

AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is between the RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT (“Client”) and the law firm of LOZANO SMITH, LLP (“Attorney”) (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”). Attorney shall provide legal services as requested by Client on the following terms and conditions:

1. **ENGAGEMENT.** Client hires Attorney as its legal counsel with respect to matters the Client refers to Attorney. Attorney shall provide legal services to represent Client in such matters, keep Client informed of significant developments and respond to Client’s inquiries regarding those matters. Client understands that Attorney cannot guarantee any particular results, including the costs and expenses of representation. Client agrees to be forthcoming with Attorney, to cooperate with Attorney in protecting Client’s interests, to keep Attorney fully informed of developments material to Attorney’s representation of client, and to abide by this Agreement. Client is hereby advised of the right to seek independent legal advice regarding this Agreement.
2. **RATES TO BE CHARGED.** Client agrees to pay Attorney for services rendered based on the attached rate schedule. Agreements for legal fees on other-than-an-hourly basis may be made by mutual agreement for special projects (including as set forth in future addenda to this Agreement).
3. **REIMBURSEMENT.** Client agrees to reimburse Attorney for actual and necessary expenses and costs incurred in the course of providing legal services to Client, including but not limited to expert, consultant, mediation and arbitration fees. Attorney shall not be required to advance costs on behalf of Client over the amount of \$1,000 unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Attorney. Typical expenses advanced for Client, without prior authorization, include messenger fees, witness fees, expedited delivery charges, travel expenses, court reporter fees and transcript fees. Client authorizes Attorney to retain experts or consultants to perform services for Client in relation to litigation or Specialized Services.
4. **MONTHLY INVOICES.** Attorney shall send Client a statement for fees and costs incurred every calendar month (the “Statement”). Statements shall set forth the amount, rate and description of services provided. Client shall pay Attorney’s Statements within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt. An interest charge of one percent (1%) per month shall be assessed on balances that are more than thirty (30) calendar days past due, not to exceed 10% per annum.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ATTORNEY AND CLIENT.** The Parties recognize that all legal advice provided by Attorney is protected by the Attorney-Client and Work Product Privileges. In addition to regular telephone, mail and other common business communication methods, Client hereby authorizes Attorney to use facsimile transmissions, cellular telephone calls and text, unencrypted email, and other electronic transmissions in communicating with

Client. Unless otherwise instructed by Client, any such communications may include confidential information.

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

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

8. **TERMINATION.**

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

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

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

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

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

11. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

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

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

c. Binding Arbitration. Except as otherwise set forth in section (b) above, Client and Attorney agree to submit all disputes to final and binding arbitration, either following mediation which fails to resolve all disputes or in lieu of mediation as may be agreed by the Parties in writing. Either Party may make a written request to the other for arbitration. If made in lieu of mediation, the request must be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the action giving rise to the dispute. If the request for arbitration is made following an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the Parties' disputes, the request must be made within ten (10) calendar days of termination of the mediation. The Parties shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. EFFECTIVE DATE. The Effective Date is when legal services were authorized and incurred pursuant to Board Policy 3300.


18. RATIFICATION. The Board of Education shall, in addition to the expending authority under Board Policy 3300, ratify the Agreement in open session at a regular Board meeting.

SO AGREED:

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOZANO SMITH, LLP

By: Date
Its:

 August 23, 2018

Karen M. Rezendes Date
Managing Partner

PROFESSIONAL RATE SCHEDULE
FOR RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
(Effective January 1, 2018)

1. HOURLY PROFESSIONAL RATES

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

Partner** / Senior Counsel / Of Counsel	\$ 275 - \$ 300 per hour
Associate	\$ 215 - \$ 275 per hour
Paralegal / Law Clerk	\$ 135 - \$ 155 per hour
Consultant	\$ 135 - \$ 195 per hour

* Rates for individual attorneys within each category above vary based upon years of experience. Specific rates for each attorney are available upon request.

** Rates for work performed by Senior Partners with 20 years of experience or more may range from \$300 - \$350 per hour.

2. BILLING PRACTICE

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

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

3. COSTS AND EXPENSES

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

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

Richland SD | BP 3300 Business and Noninstructional Operations

Expenditures And Purchases

The Board of Trustees recognizes its fiduciary responsibility to oversee the prudent expenditure of district funds. In order to best serve district interests, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain effective purchasing procedures that are consistent with sound financial controls and that ensure the district receives maximum value for items purchased. He/she shall ensure that records of expenditures and purchases are maintained in accordance with law.

(cf. 3000 - Concepts and Roles)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)

(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)

(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)

(cf. 9270 - Conflict of Interest)

Expending Authority

The Superintendent or designee may purchase supplies, materials, apparatus, equipment, and services up to the amounts specified in Public Contract Code 20111, beyond which a competitive bidding process is required. The Board shall not recognize obligations incurred contrary to Board policy and administrative regulations.

(cf. 3311 - Bids)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

The Board shall review all transactions entered into by the Superintendent or designee on behalf of the Board every 60 days. (Education Code 17605)

The Superintendent or designee may authorize an expenditure which exceeds the budget classification allowance against which the expenditure is the proper charge only if an amount sufficient to cover the purchase is available in the budget for transfer by the Board.

(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

District funds shall not be expended for the purchase of alcoholic beverages. (Education Code 32435)

Purchasing Procedures

Insofar as possible, goods and services purchased shall meet the needs of the person or department ordering them at the lowest price consistent with standard purchasing practices. Maintenance costs, replacement costs, and trade-in values shall be considered when determining the most economical purchase price. When price, fitness, and quality are equal, recycled products shall be preferred when procuring materials for use in district schools and buildings.

(cf. 3314.2 - Revolving Funds)

(cf. 3440 - Inventories)

(cf. 3511.1 - Integrated Waste Management)

All purchases shall be made by formal contract or purchase order or shall be accompanied by a receipt. In order to eliminate the processing of numerous small purchase orders, the Superintendent or designee may create a "blanket" or "open" purchase order system for the purchase of minor items as needed from a vendor. He/she shall ensure that the "open" purchase order system details a maximum purchase amount, the types of items that can be purchased under this order, the individuals authorized to approve purchases, and the expiration date of the "open" order.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17604 Delegation of powers to agents; approval or ratification of contracts by governing board

17605 Delegation of authority to purchase supplies and equipment

32370-32376 Recycling paper

32435 Prohibited use of public funds, alcoholic beverages

35010 Control of district; prescription and enforcement of rules

35035 Powers and duties of superintendent

35160 Authority of governing boards

35250 Duty to keep certain records and reports

38083 Purchase of perishable foodstuffs and seasonal commodities

41010 Accounting system

41014 Requirement of budgetary accounting

GOVERNMENT CODE

4330-4334 California made materials

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

3410 U.S. produce and processed foods

20111 Contracts over \$50,000; contracts for construction; award to lowest responsible bidder

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Maximizing School Board Governance: Fiscal Accountability, 2006

WEB SITES

CSBA, Financial Services: <http://www.csba.org/fs>

California Association of School Business Officials: <http://www.casbo.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: August 14, 2017 Shafter, California