

Legal Counsel (Code po0172)

- The Board may employ or retain an attorney or attorneys to represent the School District or Board in actions brought for or against the District and to render other legal services for the welfare of the School District.
- Authority to contact such counsel for legal advice or assistance on behalf of the District shall normally be that of the Board President and District Administrator unless otherwise specified by the Board.
 - Rather than utilizing an attorney with WASB who provides free legal advice to board members, the Board President calls the district attorney without board knowledge, thus incurring fees at \$300 or more per hour. The district initially budgeted \$25,000 for legal fees. Due to the Board President not adhering to this budget, the district was forced to increase that budget to \$40,000 and rearrange funds to cover costs. The district has spent well over \$30,000 of the increased budget. Attorney bills are being sent to Board President, not the district, and are not itemized so that we can be sure that we are being billed appropriately and that they will pass audit requirements. Board President sends all emails to paid lawyers, and he is at workshops and board meetings, which is unnecessary. He was also involved in closed sessions, and it sounds like he will be involved with finding an interim superintendent, as well as board training, which will just incur more legal fees. The full board has not given approval to reach out to legal for anything.
 - Board President is using legal counsel for personal agendas as seen by billings sent to her attention and her personal address.