



Consent Item

Date: August 11, 2025

Division: Finance

Subject: Consider Approval of Annual Agreements for External Legal Services

Background Information:

- Board Policy BDD(LOCAL) specifies that the Board shall have final authority to employ outside legal counsel. In consultation with the Superintendent, the District's in-house counsel may make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding retention of an attorney or attorneys to represent the District in legal matters.
- Over the past eleven years, Lewisville ISD's in-house legal counsel has helped to greatly reduce the annual expenses for these services. The LISD Office of Legal Services handles the vast majority of legal matters for the District, including legal issues related to employees, students (other than special education), governance (including the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act), contracts with outside parties, and many other areas where the district needs legal assistance. The District works with the law firms listed below on highly specialized legal matters that require a specific type of legal expertise.
- On August 12, 2024, the LISD Board of Trustees approved the retention of four external legal counsel law firms for the 2024–2025 budget year: Law Firms Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C., Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C., Thompson & Horton, LLP, and Brackett & Ellis, P.C. for specific legal services.
- Requests for external legal consultation shall be submitted through the Superintendent or designee(s).
- The Law Firm of Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C. works with LISD on new construction and real estate-related matters. This firm may also provide general legal counsel during a period when legal matters are time-sensitive and there are scheduling conflicts with LISD in-house counsel.
- The Law Firm of Brackett & Ellis, P.C. provides legal services in areas of public education, including but not limited to personnel investigations, special education and section 504, student rights, litigation, and many other areas.
- The Law Firm of Thompson & Horton, LLP provides legal services in areas of public education, including but not limited to personnel, special education and section 504, student rights, litigation, and many other areas.
- The Law Firm of Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. works with LISD on special education-related matters. This firm may also provide general legal counsel during a period when legal matters are time-sensitive and there are scheduling conflicts with LISD in-house counsel.

Administrative Consideration:

- Total year-to-date external legal services expenditures: \$260,053
 - 2024–2025: Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Hullett, P.C. - \$146,538
 - 2024–2025: Brackett & Ellis, P.C. - \$0
 - 2024–2025: Thompson & Horton, LLP - \$5,485
 - 2024–2025: Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. - \$108,030
- Estimated annual expenditures for the 2025-2026 school year: \$286,000 but will not exceed the approved budget(s).

Recommendations:

- That the Lewisville ISD Board of Trustees approves the Annual Agreements for External Legal Services and the estimated expenditures with the recommended legal firms for one year.

Timeline/Report:

- Term: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026