

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: August 22, 2011

AGENDA ITEM No. 11-08-(2)-14

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Legal Services Contract

INFO. CONTACT: G. Patrick Rhodes PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: None.

PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Education the opportunity to select a legal services provider for the 2011-2012 school year.

BACKGROUND: North Carolina public schools are governed by a wide range of state and federal legislation. For this reason, the Board of Education relies on legal counsel in a range of areas. These may include service contract reviews, training, statutory compliance, employment law, student discipline and personnel law. Currently, the board retains the services of Mike Parker of Cheshire and Parker, Attorneys at Law, for routine matters. When needed, the board enlists the services of legal firms which specialize in school law. These include the Raleigh firms of Tharrington-Smith and Schwartz & Shaw.

The Board of Education is a member of the North Carolina School Boards Association Trust which pays for legal defense in the event of claims against the district and its employees.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The Board of Education budgets \$98,000 for legal services. This represents point one-five percent (.15%) of the district's operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education place a school law firm on retainer for the purpose of personnel-related counsel.