representing the school board. I can't see any situation where the interest of the school board is different than the district."

While school boards have faced lawsuits over the years, the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a new round of legal challenges related to mask policies, harassment by administrators and other matters. Still, Banasik said he has not seen any cases or legal issues that would merit additional counsel for the board, saying law firms have sufficiently addressed issues for elected school boards.

If there is a case of an individual school board member feeling defamed, Banasik said, then that individual should seek out personal legal counsel. In the case of a single board member not agreeing with a legal opinion, Banasik said that is the person's right, but "it's up to a majority of the board to follow the opinion of the attorney."

#### Legal moves considered elsewhere

One west Michigan school district changed its legal counsel earlier this month. But Banasik said there is no evidence of a widespread shift happening across the state.

The Allendale Public Schools Board of Education dumped its former legal counsel of Thrun Law Firm, which represents a large number of Michigan school districts, and switched to the Kallman Legal Group, Superintendent Garth Cooper said.

Cooper, whose district serves about 2,600 students, said he found out about the request to change counsel a few days before the meeting.

"From my perspective, this is a board decision. I don't really speak to it. I am not a part of that process," Cooper said. The district had used Thrun for at least the last six years, he said.

Officials with Thrun were not available for comment.

The move followed the election of two board candidates endorsed by Ottawa Impact, a conservative group that mobilized following state and county restrictions early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Ottawa Impact also got eight of its endorsed candidates elected to the 11-member Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, where they fired the county administrator and made other moves that prompted an investigation by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's office.

The new firm has been the Michigan counsel for the Christian organization Home School Legal Defense Association since 1983.

David Kallman, partner at Kallman, told The News that Allendale is the first district to contact the firm to be hired as district counsel, but the firm has worked for decades in the area of education law, representing private school boards and charter schools and handling other school matters.

"We have never been contacted to do regular school boards until the last month or two," Kallman said.

"We have been contacted by a number of boards with more conservative folks on the board and wanting to know if we would be interested," Kallman said. "We are in discussions with another 9-10 boards across the state, from Detroit to up North."

The requests are to be counsel for the district, not counsel for the board, Kallman said. He would not name the districts that have contacted the firm.

The board for the Rochester Community Schools is also considering a change in legal representation, said Lori Grein, a spokeswoman for the Oakland County district.

This comes after Superintendent Robert Shaner sent a letter to the board president and vice president in late December threatening legal action if board member and reform advocate Andrew Weaver is too forceful in challenging the way schools are being run.

"There has been informal conversation among some board members about hiring new legal counsel," Grein said in an email. "The board is always evaluating options. If and when the majority of the board decides to make a change, they will proceed accordingly."

jchambers@detroitnews.com

Staff Writer Hayley Harding contributed.

From: Jason Saidoo <saidooj@calschools.org>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:16 PM

**To:** Katie Isic

**Subject:** Fwd: Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion **Attachments:** Grosse Pointe school board discusses hiring its own lawyers.pdf

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Jason Saidoo < saidooj@calschools.org >

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 8:06 AM

Subject: Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion

To: Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org >, Marcy White < whitem@calschools.org >

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/01/16/grosse-pointe-school-board-discusses-hiring-its-own-lawyers/69796380007/

If you're not a subscriber, I've attached a PDF.

The "punch line" - Grosse Pointe's board voted 4-3 to hire their own firm, separate from the district. The article has a couple of other interesting tidbits, specifically about a member disagreeing with Clark Hill's opinion on masking students.

- Jason

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

#### Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

616 437-1510 timmorris@calschools.org



CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts **Attachments:** Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely,

Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer

#### AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") and the law firm of Kallman Legal Group, PLLC (hereinafter "Firm") hereby enter into this contract for the provision of legal services only as requested and directed by the Board. The Board and the Firm shall collectively be known herein as "the Parties."

#### I. BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, the Board desires to contract with Kallman Legal Group, PLLC, to provide legal counsel and litigation legal services only as requested and directed by the Board; the Parties hereby agree as follows:

#### II. PURPOSE

The Board is a body organized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Michigan. The Firm is a Michigan Professional Limited Liability Company employing lawyers who are fully licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan and who are in good standing with the Michigan Bar Association.

In order to fulfill its responsibilities, the Board must secure what are commonly known as "legal counsel services" ("Legal Counsel") and "litigation legal services" ("Litigation"). The parties recognize that one of the purposes of this Agreement is to facilitate the long-term delivery of legal services to the Board for both day-to-day legal counsel services and litigation legal services.

#### III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Firm agrees to provide Counsel and Litigation Legal Services as requested and directed by the Board. In particular, the Firm will provide:

#### **Counsel Legal Services:**

These services include, but are not limited to, providing legal opinions to the Board and other school departments as directed by the Board; regularly attending Board meetings and such other meetings of committees as directed by the Board; assisting the Board in compliance with state statutes, including but not limited to the Public School Code and related statutes, Freedom of Information Act, Open Meetings Act, and HIPAA, and, generally, all those services commonly understood among Michigan public school boards to be Counsel Legal Services as directed by the Board.

#### **Litigation Legal Services:**

These services include, but are not limited to, providing legal counsel and representation as requested and directed by the Board regarding litigation where the Board is a party to a lawsuit, negotiation and the proposed resolution of claims by or against the Board, and providing counsel to the Board in any way related to current or future litigation. These services include, but are not limited to: Advice regarding availability of alternative means to settle disputes; review of correspondence and court documents; preparation of documents to be given to the opposing party; administrative proceedings; legal research and analysis; negotiation of a settlement agreement settling substantive issues; preparation of preliminary or other motion documents; mediation; post mediation, pre-signing, agreement review; representation at hearings and Court proceedings, all services related to the trial of a case, and all post-judgment issues and appeals.

To help the Firm represent the Board effectively and to reduce the costs of representation, the Board agrees to: make any Board official or school employee available to provide sworn testimony, e.g., in a deposition, affidavit, trial, or other proceedings, at the Firm's request; inform the Firm of any new developments or information material to the matter, e.g., court notices, letters from the opposing party or counsel, new factual developments, etc.; respond promptly to the Firm's communications, including voice message, email message, letter, etc.; acknowledge that the Firm will not engage in offensive tactics and will treat all persons involved in the legal process with courtesy and consideration; not pursue a course of action through the Firm that the Firm reasonably believes to be illegal, fraudulent, frivolous, or imprudent; and keep the Firm advised of any change of addresses or phone numbers or other important changes and answer attorney requests for information promptly.

#### IV. DELIVERY OF SERVICES

The Firm agrees to be bound by the codes of professional responsibility of the State Bar of Michigan with respect to the delivery of all legal services pursuant to this Agreement as requested and directed by the Board. To facilitate this service, Kallman Legal Group, PLLC will be appointed by the Board as requested and directed by the Board as "Legal Counsel" for Board, although all its attorneys' compensation, benefits and expenses, including their professional dues will be exclusively provided by the Firm.

The Board will provide Kallman Legal Group, PLLC with an office to use as necessary in the Board's Administration building. The Board will also provide basic secretarial services to the attorneys working out of that office, including, but not limited to, answering phones, making copies of documents, and providing printing services and other office services.

#### V. FEES

Subject to the provisions of Section VI entitled "Costs and Expenses," the Board agrees to pay the Firm and the Firm agrees to accept compensation as follows:

#### **Counsel Legal Services:**

Kallman Legal Group, PLLC's standard hourly attorney rate is \$350.00. However, the Firm agrees to reduce its rate to \$275.00 per hour for all Counsel Legal Services for the first year of the agreement and \$285.00 per hour for the second year of this agreement.

#### **Litigation Legal Services:**

Kallman Legal Group, PLLC's standard hourly attorney rate is \$350.00. However, the Firm agrees to reduce its rate to \$300.00 per hour for all Litigation Legal Services for the first year of the agreement and \$310.00 per hour for the second year of this agreement. The Board shall have the authority to instruct the Firm to represent the Board as necessary related to all litigation as outlined above. Neither party will settle any case without the other's knowledge and approval. The Firm has not made and will make no promises or guarantees regarding the outcome of any litigation matter.

The Firm shall bill the Board on a monthly basis for all legal services provided, and the Board agrees to pay the bills in the regular course of its payment of expenses.

#### VI. COSTS AND EXPENSES

The Board agrees to pay out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Firm in rendering services under this Agreement. Notwithstanding the above, the Firm will not charge for mileage to and from any of the Firm's attorney's homes to the school complex. Other expenses shall be charged at the rate customarily charged to other clients by the Firm and documentation for all expenses shall be provided upon request.

#### VII. NOTIFICATION

As a general matter, communications from the Board to the Firm shall be made to Kallman Legal Group, PLLC at the following address:

KALLMAN LEGAL GROUP, PLLC 5600 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 517-322-3207 517-322-3208 Fax

dave@kallmanlegal.com, steve@kallmanlegal.com, jack@kallmanlegal.com

The Board contemplates that the Board President or his or her designee shall be responsible for coordinating the Board's responsibilities under this Agreement. Communications to the Board President can be made as follows:

Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education
8948 Kraft Avenue SE
Caledonia, MI 49316
Phone: 616-891-8185
Fax: 616-895-6690

C/O:

#### VIII. TERM

This contract shall be effective January \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2023, and have a two-year term ending on January 1, 2025. It may be renewed for another term of years by either party by giving the other party thirty (30) days notice before the end of the term. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may terminate the contract at any time upon ninety (90) days prior written notice to the other.

#### IX. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Firm shall provide proof of adequate professional liability coverage to the Board at the outset of this Agreement, and upon reasonable request at any time during its term. Notwithstanding the above, the Firm shall maintain professional liability insurance of not less than \$1 million per occurrence.

#### X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COUNTERPARTS

By executing this Agreement, the Board representative acknowledges that it has been duly approved by the Board of Education. By executing this Agreement, the Firm representative acknowledges that the Firm has fully approved the Agreement.

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and these counterparts shall constitute one and the same instrument and may be sufficiently evidenced by one or the other.

#### XI. MERGER

This Agreement shall be interpreted under, and in a manner consistent with Michigan law, including amendments and changes from time to time. This Agreement constitutes the complete understanding between the parties and all prior or contemporaneous understandings, oral or in writing, are merged herein. This Agreement may only be modified by the mutual consent of the parties expressed in writing and signed in like form.

KALLMAN LEGAL GROUP, PLLC:	BOARD:	
By:	By:	
David A. Kallman	President	
	Board of Education	
January, 2023	January, 2023	
ATTEST		
Board Clerk/Register		

From: GSI <info@greatschoolsinitiative.org>
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2022 3:39 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Subject:** Conservative School Board Seminar Follow Up

Can't see this message? View in a browser



# Michigan Conservative School Board Seminar



Thank you for attending! We have a number of items we promised to get you (below) as well as other important

# information. Please take a moment to review.

### Communication

Due to many of our conservative groups being doxed or censored or deplatformed we have created our own private social platform for Conservative School Board Members. You can find it at <a href="https://www.greatschoolsinitiative.org/groups">https://www.greatschoolsinitiative.org/groups</a>. The Group is titled: "SB Support Group" It is a private group that requires you to request access. We will verify members. If you have not yet created an account on the GSI website please do so and then request access to this group. We are polling members (see LINK BELOW) to select speakers, content, training. Everyone can add content, including content that you have found helpful - events attending, training you are using, or areas where you need support. If you have any problems with this let us know at info@greatschoolsinitiative.org

# Other Conservative School Board Members

If you know other newly elected or already seated conservative school board members in Michigan please encourage them to reach out to us so that we can get them connected and informed: they can use the link below:

https://www.greatschoolsinitiative.org/statewideboemembers

# **January 2023 School Board Seminar**

We will be hosting another online seminar on January 17, 2023 at 7pm. More details to follow. You can register here:



#### **RSVP Jan Seminar**

## **FEEDBACK**

Also, please provide us feedback from our Dec Seminar. This includes ideas that you have for future topics.

https://forms.wix.com/f57ab9ac-828a-4608-9b47-348a145f3190:f888a049-c6bc-4305-8c7c-e14a8e3d2313

# **Dec Speakers Contact Information**

## **Bryce Carlson**

Miller Carlson Farmer Law bryce@millerfarmercarlson.com www.millerfarmercarlson.com

#### **Erick Kaardal**

Thomas More Society
Thomasmoresociety.org

We have developed a significant Intake Process with Thomas More Society for new Public School cases in Michigan. Contact us through our website:

https://www.greatschoolsinitiative.org/violationsubmission

#### Dave Kallman

Kallman Legal Group, PLLC 5600 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917

Phone: (517) 322-3207

Fax: (517) 322-3208

With significant wins across the state, we now need to prepare our members for the next phase of this struggle, which will be significant.

Please join us for our next incredibly important online seminar on January 17th. We will provide additional training and support.



Join us on our members app to stay updated and keep in touch.

Download & Join

You've received this email because you are a subscriber of **this site**. If you feel you received it by mistake or wish to unsubscribe, please **click here**.

From: Kallman Legal Group <contact@kallmanlegal.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 7:54 PM

To:timmorris@calschools.orgSubject:Submission Confirmation

Name: TIM MORRIS

Phone:

Email: timmorris@calschools.org

Message: Good Evening,

Please allow me to introduce myself to you. My name is Tim Morris, I am a 10 year Board of Education Trustee, beginning a 6 year board tern in the Caledonia Community Schools. I am contacting you to express my interest in speaking further concerning the firms educational legal services.

