



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

9D. Action

Date: March 10, 2008

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF POSITION – SCHOOL ATTORNEY/GENERAL COUNSEL

**BOARD GOAL: The Keller Independent School District will recruit, develop, and retain a diverse highly qualified staff.
All systems in the Keller Independent School District will be effective, efficient, and accountable in support of the district's mission.**

FISCAL NOTE: 2008-09 General Funds

Background Information:

- In order to protect the District's interest, the District contracts with outside law firms to provide legal advice and guidance in matters of federal and state law including IDEA, Section 504, Civil Rights, FERPA, Texas Administrative Code and Texas Government Code, legal and local policies, grievances, contracts for services and real estate, employment matters, compliance with the Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act, and other legal issues.
- While the services currently being provided by representatives of the district's law firms is excellent, it has been determined that it would be to the district's benefit to employ an in-house school attorney. Such a position would be an available resource to provide the Board and Superintendent with day-to-day oversight of legal matters affecting the district and allow the district to be more pro-active in compliance matters. As there will still be issues requiring specific legal knowledge and skills, such as special education and litigation, the district will contract for specialized legal services on a case-by-case basis when the need arises.
- The cost associated with this position is estimated to be approximately \$150,000 to include salary, benefits and an initial departmental budget. It is expected that the expense will be offset by a reduction in fees for outside legal services.

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The administration recommends that the Board approve the School Attorney/General Counsel position to allow for timely hiring of this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Benz
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources