

RETAINER AGREEMENT BETWEEN HARBOTTLE LAW GROUP
AND SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT

APRIL 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2023

This Retainer Agreement is entered into by and between Harbottle Law Group ("HLG") on one hand, and Santa Rosa City Schools District ("Client") on the other for period from April 1, 2023, and extending through June 30, 2023.

1. Scope of Work and Duties. Client hires HLG to advise Client's Board of Education and administrative panel regarding student expulsion hearings and perform related legal services for Client as Client and HLG from time to time agree upon. HLG will perform these services, will keep Client informed of progress, and will respond to Client's inquiries.

2. Client's Duties. Client agrees to provide HLG such information, assistance and cooperation as is necessary for HLG to effectively perform its services under this Agreement. Client shall timely pay HLG's bills for fees and costs.

Client shall keep HLG advised of Client's address, telephone numbers, and other pertinent contact information during the pendency of this Agreement.

3. Legal Fees, Billing Practices and Personnel.

HLG's fees will be charged on an hourly basis for all time actually expended and are generally billed monthly. The payment of such bills will be due within 30 days from the date of the invoice.

HLG will utilize those attorneys and staff it determines to be best suited to the task, consistent with the competent and efficient rendering of legal services. HLG anticipates using attorneys Tracy Petznick Johnson, Sydney Blaauw, or Victoria Hirsch for the specific matters contemplated at the time of execution of this Agreement.

The term of this Agreement shall be until termination as set forth herein, and will commence on execution of this agreement. The services to be performed by HLG hereunder shall be provided at a rate not to exceed Two-Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$275.00) per hour for Shareholders, Two-Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$255.00) per hour for all other HLG attorneys. HLG also utilizes the services of paralegals and other legal support staff whose rates shall not exceed One Hundred Thirty-Five Dollars (\$135.00) per hour.

4. Costs and Other Charges. HLG will incur various costs and expenses in performing legal services under this Agreement. Client agrees to pay for those costs and expenses in addition to the hourly fees. Costs and expenses commonly include fees fixed by law or assessed by public agencies, expert witness fees and expenses, deposition transcripts, long distance telephone calls, messenger and other delivery fees, postage, parking and other local travel expenses, photocopying and other reproduction costs, clerical staff overtime, and computer assisted research fees.

5. Statements. HLG shall send Client one or more statements for fees and costs incurred on a periodic basis, generally monthly. These statements shall indicate the basis of the fees, including the amount of time spent and a description of the work performed. Payment of the statements is due thirty days after the statements are rendered.

6. Concurrent Representation of Other Entities and Individuals. HLG is currently acting as legal counsel to a number of school districts, other public agencies in several counties, as well as private clients. HLG's representation of such public and private entities in such other matters is unrelated to its representation of Client. HLG therefore reserves the right to continue to represent such parties in these unrelated matters, and any other parties in the future which may be adverse to Client, but which are unrelated to our representation of Client. Your signature below will confirm this understanding and your waiver on behalf of Client of any such potential conflicts. If, in the future, Client wishes to retain HLG to represent its interests in matters that may relate to a matter or matters in which HLG is also representing other parties, HLG will present Client with a separate document for its consideration, and possible informed written consent, to such concurrent representation.

7. Disclaimer of Guarantee. HLG has made no representations, promises or guarantees to Client regarding the outcome of Client's matter(s). Furthermore, HLG cannot make any guarantee as to the amount which Client will incur for attorneys' fees and costs in this matter, as those figures will wholly depend on the time and effort required to be devoted to the matter.

8. Discharge and Withdrawal. Client may discharge HLG at any time. HLG may withdraw from Client's representation at any time to the extent permitted by law and the Rules of Professional Conduct, upon reasonable notice to the Client. In the event of such discharge or withdrawal, Client shall pay HLG's fees and costs legally owed in accordance with this Agreement for all work done (and costs incurred) through the termination of HLG's representation of Client.

9. No Waivers. A waiver by either party of a breach of any of the conditions, terms, or time requirements under this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver of any succeeding breach of the same or other conditions, terms or time requirements.

10. Errors and Omissions Insurance. HLG maintains errors and omissions insurance coverage applicable to the services mentioned in this Agreement.

11. Integration. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between HLG and Client with respect to this matter.

12. Arbitration of Disputes. If any dispute arises between Client and HLG regarding services or billings or any other matter relating to the provisions or duties under this Agreement, such dispute shall be submitted to binding arbitration. Fee disputes shall be arbitrated according to the guidelines and standards adopted by the State Bar of California, if any, then in effect. Any other dispute shall be arbitrated according to the arbitration rules of the Orange County Bar Association, if any, then in effect; and if there are no such rules in effect then in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

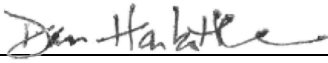
The decision of the arbitrator(s) shall be final and binding. The arbitrator(s) shall have the discretion to order the losing party to reimburse the prevailing party for all costs and fees incurred in connection with the arbitration, including attorneys' fees and the arbitrators' fees.

13. Fees and Costs to Enforce Agreement. In the event attorneys' fees and related costs are incurred to enforce this agreement or to resolve a dispute under this agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover, in addition to damages allowed by law, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

14. Right to Consult Independent Counsel. HLG advises that Client has the right to consult independent counsel in connection with its decision to enter into this Agreement and recommends that it do so.

Dated: May 2, 2023

Harbottle Law Group

By: 
S. Daniel Harbottle, HLG Director

I have read and understood the foregoing terms and agree to them.

Santa Rosa City Schools District

Dated: _____, 2023

By: _____
Anna Trunnell, Superintendent