If at all possible, and due to my travel schedule, the most convenient and earliest date/time to speak with an associate is Tuesday, Jan 10, anytime after 1pm. Please let me know by text to the provided mobile phone number, if this is possible?

Thank you!

Tim Morris
Treasurer, Trustee
Caledonia Community Schools

From: David Kallman <dave@kallmanlegal.com>

**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2023 10:59 AM **To:** 'timmorris@calschools.org'

**Subject:** Phone Call

Mr. Morris:

It was good to speak with you just now. I look forward to our discussion next week. Thanks,

Dave

David A. Kallman Kallman Legal Group, PLLC Attorney at Law

5600 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 322-3207 Fax: (517) 322-3208

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAWS. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US VIA E-MAIL. INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE SECURE OR ERROR-FREE. INFORMATION CAN ARRIVE LATE OR INCOMPLETE, BE INTERCEPTED, CORRUPTED, LOST, DESTROYED, OR CONTAIN VIRUSES. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS THAT ARE IN THIS MESSAGE OR ANY ATTACHMENT. IF VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED, PLEASE REQUEST A HARD-COPY.

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org>
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2023 7:04 PM

To: David Kallman Subject: Re: Phone Call

**Attachments:** Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf; ATT00002.bin; 4891-8113-3122 v4

Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public SchoolSettings.pdf; ATT00004.bin; Op Ltr re

Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf; ATT00006.bin;

Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf; ATT00008.bin

Hi David,

Looking forward to talking with you tomorrow at 1PM Eastern time.

I received all letters and contracts from Board approved firms (attached).

We do not hold a contract with Miller Johnson.

Thank you, David.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

From: David Kallman <dave@kallmanlegal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 3:45 PM

To: Tim Morris

Subject:Proposed Contract with Kallman Legal GroupAttachments:Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx

Tim:

It was good speaking with you earlier today. Attached is the proposed contract we discussed. Thank you for your work for the Caledonia community. Please call if you have any questions.

Dave

David A. Kallman Kallman Legal Group, PLLC Attorney at Law

5600 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 322-3207 Fax: (517) 322-3208

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAWS. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US VIA E-MAIL. INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE SECURE OR ERROR-FREE. INFORMATION CAN ARRIVE LATE OR INCOMPLETE, BE INTERCEPTED, CORRUPTED, LOST, DESTROYED, OR CONTAIN VIRUSES. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS THAT ARE IN THIS MESSAGE OR ANY ATTACHMENT. IF VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED, PLEASE REQUEST A HARD-COPY.

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 3:59 PM

**To:** David Kallman

Subject: Re: Proposed Contract with Kallman Legal Group

Hi David,

I spoke with our board president, Marcy White, about the idea of adding Kallman Legal Group as a law firm of record. She didn't disagree with the idea, and I believe in a 3-3 vote she will likely be the affirming vote.

If an associate is able to attend to be available for questions, I feel it would beneficial to having Kallman Legal Group on board in Caledonia!

The vote will be taken at the Board meeting, this Monday, January 16, 2023, 6PM Caledonia Community Schools, Administration Building Board Room, 8948 Kraft SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

Thank you, David.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 3:45 PM, David Kallman <dave@kallmanlegal.com> wrote:

Tim:

It was good speaking with you earlier today. Attached is the proposed contract we discussed. Thank you for your work for the Caledonia community. Please call if you have any questions.

Dave

David A. Kallman Kallman Legal Group, PLLC Attorney at Law

5600 W. Mount Hope Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: (517) 322-3207 Fax: (517) 322-3208

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAWS. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US VIA E-MAIL. INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE SECURE OR ERROR-FREE. INFORMATION CAN ARRIVE LATE OR INCOMPLETE, BE INTERCEPTED, CORRUPTED, LOST, DESTROYED, OR CONTAIN VIRUSES. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS THAT ARE IN THIS MESSAGE OR ANY ATTACHMENT. IF VERIFICATION IS REQUIRED, PLEASE REQUEST A HARD-COPY.

<Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Sent: Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin **Attachments:** Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely, Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

# Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

N In the Second Second

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2023 2:02 PM

**To:** John Sheely

**Subject:** Fwd: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

Here you go.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

## Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org> **Date:** January 13, 2023 at 12:56:06 PM PST **To:** Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org>

**Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts** 

## Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an

individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < isick@calschools.org > wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

**Thanks** 

Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- Thrun Law Firm, P.C. The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- Clark Hill, PLC While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- Dickinson Wright, PLLC This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:
Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023

regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org



**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent
Caledonia Community Schools
616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-3800.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask
Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law
memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts **Attachments:** Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely, Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

## Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

N In the Second Second

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Jason Saidoo <saidooj@calschools.org>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:16 PM

**To:** Katie Isic

**Subject:** Fwd: Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion **Attachments:** Grosse Pointe school board discusses hiring its own lawyers.pdf

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Jason Saidoo < saidooj@calschools.org >

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 8:06 AM

Subject: Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion

To: Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org >, Marcy White < whitem@calschools.org >

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/01/16/grosse-pointe-school-board-discusses-hiring-its-own-lawyers/69796380007/

If you're not a subscriber, I've attached a PDF.

The "punch line" - Grosse Pointe's board voted 4-3 to hire their own firm, separate from the district. The article has a couple of other interesting tidbits, specifically about a member disagreeing with Clark Hill's opinion on masking students.

- Jason

From: Jason Saidoo <saidooj@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Dedrick Martin; Marcy White

**Subject:** Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion

**Attachments:** Grosse Pointe school board discusses hiring its own lawyers.pdf

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/01/16/grosse-pointe-school-board-discusses-hiring-its-own-lawyers/69796380007/

If you're not a subscriber, I've attached a PDF.

The "punch line" - Grosse Pointe's board voted 4-3 to hire their own firm, separate from the district. The article has a couple of other interesting tidbits, specifically about a member disagreeing with Clark Hill's opinion on masking students.

- Jason

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

# Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris
Treasurer
Caledonia Community Schools
Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

To his final parties of the parties

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts **Attachments:** Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely, Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



U.S. MAIL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 2575, EAST LANSING, MI 48826-2575 PHONE: (517) 484-8000 FAX: (517) 484-0001

> ALL OTHER SHIPPING 2900 WEST ROAD, SUITE 400 EAST LANSING, MI 48823-6386

GORDON W. VANWIEREN, JR.
MARTHA J. MARCERO
LISA L. SWEM
JEFFREY J. SOLES
ROY H. HENLEY
MICHAEL D. GRESENS

CHRISTOPHER J. IAMARINO RAYMOND M. DAVIS MICHELE R. EADDY KIRK C. HERALD MARGARET M. HACKETT MATTHEW F. HISER ROBERT A. DIETZEL
KATHERINE WOLF BROADDUS
DANIEL R. MARTIN
JENNIFER K. STARLIN
TIMOTHY T. GARDNER, JR.
IAN F. KOFFLER

FREDRIC G. HEIDEMANN RYAN J. NICHOLSON CRISTINA T. PATZELT PHILIP G. CLARK PIOTR M. MATUSIAK JESSICA E. MCNAMARA RYAN J. MURRAY ERIN H. WALZ MACKENZIE D. FLYNN

January 3, 2022

#### Dear Client:

While 2021 saw progress toward a return to "normal," school officials continued to navigate uncharted waters. Schools find themselves at the epicenter of many of our most divisive social issues. We are grateful to our school clients for their dedication, passion, and professionalism in light of 2021's new challenges. We are honored to provide guidance to help school officials manage those circumstances.

