

Consider approval of Legal Services Contract for Maddox & Muñiz, PLLC for Special Education Legal Services

1. Background:

The district continues to experience increasing complexity in special education compliance requirements, student programming, due process matters, and evolving state and federal regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and related laws. In order to ensure continued legal compliance and appropriate support for students, families, and staff, District administration is recommending the retention of a law firm with expertise in special education and school law. Maddox & Muñiz, PLLC will provide specialized legal consultation and representation to support the district in special education, Section 504, student services, compliance matters, dispute resolution, due process hearings, policy guidance, and other related educational matters.

2. Process:

District administration reviewed the district's current and anticipated legal support needs related to special education and student services. In evaluating legal counsel options, administration considered demonstrated expertise in special education and school law, experience representing Southwest ISD, availability and responsiveness to District needs, capacity to provide training, consultation, and litigation support, and the fee structure and overall value to the district. Based on this review, administration recommends approval of the legal services contract with Maddox & Muñiz, PLLC.

3. Fiscal Impact:

Legal services will be funded through the approved legal services budget and utilized on an as-needed basis in accordance with the negotiated fee schedule and engagement agreement. The total cost will depend on the scope and frequency of services requested by the district.

4. Recommendation:

5. That the Board approve the legal services contract with Maddox & Muñiz, PLLC for special education legal services and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and finalize the agreement.

6. Required:

Board action.