

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

September 22, 2020

SUBJECT:

Legal Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2017, the School Board tasked the District's Salary Committee with making a recommendation whether to hire an in-house attorney as replacement for the retiring School Board Attorney or use external legal services. On April 17, 2018, the board approved a contract for legal services with Halligan Mahoney & Williams.

The School Board requested that administration report to the salary committee on the quality and efficiency of the district's relationship with Halligan Mahoney & Williams after six months. On May 14, 2019 the board approved the continuation of the arrangement with the firm.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The board directed administration to again review the quality and efficiency of the district's arrangement with Halligan Mahoney and Williams.

During the 2018-19 school year, the district realized a savings in legal expenses of 37 percent over 2017-18 and a savings of 36 percent over 2016-17. 2019-20 saw an increase in the need for legal assistance, however, the district still realized savings over the two years prior to the arrangement with Halligan Mahoney and Williams of 9 percent (2017-18) and 6 percent (2016-17). Surveys of principals in April 2019 and September 2020 indicated that they had experienced no adverse consequences as a result of the current process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Maintain the current arrangement for legal services with Halligan Mahoney & Williams

PREPARED BY:

King Laurence