Our attorneys assisted school clients with countless new and unprecedented issues in 2021, including – to name just a few – mask and vaccine mandates, continued remote public meetings, heightened school safety concerns, and a web of federal ESSER funds spending regulations.

Additionally, our retainer clients received more than 35 E-Blasts, had access to 20 client webinars, and continued to receive their monthly edition of *School Law Notes* throughout the year. Those resources included timely and practical legal guidance on how to navigate the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape.

Thrun Law Firm prides itself on providing high-quality, practical, and cost-effective legal services to our school clients. This letter explains in detail the costs and benefits of becoming or continuing as a retainer client. We believe that, more than ever, the services we provided in 2021 highlight the value of that relationship.

We look forward to continuing our attorney-client relationship with you. We appreciate your confidence in us and will strive throughout 2022 to provide your school with legal services.

# **Retainer Fee**

Enclosed is our retainer fee statement in the amount of \$2,500 for the 2022 calendar year. This fee establishes an attorney-client relationship that covers extensive legal resource availability. Thrun Law Firm has 27 attorneys, each of whom focuses on school law and works with public school officials on a daily basis. Our experience in this highly specialized area of law ensures effective and efficient representation for our school clients.

# Benefits of Retainer Relationship

- Substantially lower hourly rates than those charged to non-retainer clients.
- No charge for occasional brief telephone calls.
- Access to all of our attorneys across all practice groups.



Retainer Client January 3, 2022 Page 2 of 4

- Reduced pricing for the initial purchase of, and annual updates for, the Thrun Policy Service.
- Access to model language and forms that are generally provided without charge or for a nominal flat fee.
- School Law Notes, our monthly retainer client newsletter, which contains timely information about current legal issues affecting school districts, boards of education, and school officials.
- Access to our annual "spring seminars" at no additional charge.
- Periodic, prompt notices (E-Blasts) about important legal developments.
- We also provide additional valuable services at no charge to our retainer clients regarding pertinent legal developments that affect your school district's day-to-day operations. Recent examples of those services include:
  - o reviewing forms, such as the annual Municipal Finance Qualifying Statement, that school districts are required to file with governmental agencies;
  - regularly attending meetings of the State Tenure Commission and the Michigan Employment Relations Commission to monitor developments under the laws administered by those agencies;
  - o analyzing State Tenure Commission decisions, special education due process decisions, property transfer decisions, and pupil accounting decisions; and
  - o serving as a resource to statewide school management membership organizations on a variety of legal issues.

We take great pride in preparing our E-Blasts and our *School Law Notes* newsletter in an accessible format that emphasizes "plain English," avoids "legalese," and provides our clients with practical legal information, including model forms, resolutions and other helpful documents. For example, the newsletter annually includes summer tax and truth-in-taxation resolution forms at no additional cost. Past editions of the *School Law Notes* newsletter (January 2008 to present) are available in a searchable electronic format on our website (www.thrunlaw.com) exclusively for our retainer clients. A useful search tool is provided to permit easy access to topics of interest in our newsletters.



Retainer Client January 3, 2022 Page 3 of 4

### **Practice Areas**

In addition to our extensive trial and appellate practice before Michigan and federal courts, as well as various state and federal administrative agencies, Thrun Law Firm offers a broad range of legal services for public school districts, which are described in Attachment A to this letter.

### Fees

For 2022, fees will be billed for retainer and non-retainer clients at the following hourly rates:<sup>1</sup>

<u>Shareholder</u>		Senior Associate		Associate	
Retainer	\$275	Retainer	\$255	Retainer	\$225
Non-Retainer	\$315	Non-Retainer	\$295	Non-Retainer	\$275

Election issues involving ballot questions and finance issues (i.e., bonds, tax and state aid anticipation notes, installment purchase agreements, and lines of credit) are billed on a flat fee basis. With the exception of an election for a regional enhancement millage,<sup>2</sup> our 2022 school millage/bond election fee is \$1,800 for retainer clients and \$2,200 for non-retainer clients.<sup>3</sup> This fee covers our review of existing millages and potential needs, as well as preparation of the necessary calendar, resolutions, ballot language, and related documents. We retain a copy of the entire proceedings for school district elections. Consequently, if an issue arises about an election, either for a potential borrowing or any court action, we have a complete transcript of the election proceedings on site for use in addressing the matter. We also maintain a database for our use regarding each election client that has important information about millage expiration dates. This information allows our attorneys to provide our clients with the advice they need to help determine when a school district's millage should be renewed by voters.

Our fee for a school bond financing is determined by the nature and amount of the bond issue, while fees for other types of finance issues are determined primarily by the amount of the financing. Our bond counsel fees are all-inclusive - clients are not billed for additional expenses such as in-state travel, telecommunications, copies, shipping, and other related costs. However, fees for architect, construction manager, energy performance, construction contract reviews and related construction or renovation matters are considered separate and are billed at our hourly rate. Board member election questions are also generally billed on an hourly basis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Please note, if the retainer fee is not paid by March 31, 2022, billing rates will be adjusted to the non-retainer rates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Our fee for a regional enhancement millage election is \$1,800 or \$2,200, as applicable, plus an additional \$100 for each constituent school district.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> When a bond election passes, the election fee is waived and incorporated into our bond counsel fee that is billed when the related bonds are issued.



Retainer Client January 3, 2022 Page 4 of 4

# **Forms**

All governmental units and nonprofit organizations, including public school districts, are required to issue a Form 1099 to each law firm to which any payment for legal services was made during calendar year 2021. Please submit your school district's Form 1099 to us *by January 31*, 2022.

In anticipation of your request for our federal taxpayer identification number, we have enclosed a completed Substitute Form W-9 for your files.

# **Conclusion**

We look forward to being of continuing service to your school district in 2022. If you would like additional information regarding our legal services, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.

