

January 23, 2002

**AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF JUDITH BOCKEL POPPELL, PH. D., TO  
CONDUCT A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S STUDENT ASSIGNMENT TRENDS AND  
TO OFFER AN EXPERT OPINION OF COMPLIANCE UNDER THE  
DESEGREGATION CONSENT DECREE**

**THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Retention of the expert services of Judith Bockel Poppell, Ph.D.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Board authorized a focused analysis of the district's progress in achieving the goals of the federal desegregation consent decree to which it has been subject since 1980. To that end, the law department seeks to retain several individuals to serve as experts in various education-related disciplines. Those individuals will collect and examine the available data relevant to specific programs goals under the decree, including student and faculty assignments; discipline issues; funding obligations; compensatory education programs; bilingual education programs; transportation; and facility maintenance and construction. Following the experts' review, we anticipate that each will generate a summary report assessing historical achievements and, correspondingly, identifying and making recommendations with respect to any areas wherein we need improvement. The Board will then use that information to coordinate a viable future plan of action regarding the consent decree.

Dr. Poppell comes highly recommended as a nationally recognized expert in the area of public education desegregation issues generally, and specifically with respect to student assignment and magnet program issues. As her attached resume indicates, she is the director of Urban Initiatives at the University of North Florida, which is located in Jacksonville, Florida. In that capacity, Dr. Poppell serves as the liaison between the university and the k-12 school districts in the north Florida region. Dr. Poppell previously served as the general director of Academic/Special Programs and as the general director of Student Assignment and Magnet Programs for the Duval County Public Schools in Jacksonville, Florida. Notably, Dr. Poppell is a former educator, having been a principal, assistant principal and teacher in the Duval County public school system. She has provided expert/consultant services in many school desegregation cases in Florida and surrounding southern states.

With respect to the present project, Dr. Poppell will conduct a detailed, school-by-school assessment of our student assignment trends (including our magnet school and programs). In addition to reviewing the multitude of student assignment materials maintained by the district, Dr. Poppell will interview student assignment and magnet program administrators and regional officers to gain further insight into the district's trends. Dr. Poppell ultimately will provide detailed analyses and opinions regarding the district's compliance with the consent decree student assignment goals, presently and historically, and offer recommendations for the future. We expect that a draft report will issue in April of 2002.

As detailed in attached proposed budget prepared by Dr. Poppell, the projected cost for her services will approximate \$52,000.00. That cost breaks down to an estimated consultant time of approximately 4 months work, including travel, at an hourly rate of \$150.00. Dr. Poppell has requested payment in two installments. We have requested that she submit hourly billing statements to the law department on a monthly basis.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL:** Charge \$52,000.00 to Law Department - Legal and Supportive Services - Professional Services: Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2002 ..... 0014-210-000-1011-5410

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

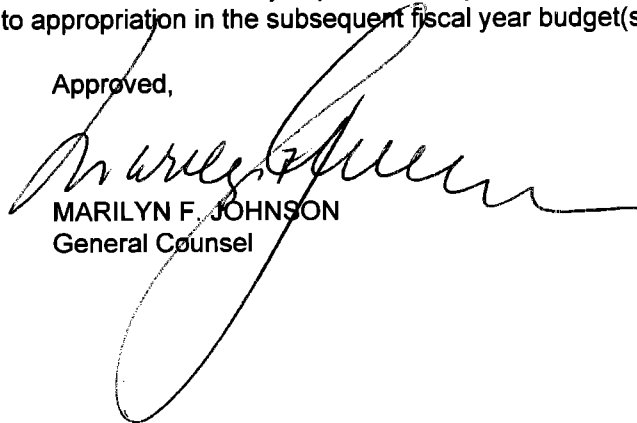
Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995, (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995, (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability - The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved,



MARILYN F. JOHNSON  
General Counsel

Within Appropriation:



KENNETH C. GOTSCH  
Chief Fiscal Officer