Enclosures:

Retainer Fee Statement

Substitute Form W-9

#### ATTACHMENT A

**Board Counsel** 

Board policy

Board operations

**Business** contracts

Construction and real estate matters

Finance and elections

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Labor and employment

Litigation, administrative law, and appeals

Open Meetings Act (OMA)

Special education

State aid/pupil accounting

Student matters

#### **Business Contracts**

Arbitration and mediation

Competitive bidding and procurement/RFPs

Construction and architectural agreements

Cooperative service agreements

Donations and charitable giving

arrangements

Energy improvement projects

Environmental protection and remediation

Formation of business entities (including

501(c)(3) organizations)

General business agreements

Trademarks and service marks

Intergovernmental agreements

Investment and depository agreements

Real estate transactions

Technology and telecommunication

agreements

Third party service agreements

Zoning and ordinance compliance

#### General School Law

Constitutional law, including free speech,

religion, search & seizure, and due

process

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

(FERPA)

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Open Meetings Act (OMA)

Revised School Code

State Aid Act

Board policy drafting and review

Board governance, including Robert's Rules

of Order

Incompatibility of public offices and

conflicts of interest

### Labor and Employment

Administrative hearings

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Arbitration

Civil rights and discrimination (EEOC and

MDCR)

Collective bargaining agreements

Contract negotiations

**Employee contracts** 

Employment regulations (OSHA, MIOSHA,

and DOL)

Employment-related investigations

Fact finding

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Management strategies

Mediation

**MPSERS** 

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

PERA and MERC

Personnel policies and procedures

Teacher tenure

Unemployment

Wage and hour compliance

Whistleblowers' Protection Act

# Litigation, Administrative Law, and Appeals

Arbitration and mediation

Civil rights litigation

Construction arbitration and litigation

Defense of insured claims

Employment litigation

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)/wage and

hour claims

MDCR complaints

MERC hearings and appeals

OCR complaints

Teacher tenure and appeals

Property tax appeals

Property transfers

Special education/Section 504/ADA claims

State aid and pupil accounting appeals

Unemployment compensation claims

Whistleblowers' Protection Act

Workplace safety claims

Wrongful discharge claims

Public Finance and Elections

Annexations and consolidations

Ballot drafting, including millage, bond, and other proposals

Campaign Finance Act compliance

Competitive bidding

Emergency loan notes

Energy bonds

Energy loan notes

Equipment leases and lease purchase agreements

Headlee restoration and Headlee hedge proposals

Installment purchase agreements

Intermediate school district millages,

including CTE, special education, and regional enhancement millages

Investment of funds

Lines of credit

Michigan Finance Authority borrowings

Operating millage renewals

Permitted use of bond and note proceeds

Post-issuance compliance

Public recreation millage

Revenue bonds

School Bond Qualification and Loan

Program

Sinking fund millage

Special assessment bonds

State aid notes (SANs)

State Building Authority borrowings

Tax anticipation notes (TANs)

Truth-in-taxation and budget hearings

Voted and non-voted bonds, including capital improvement bonds

### Special Education

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Auxiliary services

Child find, evaluations, and eligibility

Cooperative agreements and contracted services

Defense of insured claims

Due process complaints and hearings

Extracurricular activities

FAPE, LRE, and placement

**Funding** 

**IEP** Team meetings

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

(IDEA)

In-services and workshops

Mediation

OCR, MDCR, and MDE complaints

Private schools and private placement

Related services, supplementary aids, and accommodations

Resolution meetings

Schools of choice and 105c agreements

schools of choice and to.

Section 504

State and federal court litigation

Student discipline

# State Aid and Pupil Accounting

Certification penalty appeals

Program compliance review

Pupil accounting procedures

State aid appeals (all levels)

State School Aid Act

#### Student Matters

Athletics and extracurricular activities

Board policy changes and interpretations

Child protection law

CIPA and COPPA

Curriculum

Discipline

Dress code

Due process Electronic devices

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

(FERPA)

Free speech rights

Handbooks

Religious exercises and the Equal Access

Act

Residency

Search and seizure

Special education and Section 504

implications

Titles IV, VI, VII, and IX

From: Jason Saidoo <saidooj@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 8:07 AM
To: Dedrick Martin; Marcy White

**Subject:** Maybe a twist coming in the legal counsel discussion

**Attachments:** Grosse Pointe school board discusses hiring its own lawyers.pdf

https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2023/01/16/grosse-pointe-school-board-discusses-hiring-its-own-lawyers/69796380007/

If you're not a subscriber, I've attached a PDF.

The "punch line" - Grosse Pointe's board voted 4-3 to hire their own firm, separate from the district. The article has a couple of other interesting tidbits, specifically about a member disagreeing with Clark Hill's opinion on masking students.

- Jason

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Tim Morris

**Cc:** Katie Isic; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; Jennifer

Nichols; John Brandow; Dedrick Martin

**Subject:** Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts

## Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the group norms, policies, and procedures set in place for best practices.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm(s) and/or removal of a legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Thu, Jan 12, 2023 at 4:09 PM Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote: Good Afternoon, Board Trustees,

As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright.

That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a>

to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Morris
Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



p:

e: timmorris@calschools.org

This message is confidential and intended only for the individual to whom or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or addressee, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the addressee, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying, in whole or part, of this message is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have been sent this message in error, please do not read it. Please immediately reply to sender that you have received this message in error. Then permanently delete all copies of the message. Thank you.

On Jan 10, 2023, at 8:21 AM, Dedrick Martin < martind@calschools.org > wrote:

Thrun is the only law firm that has a retainer fee, which is \$2,500 per year. This retainer fee does provide some level of ongoing newsletter letters (we normally include in memos) and various communications of court cases and new laws when passed and how they

may impact schools. The rest of the firms that we have on retainer are only paid if we use their services.

DM

On Mon, Jan 9, 2023, 8:45 PM Katie Isic < <u>isick@calschools.org</u>> wrote: Quick follow up,

Do we pay all of the firms on this list a retainer fee or this is just a list of firms we have worked with in the past that we can call as needed?

Thanks Katie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2023, at 6:54 PM, Tim Morris < <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a>> wrote:

Thank you, Dedrick,

Your summary information and attached documents is appreciated.

I'll updated my Board group now that the incoming Board members email addresses are active.

If Rhodes-McKee is not been engaged in four years the Board might want to consider removing them from the proposed list.

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

On Jan 9, 2023, at 1:58 PM, Dedrick Martin <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote:

I'm resending this email/question to the current BOE as the former BOE members were listed instead of the new BOE members.

With regards to your request, there are no contracts in force with any of the five law firms that the district has listed as retained. However, I have attached the Retainer Packet from Clark Hill which is informational but no contract and the Thrun Retainer information.

As indicated in the Nov. 22nd memo, the retainer firms that the district has identified are:

- Rhodes, McKee, Boer, Goodrich and Titta This is not a firm that we have used since I have been here, they do not really practice school law with the exception of real estate.
- Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey The district has used them in the past, they do have attorneys with lots of education & employment law experience.
- -<u>Thrun Law Firm, P.C.</u> The largest education law firm in the state, specializing in all areas of education law, we have used them for many items across the board.
- <u>Clark Hill, PLC</u> While Clark Hill is a full service firm, I believe it's the second largest firm representing public schools within our state. We have used them frequently.
- <u>Dickinson Wright, PLLC</u> This firm is also a full service firm, not as well known for public education but has attorneys with a good bit of experience and expertise representing public schools in various situations.

In addition, here is a follow-up to a previous request from a BOE member for additional legal opinions from law firms that represent our district beyond what was provided by Thrun (see the last attachment) and Clark Hill (in closed session with the BOE) regarding the question of the legality of the mask order. I have attached a letter provided by Dickinson Wright. I'm still awaiting a letter from Miller Johnson, and Rhodes, McKee has declined to provide a letter as this area of educational law is not in their area of expertise. While the Miller Johnson attorney indicated they would provide a letter, I have not received one at the time of this communication.

DM

On Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 10:20 PM Tim Morris <a href="mailto:timmorris@calschools.org">timmorris@calschools.org</a> wrote:

Hi Dr Martin,

As the Board will be considering its legal counsel relationships on January 16, 2023 regular board meeting. May I ask that all current contract documents in force (or expired contracts on or after June 29, 2022) with proposed law firms at January 16's regular Board Meeting be shared with the Board Board of Education before end of business day on Monday, Jan 9, 2023?

Thank you.

Tim Morris Treasurer Caledonia Community Schools Board of Education

timmorris@calschools.org

N In the Second Second

CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

Superintendent Caledonia Community Schools 616-891-8185

<2022-23 Retainer Package.pdf>
<Thrun\_Retainer\_Info\_2023-01-09-12-38-00.pdf>
<4891-8113-3122 v4 Opinion re Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings.pdf>
<Op Ltr re Network for Public Health Law memo (01830855xA9E76) (1).pdf>

From: Michele Zoet <zoetm@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 3:27 PM

To: Marcy White

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT ONLY RESPONSE

Sounds good to me. Good to send.

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:55 PM Marcy White <<u>whitem@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Michele & Marcy's changes combined* ~ *Let me know???* 

Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm and/or removal of a legal firm(s) to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the

regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:18 PM Michele Zoet <<u>zoetm@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Michele's suggestions are below:* 

Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well.

I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this consideration of the proposed legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. and Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:06 PM Dedrick Martin <<u>martind@calschools.org</u>> wrote: I think it's perfect!

DM

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023, 12:29 PM Marcy White <<u>whitem@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Fellow Board Members* ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that have not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regards to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me. After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discuss options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place. With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion. I am suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda and we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy





**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.



**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:55 PM

To: Michele Zoet

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT ONLY RESPONSE

Michele & Marcy's changes combined ~ Let me know???

Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services" Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it did not go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take consideration of the proposed legal firm and/or removal of a legal firm(s) to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee, we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:18 PM Michele Zoet <<u>zoetm@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Michele's suggestions are below:* 

Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well.

I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this consideration of the proposed legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. and Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

#### Marcy

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:06 PM Dedrick Martin <<u>martind@calschools.org</u>> wrote: I think it's perfect!

DM

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023, 12:29 PM Marcy White <<u>whitem@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Fellow Board Members* ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that have not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regards to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me. After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discuss options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place. With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion. I am suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda and we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

13



**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

From: Michele Zoet <zoetm@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:18 PM

To: Friday, January 13, 2

To: Dedrick Martin
Cc: Marcy White

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT ONLY RESPONSE

Michele's suggestions are below:

Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and the questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that has not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regard to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me.

After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well.

I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discussing options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place.

With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this consideration of the proposed legal firm to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion at Monday's board meeting. I am also suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda for Monday's meeting. and Once the legal firm discussion has gone through the committee we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will

be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 2:06 PM Dedrick Martin < <a href="martind@calschools.org">martind@calschools.org</a> wrote: I think it's perfect!

DM

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023, 12:29 PM Marcy White <<u>whitem@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Fellow Board Members* ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that have not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regards to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me. After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discuss options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place. With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion. I am suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda and we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

--



**CONFIDENTIALITY/PRIVACY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachment, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information as defined by State and Federal laws. If you are not the intended recipient or an agent of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you received this message in error and any review, disclosure, copying, printing, distribution, dissemination, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by return e-mail and immediately and permanently delete the original from your computer and destroy all copies of this communication. Thank you.

From: Dedrick Martin <martind@calschools.org>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 2:06 PM

To: Marcy White Cc: Michele Zoet

**Subject:** Re: DRAFT ONLY RESPONSE

I think it's perfect!

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023, 12:29 PM Marcy White <<u>whitem@calschools.org</u>> wrote: *Fellow Board Members* ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that have not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regards to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me. After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discuss options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place. With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion. I am suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda and we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

From: Marcy White <whitem@calschools.org>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 12:29 PM
To: Michele Zoet; Dedrick Martin
Subject: DRAFT ONLY RESPONSE

#### Fellow Board Members ~

I would like to offer some thoughts on this based on what I am seeing and questions I have received. Tim contacted me on Wednesday evening to let me know that he was going to share some information that he would like us to consider regarding legal counsel that is retained by CCS. During our conversation, he brought up that he would like to discuss the possibility of eliminating a couple that have not been used frequently and the possible addition of one. I was told that he would be sending out information to all Board members in regards to this matter as this was the first conversation in which it was shared with me. After receiving this email yesterday afternoon, I have been contacted by other Board members with a great deal of concern that specifically revolves around the process. The questions I have been asked are completely valid as it is not within policy or practice for an individual board member to have conversations and initiate a written contract to be presented to the full board. Any conversations that would bring about a "Legal Services Agreement" or contract of any kind that specifically lists Caledonia Community Schools would need to be initiated via Dr. Martin as our Superintendent to be brought to the Board for consideration or have gone through the BOE President. I have confirmed that it didn't go through Dr. Martin's office nor did I initiate any conversation on behalf of CCS as a district or us as a Board. If either of us had, this would have been communicated so everyone is operating with the same information as we realize there would be a lot of questions to answer as well. I can not speak to any specifics that may have been discussed with the Kallman Legal Group or who might have participated in conversations. As a board, we are always open to discuss options that will best serve the district and represent our community but they need to happen within the policies and procedures set in place. With all of this being said, I feel it would be best to take this to a committee meeting next month for further questions as there would not be the appropriate time to gather the additional information that would be required for a full discussion. I am suggesting that we continue to utilize our current legal firms which will be reflected on the agenda and we can make any adjustments necessary at the regular BOE Meeting in February. I will be happy to work with appropriate officers and committee chairs once decided at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Marcy

From: Tim Morris <timmorris@calschools.org> Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 4:10 PM Katie Isic; Marcy White; Jason Saidoo; Brittany Barber Garcia; Michele Zoet; Sara DeVries; To: Jennifer Nichols; John Brandow Cc: Dedrick Martin Subject: Re: Request for Existing Legal Counsel Contracts Legal Services Agreement, Caledonia.docx; ATT00002.bin **Attachments:** Good Afternoon, Board Trustees, As an agenda item for discussion on Monday, January 16, 2023 Board Meeting, I would like to discuss eliminating the law firm we have not engaged in 5 years. Specifically, Rhodes McKee and Dickenson, Wright. That said, I would like to propose the Board consider adding Kallman Legal Group P.C. <a href="https://www.kallmanlegal.com/">https://www.kallmanlegal.com/</a> to Caledonia Community Schools law firms of record. Attached is a engagement agreement with rates and other specifics. Thank you. Sincerely,

Tim Morris

Caledonia Board of Education, Treasurer



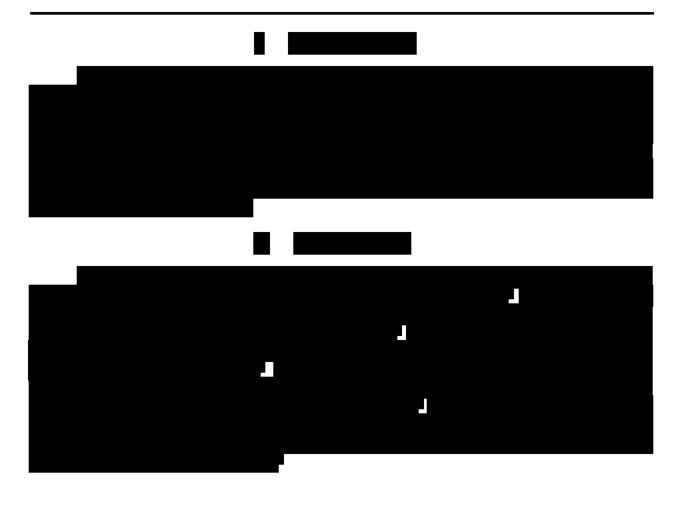
### ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

### MEMORANDUM

To: Caledonia Community Schools

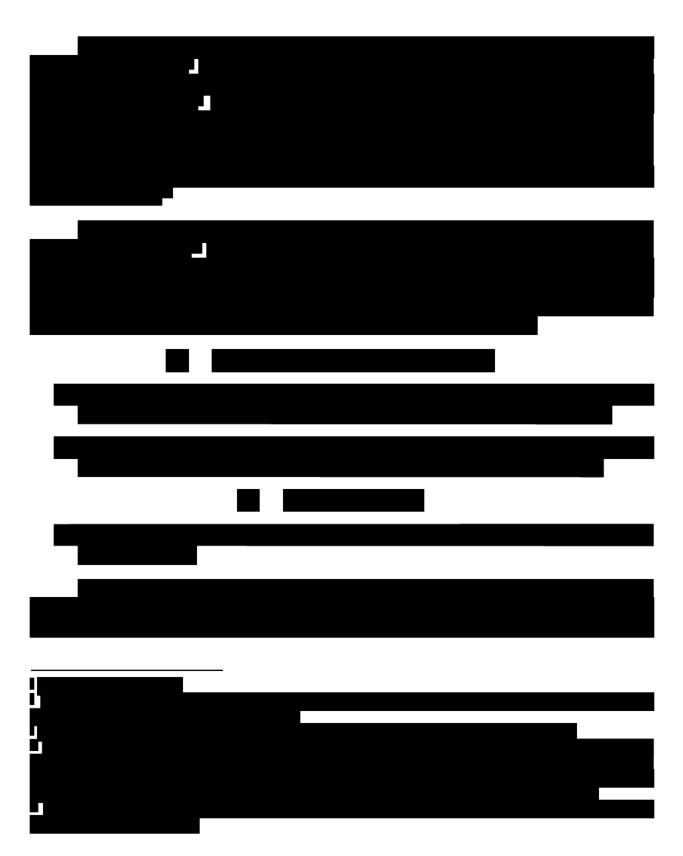
Date: December 15, 2022

Re: Face Mask Mandates in Public School Settings





DATE:

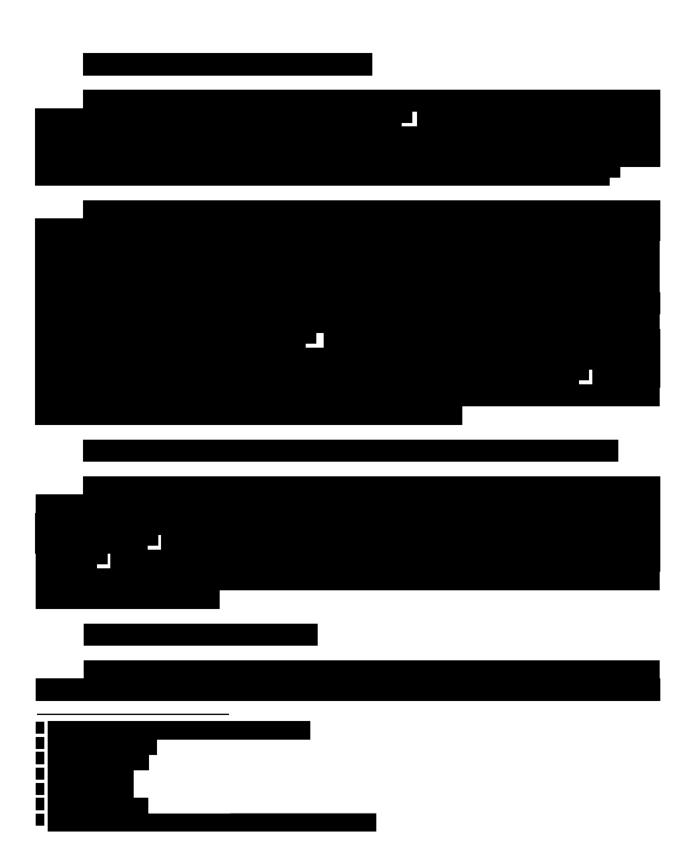


DATE:





DATE:

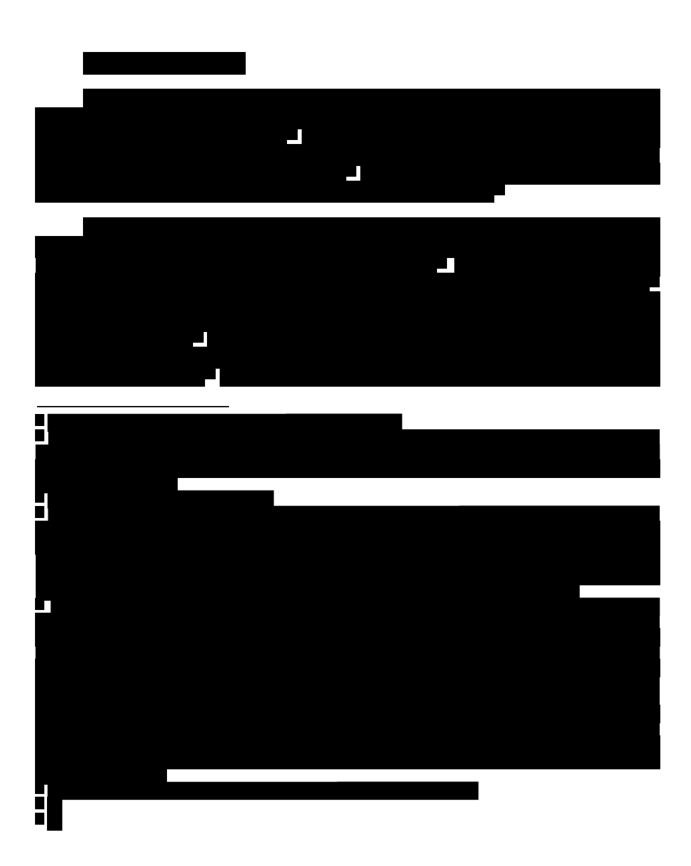


DATE:

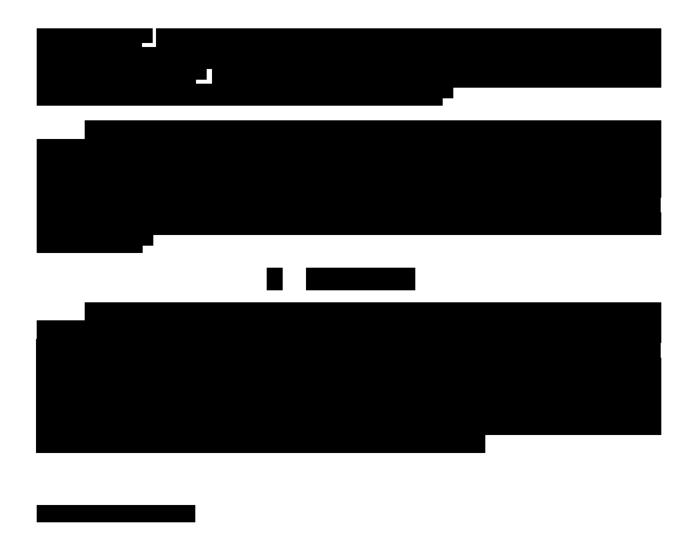




DATE:



DATE:







3260 Eagle Park Drive NE, Suite 121 Grand Rapids, MI 49525-4569

PHONE: (616) 588-7700 FAX: (616) 588-7710

GORDON W. VANWIEREN, JR.
MARTHA J. MARCERO
LISA L. SWEM
JEFFREY J. SOLES
ROY H. HENLEY
MICHAEL D. GRESENS

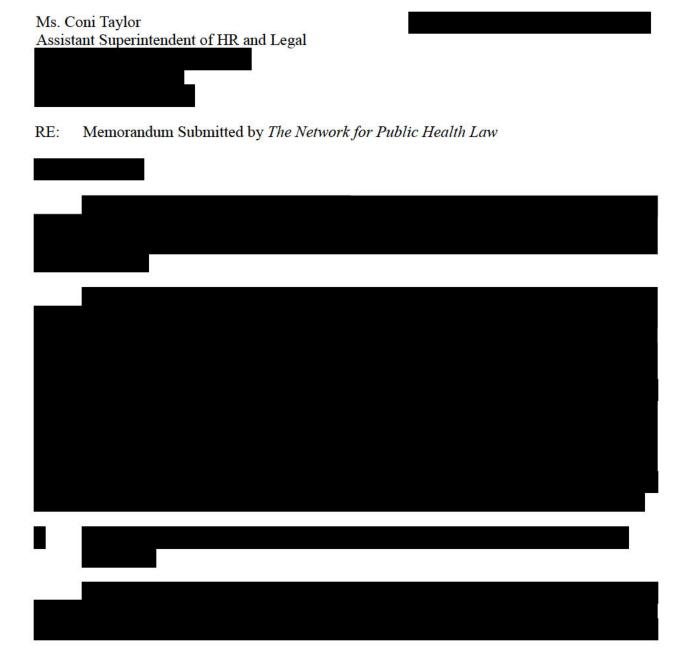
CHRISTOPHER J. IAMARINO
RAYMOND M. DAVIS
MICHELE R. EADDY
KIRK C. HERALD
MARGARET M. HACKETT
MATTHEW F. HISER

ROBERT A. DIETZEL
KATHERINE WOLF BROADDUB
DANIEL R. MARTIN
JENNIFER K. STARLIN
TIMOTHY T. GARDNER, JR.
IAN F. KOFFLER

FREDRIC G. HEIDEMANN RYAN J. NICHOLSON PHILIP G. CLARK PIOTR M. MATUSIAK CRISTINA T. PATZELT JESSICA E. MCNAMARA RYAN J. MURRAY ERIN H. WALZ



December 15, 2021





Ms. Coni Taylor December 15, 2021 Page 2 of 5





Ms. Coni Taylor December 15, 2021 Page 3 of 5





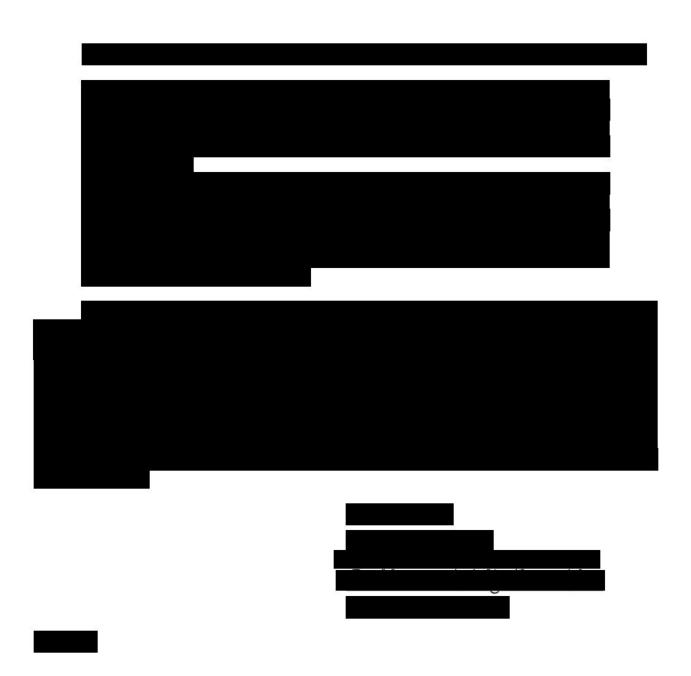
Ms. Coni Taylor December 15, 2021 Page 4 of 5





Ms. Coni Taylor December 15, 2021 Page 5 of 5

#### Confidential: Attorney-Client Privileged Communication



This document (and its attachments) constitute privileged attorney-client communication to remain confidential among the members of the Board of Education and administrative staff for the School District. As such, this document is exempt from disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.243(1)(g), and the Board of Education may meet in a closed session to consider its contents pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(h).